Chair's Report

Patricia B. Yocum

Autumn typically finds us in full stride in our work lives. Hours are long, days are full, and requests for our services seem endless. We are also busy planning for the future, including planning the particulars of our continuing professional development. Attending conferences is a conspicuous part of that development and requires careful consideration. There is of course the need to budget money to cover expenses. There is also the need to commit a sizable block of time. Indeed, the cost in time for attending meetings has grown perhaps more dear than the financial cost. With so much to learn let alone to create and apply, we can ill afford to spend our time poorly. In selecting which conferences and meetings to attend, we look to those which will give us the greatest value for our time. I hope the Montreal meeting will be one of these.

Division planners -- and there are many! -- have been working on a number of sessions to amplify the conference theme, The Power of Information: Transforming the World. So that you may begin making plans for how to continue your professional development in the coming year, here is a brief list of Division sessions to consider. The chief Division planner is also noted.

Saturday, June 10
CE Course: Molecular Sequence & Gene Mapping Databases
Karen Kreizman

Sunday, June 11
Bienvenue à Montréal! Coffees & cakes in the Division suite
Patricia Murphy

Monday, June 12
Transformations and Revolutions: The Rapidly Changing Science Library
Sarah Kelly

continued on page 2
continued from page 1

Monday, June 12
Toxicology Roundtable -- co-sponsored with ERM

* A Votre Santé! Health Care Issues & Information Systems *
  Elizabeth Lamont

* Biological Illustration in the 19th Century -- co-sponsored with Natural History Caucus *

Tuesday, June 13
* Webbed for Life: Biology on the World Wide Web *
  Anne Marie Malley

Wednesday, June 14
* Managing Information in the Biological Sciences: Contributed Papers Session *
  Larry Wright

Thursday, June 15
Field trip to points of biological interest in Montreal
  Donna Gibson

We will also have the BIO Annual Business meeting (6/12 breakfast), two Executive Board meetings (6/11, 6/14), three co-sponsored Open Houses (6/11-6/13) and time to visit the exhibits which are so informative. BIO is also one of the co-sponsors of a mega-session on navigating the Internet. I think the programs of other divisions will also appeal to you.

In preparing sessions program planners are keenly attuned to what members want, need and have suggested. To assure the very best in program planning the Division moved to a two-year lead time by assembling the Program Committee for Boston last June. The group has already made significant progress. [See item elsewhere in this issue.] I hope you will provide comment and encouragement to them as well as to the Seattle group when it is announced in Montreal. In the meantime, if you have questions about the Montreal program please feel free to contact the session planners or me.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Montreal.

---

**Biofeedback**

**Call for Nominations**

The Nominations & Elections Committee is soliciting nominations for the offices of Chair-Elect and Director. If you are interested in running or wish to nominate someone, contact any member of the committee by November 30.

The Committee Chair is Louisa Worthington (elworthi@athena.mit.edu) and the other members are Beth Paskoff (lpask@suvm.bitnet) and Barry Brown (bryan@sehway.umt.edu).

The slate of nominees will appear in the Winter issue of *Biofeedback* and the election will take place in early spring.

**Changes of Address**

All updates to members' names, addresses, and phone numbers are received from SLA headquarters by the Membership Committee. If your address changes, please send notice to SLA headquarters in Washington, D.C., not to *Biofeedback*'s editor.

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**Biofeedback**

**Biological Sciences Division**

**Special Libraries Association**

Vol. 20, No. 2          Fall 1994


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

* Editor: Adam L. Schiff, California Academy of Sciences Library, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; (415) 750-7104; FAX: (415) 750-7106; INTERNET: ASCIHF@CAS.CALACADMY.ORG

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Doody Publishing, Inc. 1145 Westgate, Suite 200 Oak Park, IL 60301
BSD: Who Are We?

Lucy M. Rowland

As the Fundraising Committee began its work this summer, one project that grew out of its efforts involved a review of the membership list. Surveys are notoriously ill-fated because the responders are a self-selected group. As the Chair of the Fundraising Committee, I decided to examine the list from several aspects in order to determine "who we are." This ultimately became the basis for much of the new fundraising brochure. In the future, the Membership Committee, perhaps with the help of SLA headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be charged with undertaking an examination of the membership list on an annual basis. This will prove to be valuable for fundraising, membership recruitment, and annual conference program planning.

