President’s Message

S. Layla Heimlich

It is hard to believe that we are already more than half-way through this year!

Our library inclusion speaker series, co-sponsored with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association, has been well-received, with sessions on “Disability Inclusion in Libraries,” “Disrupting Ageism,” and our latest, on July 14, on “Humble Leadership” and cultural humility. There will be more sessions in the fall to finish out the series.

Also coming up very soon: the SLA Annual Conference! Elsewhere in this newsletter Ruth Gustafson, our president-elect and conference programming chair, will be telling you all about the exciting events she and her hard-working committee have been preparing. (continued page 2)
In particular, don’t miss the DBIO/Natural History Caucus Open Business Meeting and Social Event on August 11, 6:15-8:15 PM ET.

Finally, I know that we have all been working to support our colleagues and our patrons, continuing to connect people to information, whether your library has been physically open all year, is still fully remote, or has developed a hybrid operation. Our community of librarians is one of immense resilience and remarkable innovation, and I have been proud to be a part of this fellowship. As we look forward to the fall to try to envision what our “new normal” might look for, don’t hesitate to reach out to your colleagues in the DBIO community to share what you have learned over the past year, and your joys and concerns for the future, either through the DBIO Connect list, interactions at the annual conference, or other SLA programming throughout the rest of the year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Layla Heimlich

Annual Conference Update
Ruth Gustafson, President-Elect

Please join the Biomedical and Life Sciences Community (BLSC) and our colleagues from the Natural History Community (NHC) for an exciting lineup of pre-conference and live virtual conference programming.

We will start our sessions with an on-demand pre-recorded session on "Mapping the Pandemic: Scientific, Social and Economic Visualizations". We will close our programming with a shift to the future with our Industry Partner Roundtable with speakers from Clarivate, Springer Nature, Third Iron, and Wolters Kluwer noting what's new from their respective companies focusing on how they are using AI technology to enhance their products.

Here is the schedule for all seven activities with six being live and held via videoconferencing:

**On-demand, pre-recorded (accessible Tue 8/3 - Sat 8/31)**
*Mapping the Pandemic: Scientific, Social and Economic Visualizations*  
Co-sponsored by BLSC and Social Sciences & Humanities Community

**Friday, August 6**
*Natural History Watch Party*  
Co-sponsored by Natural History Community and BLSC  
6:00-8:00 PM ET

(continued page 3)
**Wednesday, August 11**

*The New World of Vaccines: Medical, Legal, & Equity Issues of Vaccination*

Co-sponsored by BLSC and Legal Community
2:30-4:00 PM ET

**BIO & NHC: Open Business Meeting and Social Event**

Co-Sponsored by BLSC and Natural History Community
6:15-8:15 PM ET

**Thursday, August 12**

*Mapping Natural History Field Guide Coverage for Discoverability*

1:15-2:15 PM ET
Co-sponsored by Natural History Community and BLSC

**Friday, August 13**

*Science Communication in the Age of COVID-19*

Co-Sponsored by BLSC, Chemistry and PAM
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

**Industry Partner Roundtable: What’s New Presentation and Discussion**

2:00-3:30 PM ET

With thanks to:
SLA Virtual 2021 Annual Conference, Biomedical & Life Sciences Program Committee: Darra Balance, Nancy Curtis, Donna Gibson, Layla Heimlich, Danielle Walker, Ruth Gustafson (Chair)

**Member News**

Roxanne Bogucka, Associate Editor

Patricia H. Dawson reports on two recent articles:


Patricia retired from Rider University in June of 2020. Hope you’re enjoying yourself!
Feature Article and Reader Contest
Tony Stankus graciously agreed to write about his achievement of being the most published science librarian in the world when requested by Monica Kirkwood, our Webmaster, and the Editor. He includes a contest for readers.

Tony Stankus, FSLA
Member of the BioMedical & Life Sciences Community
Distinguished Professor & Health Sciences Librarian, University of Arkansas
& Sometime Contributor to the Professional Literature

I was born to Lithuanian refugees in 1951. For a nice bottle of wine for each of the first dozen Biomedical and Life Sciences Community members to get this matching exercise correct, please email tstankus@uark.edu with your identifications of which of these three displaced Stankus boys turned out to be:

A manager of the Foreign Desk of the NY Times;
A career USAF officer and even now a psychotherapist for today’s Strategic Air Command veterans and their dependents
The world’s most published science librarian.

