

bio•feedback ←

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Newsletter

VOL.10 NO.4

SUMMER 1984

1984-85 Officers

ELECTED

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APPOINTED Con't

Long-Range Planning Committee Chair

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*See p.7 for additional staff

1983/84 Chair Notes

As your 1983/84 chair, this has been an exciting and eventful year. The main focus was on planning our Annual Conference program on Acid Rain and Biotechnology and the 50th Anniversary Reception. Many people participated in the planning and carrying out of these programs - all three highly successful. They generated much interest in the Division. I want to publicly thank everyone.

SLA as a whole is vital, growing, and engaged in reexamining its priorities. The Biological Sciences Division is involved in a similar self-assessment and planning for the coming period. BSD membership has risen to close to 700. This bodes well for the future.

I leave the chairmanship reluctantly. Despite the hard, time-consuming work and inevitable frustrations, the office had some moments of exhilaration and feelings of accomplishment. Along the way, I met many wonderful people and learned lots. I leave with a confident heart, for the shape and direction of the Division is now in the hands of the competent M. Sandra Wood.

Doris Bolef, BSD Chair 1983/84

NY Annual Meeting

The 1984 Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association turned out to be one of the best meetings I have ever attended. The theme, "Information in the Electronic Revolution", permeated every meeting. Many new computer and information resource developments were unveiled. The Conference-wide speakers were Gail Sheehy and Drs. Don Marchand (University of South Carolina), and Daniel Bell (Harvard), who described some of the changes occurring in our society.

Donald Marchand, for example, showed how information has transformed all phases of our agricultural and industrial economy and is blurring the product boundaries of companies and corporations. New goods

and services are being introduced at an increasing rate, while business markets are scanning ever wider horizons - all of this facilitated by increasing amounts of, and increasingly efficient distribution of information. He went on to describe the growing importance of today's knowledge workers, including librarians and information scientists. He brought a fresh slant to his description of our economy and a vision of what the future holds for us. Marchand and the other major speakers gave us much to consider in planning for change in the future operation and direction of our libraries.

The Electronic Information Fair, held at the beginning of the Conference, had something for everyone. There were clowns, electronic games, prizes, music, and entertainment. Mr. Sico, a robot, regaled the attendees at embarrassing and inconvenient moments. One computer made portraits on paper. The 75th Anniversary Party full of glitter, reminiscences, and party treats ended a memorable evening.

The Divisions held over 200 meetings. Many were devoted to newly-evolving subject fields, resources, their databases, uses and management. New developments in marketing, networking, managing, and the like were not overlooked. Our Biotechnology and Acid Rain Meetings were both successful, well attended, and well received. Lively discussions concluded both meetings.

The BSD 50th Anniversary Reception was held in a large suite on the top floor of the New York Hilton. The refreshments, the large birthday cakes, the decorated room, all added to create a warm and convivial atmosphere. Beth Paskoff, membership chair, planned a fine program. Beth prepared and read a history of the Division.

All of you would have been proud to hear of the Division's accomplishments. Let's hope that she has it published. The oldest and newest members attending were introduced as well as the previous chairmen. The costs of holding this reception

Annual Meeting Con't

were underwritten by BIOSIS, Faxon, and ISI. We are grateful to them for making this gala and memorable event possible.

The Conference attracted over 6,000 people, the largest of any SLA Conference on record. The level of participation in the meetings and in the work of the conference was very high, both in our own Division and that of others. There was much to see and learn. The speakers were well chosen and well prepared. Even the management films were good. My favorite actor is John Cleese who played St. Peter in two films on the "Unorganized Manager". He was his usual self. Each film involved and educated the audience in an entertaining, but purposeful manner. The exhibits were well attended and many new companies exhibited.

Doris Bolef
BSD Chair 1983-84

BSD Meeting Minutes

Doris Bolef, presiding.

The meeting was opened at 5:05 p.m. by Doris Bolef, Chair. She called for additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as published.

In the absence of Ruth Ahl, the treasurer's report was presented by Gretchen Stephens. There is \$6,061.27 in the treasury at present. [Editor's note: Brief summary page 4]

Karen Horst reported on the activities of the Career Guidance Committee. She introduced the winner of the Student Stipend contest, Denise Davies of the University of Hawaii. Denise's winning essay was entitled "The Challenge of Zoo and Aquarium, Libraries." It will be published in the next issue of Biofeedback. [Editor's note: See page 5]

Gretchen Stephens has taken on the job of business manager for Biofeedback.