The information provided by SLA is not absolute, but generalizations can be drawn from the data. We are not, for example, able to determine that a medical subject specialist in an academic library is "medical." However, we ARE able to ascertain that someone who works in a medical school library is working in an "academic medical setting." While the intuitive method is bound to be imprecise except in a few categories expressly used by SLA in formulating the list, there is little doubt that in general the information is accurate in determining trends.

Most members use their work address for mailing, although SLA includes both home and work addresses on the membership list. The categories of work settings that emerged were: Academic; Corporate; Government; Medical; Natural History; Agricultural; Unknown; Student; Retired; and Life. Subdivisions included Medical/Academic; Medical/Corporate; Medical/Governmental; Natural History/Academic; Natural History/Corporate; etc.

TYPES OF LIBRARIES EMPLOYING BIO/SLA MEMBERS, JULY, 1994

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employed/Active</th>
<th>All Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Medical</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Natural History</td>
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<td>All Agricultural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate (other)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

("All" includes libraries regardless of whether they are academic, governmental, or corporate in nature.)

When the type of setting is examined in another way, other data emerge that are also valuable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employed/Active</th>
<th>All Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Academic</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Corporate</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Governmental</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical (other)</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural History (other)</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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Biofeedback

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<th>Type</th>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately, using this method, generally there is no means for identifying certain groups, such as independent information brokers. But for the purposes mentioned earlier in this article, the analysis goes a long way towards helping the Division leadership make better and more informed decisions, and allows us to provide better services to current and potential members.

The survey also presented us with a bonus, as one valuable piece of information that SLA provides is the date joined. We are fortunate to have many individuals who have been members for more than 25 years, and even a very precious few who have been members for over 50 years. What a testimonial to staying power!

**Boston Programs in 1996**

The Program Committee for the 1996 meeting in Boston is asking members for input on programming. If you have ideas about what kind of session you would like to have the Committee consider, contact a member or Chair-Elect Lucy Rowland (lrowland@uga.cc.uga.edu).

Anna McGowan, 1996 Program Committee Chair  
(atm@fdacf.ssw.dhhs.gov)
Ann Juneau
Karen Kreizman
Doug Macbeth
Patricia Murphy
Larry Wright

**Advertise the BSD!**

The Membership Committee of the Biological Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association created a brochure for the division last year. If you are attending a conference or meeting and would like to display the brochure to attract new members, please contact the Membership Chair, David Duggar, at dducca@nomvs lsunmc.edu or (318) 675-5472 or LSUMC-S Library, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932. The brochure will be revised later this year to reflect additional services offered by the Division.

**Thank You, BSD**

I want to express my belated thanks to the Biological Sciences Division for sponsoring my attendance at the Atlanta conference. It was quite an experience. Most of the sessions I attended were interesting, but my favorite events were the evening hospitality suites, where I talked with countless friendly people. (The food wasn’t bad either.) I came home exhausted, but now I’m hooked. I’m already trying to figure out how I can get to Montreal.

Catherine Hanson-Tracy, 1994 Student Conference Award Winner
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Book Reviews

Editor's Note: With this review, we inaugurate a new section of Biofeedback devoted to reviews of biological books, serials, and other media. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please let me know what types of materials and subjects you would like to review.

Animals Alive!: An Ecological Guide to Animal Activities
by Dennis Holley
Niwot, CO: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1994
Audience: Teachers of middle through high school students

Dennis Holley, a biology teacher of grades 4-12, wrote this guide to assist other "teachers develop an inquiry-oriented program for studying the animal kingdom" and to supplement regular biology texts. Current controversy over dissection in the classroom and, more broadly, inhumane treatment of animals prompted Mr. Holley to offer this alternative approach emphasizing the use of live animals collected locally. Other concerns of classroom science teachers including tight budgets, environmental correctness of methods, and exposure to harmful chemicals are mentioned as compelling reasons for looking for new ways to teach animal biology. This practical approach to the study of live animals is useful to teachers of varying levels of expertise and students in middle and high school classes. The guide is organized in four sections corresponding to the five kingdom classification system used by most biology texts. Each section--lower and upper invertebrates, lower and upper vertebrates--have two to three chapters addressing individual phylum. The chapters have a consistent organization covering general and specific characteristics of the phylum, collection, maintenance and release of specimens, health and safety of all concerned, and teaching activities. Observation, ecology and integration are the broad categories of the activities with each working towards developing students' process skills. A master table identifying which specific activities focus on which skills is provided. The introductory sections of the chapters are concisely and accurately written. The author cannot include a comprehensive treatise on each phylum or class, but the lack of references leaves the reader with a minimal background and no sources for more information. The "Additional Resources" appendix has a very short list of books.

