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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Virginia A. Lingle

Another exciting association year has begun with a very successful annual meeting just past. Many thank you's are due to: last year's officers and committee members for their diligent and thorough work; our program sponsors who so generously supported division programs with over \$10,000 donated; and SLA Headquarter's staff who helped to pull it all together. Many useful program summaries appear in this issue which will give you a good indication of the activities in Philadelphia.

For the coming year, most committees are in place, but it's not too late to volunteer. There are still several open slots including liaison positions between our division and other organizations. Give me a call or email if you would like to get involved in division activities. Some of the goals that I want to focus on this year include: facilitating the

completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee in their development of goals and objectives for the division; identifying ideas/projects that could be used to apply for SLA Endowment monies to support division activities; and looking for ways to add value to division membership particularly for members who cannot attend an annual meeting. I'd appreciate hearing from you to discuss any of these points.

Recent news from SLA Headquarters includes:

SLA celebrated its 91st birthday on July 2nd.

David R. Bender, Ph.D., the Executive Director of SLA for 21 years has announced his forthcoming retirement as of July 31, 2001.

A new U.S. Government Web Portal (www.firstgov.gov) has been announced by President Clinton. The portal will link every online resource offered by the federal government.

Global 2000 Worldwide Conference on Special Librarianship will be held in Brighton, England, UK, October 16-19, 2000. More info on SLA Web site.

A new service to members: SLA's Virtual Exhibit Hall to view booths visited at the conference or to view new information and contact companies virtually.

(<http://sla.expoventure.com/index2000.html>).

REVIEWERS NEEDED

MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship, a peer-reviewed, online journal for media librarians [web site -- <http://wings.buffalo.edu/publications/mcjrnl/>], is looking for reviewers for health science topics. If interested, contact Lori Widzinski, Editor, at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/publications/mcjrnl/>

CALL FOR PAPERS: CONTRIBUTED PAPERS SESSION BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION SLA CONFERENCE, JUNE 2001, SAN ANTONIO

To all Biomedical and Life Sciences Librarians and Information Specialists, the SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division invites submissions for its annual Contributed Papers Session for the San Antonio Conference in June 2001.

SESSION THEME: Innovative Applications of Web and Digital Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences Libraries.

With the increasing importance of a Library's presence on the www, what innovative programs has your library undertaken? How do you support reference service via the www? How do you use the web to support distance education? Do you provide 24 x 7 reference? How have people organized their sites to best represent the needs of their users? How have you incorporated the variety of www based technologies? Have you designed usable instruction tools that you would like to share? Have you participated in web page design usability studies? What challenges have you overcome in developing your www services? What technologies do you see for the future?

ABSTRACT: A 200-500 word abstract should accurately convey the subject of the paper, its scope, conclusions and relevance to the program theme. Attention will be paid to evidence of scholarship in methodology.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: September 15, 2000.

PAPERS: If chosen, acceptance of your paper reflects a commitment on your part to: 1) submit presentation of your paper to the program convener by March 31, 2001; 2) give a presentation of your paper for no longer than 20 minutes at the SLA annual conference, June 9-14, 2001 in San Antonio; 3) where appropriate and feasible, offer a brief demonstration or representation of your project during your presentation.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT TO:

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STUDENTS WIN BIG!

Tom C. Cutshall

Congratulations to the three student winners of the division meeting tickets:

Diane T. Sands, Donna Braquet, Holly A. Harden

Each of the three winning students received free tickets to the following division meetings at the annual conference this year: Continental Breakfast and Vendor Roundtable Discussion for the BIO, CHE, and ERM Divisions on Sunday, June 11, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (a \$10.00 value).

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Annual Business Meeting and Continental Breakfast on Tuesday, June 13, 2000 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. (a \$15.00 value).

Congratulations once again to the winners!

BIO DIVISION AWARD RECIPIENT HONORS STUDENTS

Dr. Joanne G. Marshall, winner of the Winifred Sewell Award For Innovation in

Information Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences Librarianship, donated her \$250 honorarium to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to be used for Student Scholarships.

AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

2000 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

At the annual business meeting in Philadelphia, the Division presented the 2000 Distinguished Member Award to Renee B. Bush "for demonstrating intelligent and resourceful leadership and professionalism." Eleanor MacLean (Distinguished Member Award, 1999) presented Renee with a certificate, a tribute (see below) and engraved Revere bowl to commemorate the occasion. Renee is the fifth member to receive the award. Other recipients are:

1996 Patricia B. Yocum
1997 Elisabeth B. Davis
1998 Lucy M. Rowland
1999 Eleanor A. MacLean

Special Libraries Association
Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

2000 Distinguished Member Award Renee B. Bush

"Renee Bush has served the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division and the library profession in a variety of ways. A member of the division since 1981, she's been chair, program planner, program speaker, member of several committees, student group advisor, and more. She is serving a term on IFLA. While the extent of her participation in division activities is considerable, the quality of her contributions is also notable. She never agrees to accept a position in the division without careful consideration of her own skills, interests, and time constraints. This is because she wants to make an active contribution in whatever area she serves-she has never been a nominal committee member. "

"Both in the profession and in the division, she is a true mentor. One division member affirms, "I know this firsthand, having worked as her student assistant and benefitted over the years from her advice and support. And I know others who have likewise profited from her help. She is responsible for my involvement in the BIO and was of great assistance when I was division program chair for the 1997 annual conference. She is always available as a sounding board for ideas, providing honest, straightforward feedback. Like her own work in the division, her recruitment of new members extends beyond adding their names to the membership roster. She strives to make a meaningful experience for them by encouraging their involvement. She's well aware that new, active

members with fresh ideas are key to the viability of the division. "

"In addition to her work in BIO, Renee has made an ongoing contribution to the professional literature, particularly in the area of biomaterials-related information. She has published bibliographies on this interdisciplinary field in both library and scientific journals, thus maximizing the opportunity for interested researchers and librarians to locate the diverse resources found in this body of literature. "

"Whether it's committee work, mentoring, writing or simply brainstorming, Renee's contributions are of a quality that reflect her interest in the success of the BIO Division."

Special Libraries Association
Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

**2000 Winifred Sewell Prize
For Innovation in Information Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences
Librarianship
Joanne G. Marshall**

In 1998, the BIO Executive Board established The Winifred Sewell Prize for Innovation in Information Technologies [[Biofeedback](#) 24(2) pg. 4 1998]. The prize is awarded to a member who has shown leadership and innovation in the development and/or use of advanced technologies. The prize is named in honor of Winifred Sewell, who has been a member of the BIO Division since 1946, serves on the BIO Awards Committee and whose short biography appears in R. R. Bowker's *American Men & Women of Science* 1998-1999, 20th edition, Vol. 6, pg. 776.

The Division awarded its first Winifred Sewell Prize to Naomi C. Broering. This year Winifred Sewell read the following tribute as she presented the prize to Joanne Marshall.

"Joanne Gard Marshall is an acknowledged leader, educator and researcher. Her expertise, publications and innovative research are rooted in 20 years of biomedical reference services and clinical librarianship. In her more recent role as a full-time educator, she has sustained her interest in fostering and adapting emerging technologies to improve access to information in the biomedical and life sciences."

"As clinical librarian in the early 1970s at McMaster University, Dr. Marshall expanded her practice to active membership within health care teams. She trained fellow team-members to efficiently use electronic information resources. She evaluated the training and published on the evolution and dynamics of this environment. This participation pioneered end-user training at McMaster and catalyzed others in the field to initiate similar programs. Dr Marshall remains at the vanguard, applying technologies to end-user training and developing methods for testing and measuring the efficacy of training services. She is highly consulted not only on clinical decision-making as it relates to patient care but also on integrating clinical librarianship with research. She has attracted more than \$3,000,000 in research funding."

"Dr. Marshall is the consummate author in her field, well established in the literature of biomedical librarianship and information science. She is editor of 14 books and chapters. Titles range from her landmark monograph *Evaluation instruments for health sciences libraries* (Chicago: Medical Library Association, 1990, 282 p.) to chapters such as *New technological environments for professional practice* (1993) and *Database search services: a quality assurance approach* (1990). She has published more than 50 articles and technical reports."