The rates will be:

Full page	\$60	7" x 10"
Half page	\$40	7" x 5"
Quarter page	\$30	3-1/2" x 5"

Anyone who knows someone who might be interested in advertising should contact Gretchen. Biofeedback will be published four times a year. The subscription rate for non-members is \$10.

Sandra Wood announced the tentative plans for the 1985 meeting in Winnipeg. On Monday there will be a program on sources of information on acid rain. This will be sponsored jointly with the Natural Resources Division, the Environmental Information Division, and the Petroleum Division. There will also be a program on end user searching sponsored jointly with the Pharmaceutical and Chemistry Divisions. On Wednesday from 3-4:30 there is tentatively scheduled a program on stereotypes of librarians.

The business meeting will be from 5-6:30 on Tuesday. Sandra is currently looking for a vendor to sponsor a lunch or breakfast for the Division.

Doris Bolef went over the plans for the field trip to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Ballen Books. She reminded members to wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes.

The nominating committee reported that Karen Patrias has been elected Chair-Elect and Karen Horst was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Caroline Morris gave the Archivist's Report. [Editor's Note: See page 6] She offered duplicate copies of Reminder, the old newsletter, to members.

Elisabeth Davis presented the report of the Long-Range Planning Committee. [Editor's note: Committee Report will appear in the next issue of Biofeedback] A task force headed by John Timour will look into ways to implement the committee's recommendations. A follow-up questionnaire to the one sent out this Spring

BSD Business Meeting Con't

may be sent out at the end of 1984. The task force will consider having regional programs and will develop a five-year plan.

Beth Paskoff reported for the Membership Committee. In the last year we have experienced a 9% increase in membership: from 674 to 738. Seventy-two of the new members were new to S.L.A. while 21 were present S.L.A. members who joined the division for the first time. We also had 29 losses for a net gain of 64 members.

Beth Paskoff, in her capacity as Hospitality Chair, reminded members that a reception celebrating the Division's 50th year will follow the business meeting. Eight past presidents and several S.L.A. board members will attend. Cake and champagne will be served. [Editor's note: See opposite column]

New Business

Congratulations were extended to Ruth Ahl, Beth Paskoff, and Doris Bolef for the success of their efforts towards the 1984 conference and their work throughout the year.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Horst
Secretary-Treasurer

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Treasurer's Summary

OPERATING FUND

Opening Balance 1/1/84	\$1,349.29
Total income	4,711.98
Total available for expenditures	6,061.27

Total expenditures & disbursements	1,174.61
Closing balance 5/31/84	\$4,886.66

MERRILL LYNCH READY ASSETS TRUST FUND

Opening balance 1/1/84	\$7,612.54
Total income	268.64
Total available for expenditures	7,881.18
Transfers to Operating Fund	700.00
Closing Balance 5/31/84	\$7,181.18

As your outgoing Secretary/Treasurer I would like to thank the members for the privilege of serving the division for the past two years. I enjoyed the experience and have had an excellent group of officers to work with during my term. My best wishes to Karen Horst, my successor. I know she will serve you well.

Ruth Ahl, Secretary/Treasurer

50th Anniversary

Reception

The 1984 SLA Conference in New York celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Special Libraries Association. 1984 was also the 50th anniversary of the Biological Sciences Division, and almost 100 conference attendees participated in festivities on June 12 to recognize a half century of the Division.

Doris Bolef, Division Chair, began the program by extending a warm welcome to everyone present. She offered special thanks to BIOSIS, ISI and Faxon who sponsored the reception with their generous contributions, and introduced representatives of the three companies.

Beth Paskoff presented a history of the Division, covering the original petition in 1934, the early growth of what was first called the Biological Science

50th Anniversary Con't

Group, the ups and downs of membership, the low point of the last 50 years when only half the members were interested in continuing the Group, the separation of the Hospital and Nursing Libraries Group in 1944 and its reunion with BSD in 1960, the officers, publications and activities of the Division, and recent developments such as the student paper competition.