The information on collecting, maintaining and releasing animals is complete without being overwhelming. Occasionally, the author assumes the readers will know more than they do. Additional description of such things as how shallow is "a shallow pan" would be helpful to the less-experienced teacher. The line between patronizing and overly concise writing is fine, and usually Mr. Holley strikes a comfortable balance. He also consistently emphasizes the need to check with local authorities on rules and regulations concerning collecting and releasing live specimens. To aid teachers in finding the necessary information, he includes the addresses of state and provincial wildlife and natural resources authorities, health departments and education departments.

The teaching activities are organized in five sections which logically progress one from the next--habitat, structure, behavior/response, feeding, reproduction/development, integration with other subject areas. He focuses each activity around a single concept providing concise information for the teacher to direct discussion and provide answers. Teachers are urged to "formulate questions that challenge students to interpret, analyze and think." Examples of activities include having students speculate on why green hydras are green, devise a way to measure a hydra, observe the response of a snail to gravity, and design an aviary. Some activities are labelled as challenges, and these do just that--the student is asked to find a way to test a problem or hypothesis. Examples of these challenge questions include "Do rodents have depth perception?" and "Can snails crawl backwards?" The activities sections conclude with suggestions for integration with other subject areas.

This guide does offer an alternative to the traditional study of animals in elementary and secondary schools. It uses students' natural curiosity about live animals
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to engage their interest and expand their knowledge about animals. The weaknesses—lack of a substantial resource bibliography, occasional assumptions on level of expertise, lack of linkages between findings and consequences—are overshadowed by the consistently useable and innovative activities. For the price, this is a recommended addition to science teachers' professional collections, libraries developing science curriculum collections, and museums supporting public education programs.

Janet Webster, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University

Books Received


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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FAX (704) 636-5050 |
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| Shona T. Lam  
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FAX (215) 568-3533 |
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Niwoi, CO 80503 |
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Fort Worth, TX 76109  
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FAX (517) 372-0341 |
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Cardiff, CA 92007 |
| Margaret Calvano  
5275 Golden Sky Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21045  
(410) 997-2816 |
| Lisa L. Costa  
CCS Assoc.  
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(415) 617-0200  
FAX (415) 328-7924 |
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McLaughlin Research Institute  
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Great Falls, MT 59405-4900  
(406) 452-6208  
FAX (406) 454-6019 |
| Hannah M. Fisher  
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Tucson, AZ 85747  
(602) 762-5465 |
| Jeanne L. Galbraith  
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Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 |
| Anthea P. Gotto  
807 C St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-8209 |
| Barbara L. Gress  
4275 McKellar Ln. #9  
Palo Alto, CA 94306 |

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Layne D. Klein
Univ. of Cincinnati
Cinn. Medical Heritage Center
231 Bethesda Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0574
(513) 558-0767
FAX (513) 558-0472

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Inkster, MI 48141-3515

Rita A. Nacchio
52 Castle Pointe Blvd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854-5061

Linda M. Oredough
54 Baldwin St.
Charleston, MA 02129
(617) 242-5335

Britain G. Roth
Geisinger Health System
Medical Library
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Danville, PA 17822-2101
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FAX (717) 271-5738

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FAX (310) 427-5622

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Sandra Sattler Weber
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(402) 441-2409

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FAX (908) 582-2255

New Member Profiles

Vera Armann

Vera is a graduate student in her final year at the School of Library & Information Studies at McGill University. Vera wishes to pursue a career as a medical librarian in either an academic or research library. She is currently working part-time as a library assistant at the Osler Library (History of Medicine) of McGill University. She has a B.Sc. (Honours) in Genetics from the University of Manitoba.

Brinn Pixley

Brian is the Manager of Information Resources for Synergen Inc. in Boulder, Colorado. Synergen is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery, development and manufacture of protein-based pharmaceuticals. Brian has a B.A. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from the University of Colorado, and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University in Kansas. Prior to his arrival at Synergen in 1988, he worked for five years at a Government Documents Regional Depository Library, and for three years at the Boulder Public Library.
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