(continued on page 5)
My sister, btw, not born at the time, now works in telemedicine.

My gifts of wine are not figments of the imagination. Here is a picture of Kelli Costello, an SLA member prizewinner of some of my wine at last year’s virtual convention. Please specify dry, sweet, or fortified wine, red, white, or rose, and type of grape and country of origin when you enter the Stankus boys matching contest. Wine cannot be shipped outside the US.

![Picture of Kelli Costello](image)

From New England to the Ozarks, 2007- the present.

In 2007, I happily accepted an offer from the University of Arkansas which made me an instant full Professor and the school’s Life Sciences Librarian, with responsibility for Biological Sciences and Nursing. I have since published 50 more papers, and been identified in peer-reviewed articles (that I did not myself write!) effectively as the world’s most published science librarian of the 21st century. The university promoted me to its highest rank, Distinguished Professor, and I now concentrate on the health sciences. According to statistics supplied by my publisher and ResearchGate as of April 16, 2021, I have been cited 334 times in the professional literature of both science librarianship and that of the scientific specialties I cover at the university. My work has apparently been accessed by readers 62,551 times. (Just for the record, I have to report on my annual faculty review checklist, statistical evidence that what I write gets read and cited.)

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What motivates you to write so many papers?

Since 2007, I’ve been trying to remedy my profound ignorance of what really matters to smart Arkansans attending the state’s flagship land-grant research university. Somewhat unexpectedly (actually the first week I was there), I was also assigned Entomology, Dietetics and Nutrition, Food Science, Animal Science, Poultry Science, Religious Studies, and Judaism. I knew next to nothing about any of these. (I’m an Episcopalian, so I do know sherry and showmanship). So I deep-dived into the material. When I came up for air I had published 9 entomology papers, including two on Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder, with the most recent paper on tick bites. This frantic panic response has also resulted in papers on chickens and turkeys (we are both the King Kongs AND Godzillas of poultry). In addition there are papers on catfish farming (“seafood” in a state with no sea coast), wild hogs (which both destroy croplands and ironically also serve as the school’s mascot), meat science, tuberculosis in cattle, and pickled vegetable condiments (Who knew!).

The Nursing Program added a DNP degree and Occupational Therapy started up an OTD. Kinesiology, Exercise Science, Food Science, Dietetics and Nutrition had long offered graduate courses and several had long established doctorates. This explains why I had written a widely read (758 views) and heavily cited (12x) “Anatomy of Nursing LibGuides” paper with Martha Anderson, (formerly Martha Parker), now our Head of Digital Services), as well as a paper on “Patient Decision Aids.”

There was also a four-part series on improving the levels of conjugated linoleic acids in foods, as well as on the faint likelihood that vitamin and mineral supplements --- to say nothing about all manner of natural food store herbal nostrums --- would be protective or ameliorating of COVID-19. Despite the fact that I am the world’s worst dieter, I penned a study on the National Weight Loss Registry. Public health worries motivated a paper on vaping. Consumer protection concerns and the racial disparities in depths of coverage within human genetic reference data-banks prompted a study of take home ancestry testing kits.

What are you working on now?

Two topics for my Reviews of Science for Science Librarians series: “The 40th anniversary of the invention by Dr. Colin Shannon of Continuous Positive Air Pressure (CPAP) for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)” and “Chemo-Fog: Post-Chemotherapy Cognitive Impairment (PCCI).”

What gets a manuscript accepted or rejected in Science & Technology Libraries?

A dissertation or class assignment is rarely publishable as is.

Being technically correct in every aspect of your paper is not enough. Your material has to be interesting to the regular readers of the journal. Read many issues of the journal itself, in advance, and get a solid sense of what this audience cares about. When in doubt, send a preliminary email to the Editor-in-Chief, and find out sooner rather than later if your paper is within the scope of the journal.