John Timour read the names of the past chairs and introduced those present:

Caroline Morris (1973/74), John Timour (1976/77), Tena Crenshaw (1977/78), Sara Hill (1981/82), Elisabeth Davis (1982/83) and Doris Bolef (1983/84). Other special guests, including members of the SLA Board of Directors, chairs of other Divisions, SLA staff and long time Biological Sciences Division members, were introduced by Doris Bolef, who also made a few observations of her own about her years with BSD. Glasses of champagne were distributed and Doris toasted the past 50 years. Sandra Wood (Chair-elect) followed with a toast to the next 50 years with BSD. The cakes were cut, Happy Birthday was sung, the program ended, and the party began.

Because of the generosity of our sponsors, we were able to afford the spacious State Suite on the top floor of the New York Hilton for the reception, and everyone enjoyed the view of Central Park and later, as it got dark, the panorama of the lights of New York and the George Washington Bridge. The reception was planned to end at 8, but guests were still in the Suite at 11, enjoying the conversation. It was a very special celebration and made the conference especially memorable.

Submitted by: Beth Paskoff

Career Guidance Committee

The Career Guidance Committee was extremely pleased by the response to this year's student stipend contest. We had 17 entries (as compared to 5 last year) coming from as far away as West Germany.

The winner was Denise Davies of the University of Hawaii for her essay "The Challenge of Zoo and Aquarium Libraries." Denise is currently working at an aquarium in Honolulu while pursuing an advanced studies degree in Library Science. She first became interested in library science while living in Papua New Guinea. She applied for a teaching job and was made librarian. The library at the time consisted of boxes on the floor. Sound familiar to anyone?

The committee, which was composed of Tina Crenshaw, Sara Hill and Karen Horst, Chair, was pleased by the originality and unusual subject matter of Denise's essay. From the many fine essays submitted, Denise's was definitely a stand-out.

Student Essay

THE CHALLENGE OF ZOO AND AQUARIUM LIBRARIES

Zoo and Aquarium libraries are highly specialized biological science libraries. The directory of Zoo/Aquarium Librarians published in the October 1983 issue of Library News for Zoos and Aquariums includes 36 libraries in the USA and Canada and 4 from other countries. This newsletter (first issue was Oct. 1982) is a welcome forum for the exchange of ideas, problems and issues that concern zoo and aquarium libraries.

According to the profiles that have been submitted by the participating libraries, there is a wide variety in collection size and staffing. Many of the libraries are small and are staffed part time by professionals or volunteers. Many of the collections were begun with donated materials. Some are still in the process of developing tools to access their collections. A few have professional staff and large well developed collections. However, despite these differences, there are many similarities in the user communities being served and the types of materials that are part of the collections.

Student Paper Con't

The main users of the collections are the zoo and aquarium staff. Researchers and those responsible for the live exhibits need information on the nutrition, breeding, disease prevention and treatment, species identification, and natural habitat of the animals in their care. Management must have access to information on funding sources, environmental issues, pertinent legislation and management techniques. In addition to these specialists there are the volunteer docents, members of "friends" societies, hobbyists, and the general public who have an interest in the natural sciences or environmental issues. This range of users should be a consideration in the development of the collection. Each library must decide whether to cater to all levels in the different subject areas of the collection.

Subject coverage is in the zoological and biological sciences. There is specialization according to the specific interests of the zoo and/or aquarium e.g. in a specific geographic area or particular type of animals.

Directories, files, newsletters, guidebooks and journals concerning zoos and aquariums are some of the special materials that are included in these libraries. Many of these materials are not indexed in available commercial indexes or are too expensive to obtain for a special collection with a limited budget and limited facilities.

Zoo and Aquarium libraries should consider the advantages of using micro-computers to aid in information storage and retrieval. The ability to access online databases in the zoological and biological sciences, grants and foundations, reference sources and environmental issues, to name a few, greatly expand the use of the library beyond its own collection. Collections can be indexed, catalog cards produced, reports written and bibliographies compiled thus providing improved services to the users of the collection.

Zoo and Aquarium libraries are beginning to share information on standards, policies for collection development and methods for dealing with their collections. The sharing of resources is an important step in building a network of libraries with similar interest and concerns. The use of the new technologies will help to meet the challenges of zoo and aquarium libraries.

Archives

The known archives of the Division, housed in a file cabinet at Pennsylvania Hospital, is comprised of the following:

Drawer I:

B.S.D.-S.L.A. Newsletters, 1973-1978
Reminders (earlier publication of S.D.), 1951-1970.