"Dr. Marshall is universally venerated as a scholarly speaker, lecturing at a lengthy list of prestigious organizations and institutions including but not limited to: the Digital Knowledge II Conference (Toronto), Oxford University (England) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Annual Meeting (Quebec City)."

"The Medical Library Association awarded Dr. Marshall, twice (1982, 1993), the prestigious Eliot Prize for work published in the previous year judged most effective in furthering medical librarianship. The Toronto Chapter/SLA honored her with their Member of the Year Award for her monograph: *The impact of the special library on corporate decision-making* (Washington, D.C.: Special Libraries Association, 1993, 121 p.). She received the H. W. Wilson Award for her publication in *Special Libraries: Building a model business case: current awareness service in a special library* (1996). In addition, Dr. Marshall is conferee of the Special Libraries Association Certificate of Achievement (1995) and the John Cotton Dana Award (1998). The Academy of Health Information Professionals has renewed her "Distinguished Member" status since she first received that honor in 1991."

"Dr. Marshall is active professionally. She has seen her work in perspective through participation in non-library organizations as a member of the Health Committee, Consumer Association of Canada (Ontario) 1986-1990 and working with the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, 1987-1990. She is a member of the American Library Association and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Kellogg ALISE Library and Information Project for Educational Reform. She chaired the Special Interest group on Medical Information Systems for the American Society of Information Science. Holding membership in the Medical Library Association since 1971, Dr. Marshall was member and chair of MLA's Library Research Committee, member of the President's Task Force, member of the Think Tank of MLA's Research Agenda and member of the Board of Directors. She chaired the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section. Dr. Marshall is current co-chair of the MLA Annual Meeting, 2000, Vancouver, BC Canada. A member of the Special Libraries Association since 1988, Dr. Marshall served on numerous committees at the chapter and association level. For eight years, she was advisor to the University of Toronto SLA Student Group. "

"While holding full tenured professorship in the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, Dr. Marshall maintained adjunct appointments in the Department of Health Administration, Centre for Health Promotion, and the Institute for Human Development, Life-Course and Aging. Dr. Marshall currently is Dean and tenured full-professor at the School of Information and Library Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "

"Joanne Gard Marshall has been a leader for three decades in developing, applying and

evaluating end-user training applications and technologies. She has focused on educating others and promoting medical information research technologies to librarians, prospective librarians, biomedical researchers, clinicians and patients. She is very deserving of the Winifred Sewell Prize for Innovation in Information Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences Librarianship."

2000 CHAIR'S RECOGNITION AWARD PRESENTED TO NANCY F. STIMSON

At the annual business meeting of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division in Philadelphia, Chair Anne Malley presented the 2000 Chair's Recognition Award to Nancy Stimson. During the presentation, Chair Malley read the following tribute:

"This year, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association proudly recognizes Nancy Stimson for her outstanding work as chair of the Philadelphia conference committee."

"Nancy anticipated issues and matters of importance. She was always one step ahead as she organized division activities, and two steps ahead in fulfilling the needs of SLA. Nancy's leadership had a profound influence on program planning and every BIO session attendee benefitted from her programmatic vision and her truly amazing skills in organization."

"With shared gratitude, this year's Chair's Recognition Award is presented to Nancy Stimson in recognition of outstanding contributions and meritorious service to the division."

The Chair's Recognition Award was last presented on June 9, 1997 to Lucy M. Rowland by Chair, Fred Roper at SLA's 88th Annual Conference in Seattle.

BIO MEMBERS HONORED

Larry L. Wright
Awards Committee

SLA Association Awards:

In 1987, the SLA Board of Directors established a program that designated a member as Fellow of the Special Libraries Association. This is given to members who are at or near the mid-point of an active professional career and who are not, at the time of their appointment, serving on the SLA Board of Directors. The honor also is given in recognition of a member's leadership in the field of special librarianship, outstanding contributions and expected future service to the Association. Fellows are called upon and expected to advise the Association's Board of Directors, to prepare necessary

documentation and to alert membership to issues and trends warranting action [*Who's Who in Special Libraries 1999-2000*, pg. 72].

