

SLA Biomedical & Life Sciences Division

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011

Approved by DBIO Board December 2008

Mission Statement

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division (DBIO) is a division of SLA, an international association supporting and strengthening its members through learning, advocacy and networking.

DBIO provides members specializing in the fields of life, biomedical and health sciences information management with opportunities for education, mentoring and networking. The Division promotes the exchange of information and ideas among its members who belong to diverse research, educational, and commercial organizations.

The Medical Section of DBIO is a forum for DBIO members who are engaged or interested in the acquisition, organization, dissemination and use of information in the biomedical and health sciences.

Vision Statement

The SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division is the global forum of choice for education, mentoring and networking among information professionals in the life, biomedical and health sciences. The online environment is used to provide educational opportunities, discuss critical issues and share information, in order to overcome barriers of time, distance and cost. The Division provides the opportunity for members to hone their leadership and managerial skills to enhance their careers and benefit their employers and the profession. The Division is a welcoming community that fosters professional and personal growth, benefits from the breadth and depth of member expertise, and encourages a lively exchange of ideas.

Goals & Objectives

Innovation and Learning

1. Goal — Host one educational event per year that has a virtual component

1.1 Objective-- For each Contributed Papers session, have at least one speaker present remotely

2. Goal — Offer two virtual learning opportunities for DBIO members during 2009

2.1 Objective-- Make one of the Washington, D.C. Annual Conference programs available to members remotely (business meeting and/or an actual program)

2.2 Objective-- Hold one virtual program on a topic of interest to members at a time of year other than the annual conference

2.3 Objective-- Host a forum, such as a wiki, that features DBIO member innovations and permits a free flow of ideas related to innovation

2.4 Objective-- Set up a webinar for DBIO members to share their best technology tips (preceded by a competition for best technology innovations)

2.5 Objective-- Add website reviews to Biofeedback

2.6 Objective-- Partner with the MLA Molecular Biology SIG or another medical library group to create a webinar

2.7 Objective-- Partner with the Natural History Caucus to create a webinar

3. Goal — Offer at least one regional program of interest to DBIO members each year

3.1 Objective-- Ask DBIO members who are active in a SLA chapter or another organization to find out if their organization is interested in opening an event to DBIO members or co-sponsoring an event of common interest.

3.2 Objective-- Offer to provide a remote speaker for a chapter event on a topic in an area of DBIO member expertise. Make this event open to DBIO and chapter members in the region. This could also be a presentation at a future Annual Conference if regional attendance is high.

4. Goal — Provide links to electronic resources with new and pertinent developments in the field that would be of interest to practicing information professionals

4.1 Objective-- Require board and committee chairs to post at least one item per year to the DBIO blog with information about e-resources or developments in the field

4.2 Objective-- Encourage Board Members liaisons to report news from their respective organizations on a regular basis via the News Section of the website

4.3 Objective-- Enlist Information Management Education or Bibliographic Instruction member librarians to identify electronic resources that they incorporate into their classes or instruction for usefulness or relevance to life, biomedical and health sciences librarians, and contribute them to the DBIO and Medical Section Teaching & Learning Resources sections of the web site

4.4 Objective-- Create a calendar of events with pertinent courses, seminars, webinars, etc for the professional development of DBIO members

5. Goal – Designate an annual scholarship for one non-Board member to attend the annual SLA Leadership Summit. The member will be required to report on outcomes specifically related to his/her career goals

Advocacy

1. Goal — Identify potential closures of and job losses at member libraries

1.1 Objective-- Write letters to decision makers opposing library closures or staff downsizing, where warranted; include list of benefits from functional library services to larger community

1.2 Objective-- Assist unemployed members by providing resources and information that will help them find work

1.3 Objective-- Draft articles for submission to local publications (university newspapers or local newspapers, etc.) about the value of specialized knowledge of library staff as well as special strengths of these collections

2. Goal — During 2009, brainstorm about member excellence and performance improvement, and ways to evaluate or measure these constructs (member value and contributions to the division, SLA and members' employers)

2.1 Objective-- Develop a social networking site that will be used as a brainstorming platform

2.2 Objective-- Create a repository of examples of member excellence for library advocacy

3. Goal — Form partnerships with other organizations to help promote health information literacy

3.1 Objective-- Develop an online resource that directs users to valid health information resources, and promote it to various organizations to explore possible partnerships. This resource should also be available on the DBIO site and perhaps on the Association public page.

4. Goal -- Celebrate SLA's Centennial year throughout 2009 and DBIO's 75th anniversary throughout 2010

4.1 Objective-- Integrate the Centennial theme into DBIO events at the Annual Conference and other events throughout 2009; integrate DBIO 75th anniversary celebrations in 2010

4.2 Objective-- Compile a history of the Division and put it on the DBIO website

4.3 Objective-- Develop a display about DBIO to exhibit in the unit-display area of the exhibit hall at the Annual Conferences in 2009 and 2010

Networking

1. Goal — Organize a DBIO Jobs Clearinghouse

1.1 Objective-- Continue to provide a job bank to members on the website

1.2 Objective-- Provide links to other job sites that offer non-traditional jobs for librarians

1.3 Objective-- Provide online resources for job seekers

2. Goal — Organize a formal mentorship program

2.1 Objective-- By the 2010 annual meeting, each committee chair will meet – in person or virtually – with new committee members. In the case of committees with a new chair, the outgoing chair will meet with the incoming chair

2.2 Objective-- Encourage committee members to work with new members, from their region or chapter, to share knowledge of committee work and potentially groom new leaders for the Committee and Division

3. Goal — By August 2009, create a written communication plan to make new and existing members feel welcome and connected, and to encourage them to become involved in the Division

4. Goal — Organize a Medical Section blog committee during 2009

4.1 Objective-- Create a Medical Section blog and link to it from the DBIO blog and website

4.2 Objective-- Appoint a blog contact person, and issue a call for volunteers to write on a regular basis

4.3 Objective-- Choose a title for volunteers (editor, selector, contributor, columnist, reporter)

4.4 Objective-- Solicit blog reporters for 2009 Conference events, especially DBIO events

5. Goal — Evaluate the DBIO blog to improve and promote it

5.1 Objective-- Develop the DBIO blog to support usability, encourage interactions (including direct contributions by multiple people) and enhance its educational value

5.2 Objective-- Educate members about the use and value of a blog, and suggest that the DBIO blog become an integral part of their routine

5.3 Objective-- Create interest in the blog by highlighting its value for sharing useful reference resources or tips to increase effectiveness at work. Showcase it as a continuing education site available at your desktop

6. Goal — Encourage joint events with other like focused information science organizations

6.1 Objective-- Ask members who hold leadership positions in other organizations to identify initiatives in which DBIO might be interested in collaborating

7. Goal — Encourage dine-arounds of DBIO members at other meetings (local, regional and international meetings of related organizations)

7.1 Objective-- During 2009, set up at least one dine-around at another meeting; have attendees report back to DBIO about it via the blog, listserv etc.

7.2 Objective-- Set up a wiki for “dine-arounds” on which members can list conferences/meetings they are attending, and provide an opportunity for other SLA members to meet at that conference

8. Goal — Recruit more members into DBIO

8.1 Objective-- Ask each DBIO member to tell at least one non-member about the Division and encourage them to join

8.2 Objective-- Work closely with library schools to recruit new members

8.3 Objective-- Conduct brief member satisfaction surveys annually