Correspondence regarding Reminder (approximately 15 folders), 1950-1972.

Drawer II:

Approximately 22 folders
 Secretary-Treasurer Reports, 1955-1982.

Drawer III:

By-Laws, 1966-1972, 4 folders.
 Correspondence: At present, the correspondence files are arranged in chronological order. There is some over-lap of secretary-treasurer files. At one period of time, there seemed to be an automatic transfer of office from secretary-treasurer to vice chairman and finally chairman. The files are in the original order as received. 1939-1978, approximately 55 folders

Drawer IV:

Correspondence 1978-1980, 3 folders.
 Correspondence re: History of B.S.D., 1983-1984, 1 folder.

Miscellaneous:

1) Annual Reports, 1964-1974, 1 folder.

Archives Report Miscellaneous Con't

- 2) S.L.A. Official Membership Rosters, 1965-1969, 4 folders.
- 3) Miscellaneous Annual Meeting Programs.

Caroline Morris BSD Archivist

Notes from the Chair

As B.S.D. begins its second fifty years in 1984/85, there are three priorities which I feel need to be addressed. This year I will be placing emphasis on membership, long range planning, and the newsletter. The Membership Committee will be both recruiting and welcoming new members to B.S.D., and contacting individuals who have dropped membership. The Long Range Planning Committee will be continuing to plan for the future of B.S.D., and, possibly, to implement some of the results of the Spring 1984 survey. The cope and size of Biofeedback will be expanded since this is the one major mechanism of communicating with the B.S.D. membership; to help implement the plans, the newsletter editor will be assisted by a business manager, an associate editor, and a columnist.

My thanks to all of you who volunteered for committees - the response was overwhelming. Committee membership has been expanded to involve as many persons as possible. For those who volunteered but did not receive a committee appointment this year, your name will be kept on file for possible appointment next year.

A brief note about Winnipeg is in order. Plans continue for the programs already announced and have expanded a bit. B.S.D. will co-sponsor the follow-up to the acid rain program held in New York, scheduled for Monday afternoon; will co-sponsor a session on end user searching, set for Tuesday afternoon; and will co-sponsor a program on stereotypes of librarians, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. A possible lunch or breakfast is being investigated. The Winnipeg government is very excited about S.L.A. holding its annual meeting there, and I certainly hope

that B.S.D. events will be well attended. More about Winnipeg in later issues!

M. Sandra Wood, 1984/85 Chair

Editors' Feedback

In line with the focus of the incoming chair on Biofeedback, two new people will be assisting with issues. The Associate Editor is Jacque-Lynne Schulman. She will be responsible for the "Spotlight on" column. Her address is
5964 Ranleigh Manor Drive
McLean, Virginia 22101
301/496-6097

Assisting Jacque-Lynne with the new "Spotlight on" column will be Carolyn Takeuchi. Her address is
Owen Science & Engineering Library
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-3200
509/335-2671

"Spotlight on" will feature libraries and special collections of particular interest to BSD members. Early columns will introduce the resources of the American Type Culture Collection and the Kennedy Center for Bioethics.

Each "Spotlight on" will describe the holdings of the featured collection including type of materials, size of collection, and unique resources, and special services. The focus will be on services available to non on-site users in order to facilitate referral to special subject expertise, enhance knowledge of unique resources and collections to assist in interlibrary loan service, and to make us aware of special services and facilities which we can either offer to our users or ideas which can be adapted (or adopted) in other libraries.

Contributions or ideas for other columns are welcomed. Send to Jacque-Lynne at the above address.

A second new column, "BSD People News," will be compiled by the three of us. Send notes on new jobs, promotions, transfers, publications, presentations,

etc. of any BSD members to Jacque-Lynne who will be especially responsible for the East, to Carolyn for the West, and I will take the Central area. Please let us know about the things happening with you.

You will also notice wider columns and a change in typeface. Please let me know how you like it. Letters to the Editor are appreciated.

Jean E. Crampon, Biofeedback Editor
Jacque-Lynne Schulman, Associate Editor

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CONTRIBUTORS

Deadline for the next issue is October 19, 1984. Thank you. All contributors please send copy by this date. Articles should be no longer than 2-3 double-spaced pages. Please contribute to Biofeedback.

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