This year, the SLA Board of Directors selected former Biomedical And Life Sciences Division chair, **Jo Anne Boorkman**, for "her deep and enduring commitment to the field of special librarianship, strong interest in alerting members to issues and trends of concern to them and for superior service to the profession and to the Association." At the SLA Business Meeting in Philadelphia, SLA President Susan DiMattia read the following tribute:

"Jo Anne Boorkman is Head of the Loren D. Carlson Health Sciences Library at the University of California at Davis. A member of SLA for 29 years, Jo Anne has demonstrated her ability to innovate and promote our profession through her service to SLA, the Medical Library Association, and numerous local, state, and regional library organizations. Her work in the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA has benefitted the members of that division and of the Association as a whole, for she has always looked for new and creative ways to improve the programs and services offered to her fellow members. She is a founding member of the Medical Section of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division; and served as Chair of the division and on its board from 1992 to 1995. During her time as Division Chair, she championed the division's first contributed papers session at the 1994 Annual Conference. Jo Anne also has served for several years simultaneously as the division liaison to the Medical Library Association AND as the MLA representative to the Division."

"She has also given a great deal of time to the Sierra Nevada Chapter, serving on the board and as president from 1996 to 1999. During this time, she established a strategic planning process for the Chapter, codified the awards process, overhauled its by-laws, and updated its procedures manual. She previously served as Treasurer of that chapter in 1995 and 1996, and also as secretary of the North Carolina Chapter from 1980 to 1983."

"Jo Anne's professional career is full of highlights. She and fellow member Fred Roper have authored and edited three editions of the *Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences*, and is planning a fourth edition. She has also served on the editorial board of *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*."

"Her peers see her as a professional and very capable leader, and we couldn't agree more. Congratulations, Jo Anne!"

Other BIO members designated SLA fellows are: Eleanor MacLean (1998) and Fred Roper (1989).

MLA Awards:

On May 8, the MLA honored its 1999/2000 award winners and recognized them for outstanding professional achievements at the annual Awards Luncheon and Ceremony

in Vancouver. At the ceremony, former BIO Chair, **Fred W. Roper** accepted **The President's Award** as the following tribute was read:

"The MLA President's Award is presented to an MLA member who has made a significant contribution in the previous year and has helped to further goals of the association. This year's recipient, chosen by the MLA Board of Directors, is Fred W. Roper, Ph.D., AHIP, College of Library and Information Science, University of South-Carolina-Columbia. Roper and MLA Fellow, has been one of the association's most involved members and has exemplified MLA leadership at its best during his twenty-five years of membership. Roper has served MLA as both a member of the Board of Directors and as president of the Association from 1994-1995. He also chaired the Continuing Education Committee and the Knowledge and Skills Task Force, which culminated in the *Platform for Change*, MLA's educational policy statement" [*MLA News*, June/July 2000, pg. 9]. Fred is a recipient of SLA's John Cotton Dana Award, 1999."

MLA also honored another member, **Joycelyn A. Rankin**, (CDC Information Center, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA) awarding her **The Ida and George Eliot Prize** for work published in the preceding calendar year and judged to be most effective in furthering medical librarianship. Joycelyn edited the *Handbook on Problem-Based Learning*, recently published by MLA and Forbes Custom Publishing [*MLA News*, June/July 2000, pg. 7]

Canadian Health Libraries Association Awards:

The Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des Bibliothèques de la santé du Canada CHLA/ABSC mixed ceremony with humor as Vice-President Patrick Ellis presented an **Honorary Life Membership** to **Joanne G. Marshall** for her work on *National Network of Health Libraries*, her history of contributions to the organization and initiating their involvement in a Telemedicine series.

Addendum:

Members of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division congratulate Fred, Joycelyn and Joanne for well-deserved recognition.

Natural History Caucus News

Adam Schiff

I am pleased to announce that Janet Dombrowski, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., has agreed to take over this year as the Natural History Caucus convener. I will make the appropriate changes to the Caucus Web site and notify SLA of

the change.

Janet has some ideas for the San Antonio conference and I'm sure you will be hearing from her. She will be working with Tom Turner to develop a program that BIO Division will cosponsor. I will continue as the Web page editor and the discussion list owner. Thanks for stepping up, Janet!