Can you write really well in either modern British or US-based English? Can you avoid odd sentences, grammatical errors, and non-standard abbreviations for the names of universities and research institutes in your tables--- and this is crucial, can you demonstrate adherence to the citing style and reference format the journal uses?

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Are you using up-to-date search and data management software? The number of submitted papers based on hand tallying and manually sorting over months, that can be done in 20 minutes or less using the Web of Science or Scopus, is heartbreaking.

Does the author understand that journals like mine, get over 150 manuscripts a year, and that more than half are going to be rejected for a variety of worthwhile reasons, with being out-of-scope and poorly written English among the most common? And most importantly, rejections are not personal, but professional decisions. I have had the bizarre experience of a rejected author sending me a portrait of herself, telling me that this was the face of the person whose life I was ruining.

What is the most common criticism you get from referee reports on your own manuscripts?

Well, many say my titles are too long... personally, I don’t see it. After all, isn’t every word of the following essential?

“Economic entomology in the 21st century, as seen from a bibliometric analysis of its leading journal, 2000–2015. Part III: Diptera, Blattodea, Acari, Hymenoptera, Thysanoptera, and Psocoptera, with implications drawn from all three parts for science librarians seeking to serve their students.”

“Can the Brain be Trained? Comparing the Literature on the Use of EEG Biofeedback/Neurofeedback as an Alternative or Complementary Therapy for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).”

“The zoonotic tuberculosis syndemic: A literature review and analysis of the scientific journals covering a multidisciplinary field that includes clinical medicine, animal science, wildlife management, bacterial evolution, and food safety.”

In my defense, I also have the shortest title in all of science librarianship:

“Ham.”

This paper was otherwise most remarkable for quoting famous ancient Romans: Columella, Cato the Elder, Cicero, Plautus, and the Emperor Diocletian, all of whom had something to say about ham. Ham was a highly prized commodity imported from deeply forested barbarians (the best hams came from pigs raised on acorns) in exchange for many amphorae of wine. In honor of this ancient Roman tradition, exchanges involving copious quantities of alcohol apparently continue even today in university Greek houses all across America.

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**Do you personally ever get rejections?**

I have been rejected from the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Information* and even from the journal I edit, *Science & Technology Libraries*. All my own manuscripts to the latter journal are handled by a Deputy Editor-in-Chief in terms of choice of referees and final decisions. Having read the referees’ negative remarks, and taken them to heart, neither of these manuscripts were submitted or published anywhere else.

**What is your most cited work?**

With 36 citations, it is “Publication Quality Indicators for Tenure & Promotion Decisions: What Can the Librarian Ethically Report?” *College & Research Libraries* 44(2):173-178. DOI: 10.5860/crl_44_02_173 This paper was co-authored with fellow SLA member, the late Barbara A. Rice of Rensselaer Polytechnic. We were both concerned with the growing misuse of citation data, impact factors, and out-of-context characterizations of journals in dossiers. In my case, I had to enlighten the Tenure and Promotion board that *Lettere al Nuovo Cimento* was not about new formulas for cement. (The journal has since been helpfully renamed *Europhysics Letters*.)

**Have you ever written a paper that was way ahead of its time?**


**Who has been most instrumental in your publishing career?**

Amy Hardin, currently an Administrative Analyst with the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research and Innovation at the University of Arkansas, with whom I have coauthored 5 papers. The very definition of patient professional persistence.

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Laura Sonnie is a Production Supervisor at Taylor & Francis’s Philadelphia office. She is, in fact, an artist. Every quarter she starts with a blank canvas, working only with the colors randomly supplied by the several accepted manuscripts previously published online in advance, but now waiting in line for their print appearance. She makes of them a masterpiece of an issue every single time. At the end of the year, you look back, and find she has done the Sistine Chapel, (yet again)!

My wife, Chris Soutter, who gave up her Harvard career and New England relations to accompany me to Arkansas. Her impressive mind is overshadowed only by her generous and loving heart. She is a very perceptive reader of my papers and makes them better with her insights. She is directly responsible for my introduction to Evolutionary Psychology, resulting in two papers accessed over 1,600 times.
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http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html

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