Janet Dombrowski
National Geographic Society Library
1145 17 St. NW
Washington, DC 20036-4688
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**SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION
1999/2000 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Philadelphia, PA
June 10, 2000**

Present: Malley (Chair); MacLean (Treasurer); Tebo (Secretary); Lingle (Chair-Elect); Barnard (Medical Section); Bronars (Vendor Relations); Curtis (Incoming Treasurer); Jones (Contributed Papers Session); Nabe (Publications); Osegueda (Professional Development); Rowland (Awards); Schiff (Long Range Plan); Stimson (Philadelphia Program Committee); Turner (Student Relations/Career Guidance, San Antonio Program Committee); Weiss (International Relations); Wojcik (Bylaws); Yocum (Nominations & Elections)

I. Call to Order

Annie Malley called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes from Minneapolis

Minutes approved

III. Ratification of Executive Board Email Votes

A. SLA Global 2000 Fellowship Contributions- Approved stipend of \$1,000 for an international representative to Global 2000 World Wide Conference on Special Librarianship in Brighton, UK October 16-19, 2000.

B. Board approved Renee Bush for the Distinguished Member Award.

C. Board approved Joanne Marshall for the Winifred Sewell Prize.

D. Board approved \$200 annual stipend for Winifred Sewell to attend the Annual

Conference to present the Winifred Sewell Prize.

E. Board approved the nomination of Jo Anne Boorkman for SLA Fellow.

IV. Treasurer's Report

MacLean distributed the annual Treasurer's Report. We have a current balance of \$34,110.19. Eleanor reminded the Board that not all the bills for the Philadelphia Conference have been paid, but we are in good financial shape. Eleanor moved that we make an additional \$1,000 contribution to the Global 2000 stipend. Motion was approved by the Board.

V. Committee Reports

A. Archives- Malley reported for Dorothy Riemenschneider. Please remember the Archives and make sure what you send to Archives is well organized.

B. Awards Committee- Lucy Rowland recommended that the Board consider a \$200 stipend for Winifred Sewell to attend and present the Winifred Sewell Prize, and that the next year's Board make that an annual stipend. Patricia Yocum recommended that next year's Board consider a \$250 honorarium for the Distinguished Member Award. Patricia's suggestion was that the DMA financial award would not be retroactive, but would begin with the 2001 award. We currently give a \$250 honorarium for the Winifred Sewell Prize.

C. Bylaws Committee- Judy Wojcik said Bylaws are in good shape after last year's revisions. There are a few minor changes that could be made but recommended that we wait until we need to make some major changes since there is a lot of work and expense needed to revise the Bylaws.

D. Fund Development Committee- Virginia Lingle reported that the Division received \$10,100 in sponsorship. The Board gave her and the Committee a round of applause. Lingle recommended more networking with the Vendor Relations Committee. It was agreed upon that the chair of Vendor Relations and the chair of Fund Development would further discuss how to handle asking participating vendors for financial contributions. Virginia also recommended that someone from the Medical Section should be on the Committee to better facilitate communication and avoid duplication of contacts with regards to sponsorship of programs. In addition, Virginia recommended that vendors who speak at the Vendor's Breakfast be asked to give a contribution for the breakfast.

E. Membership Committee- Annie Malley reported for Diane Schmidt. There are still problems with the timeliness and accuracy of membership information from Headquarters. Reports received from Headquarters are difficult to interpret and should be clarified. There are delays in New Member reports. The situation is better than it was in the past, but problems still exist. The Division's Membership Brochure was revised 1/2000.

F. Nominations and Elections Committee- Patricia Yocum said we had four

excellent candidates this year and thanked everyone for running. Michele Tennant was elected Chair-Elect and Nancy Curtis was elected Treasurer. 798 ballots were mailed out and 214 ballots were returned. The total cost of the election was \$432.61. The election was conducted according to the revised schedule approved by the Executive Board June 1999. Fred Roper is incoming Chair of the Nominating Committee.

G. Professional Development- Laura Osegueda reported that we have two CE courses and two tours scheduled for Philadelphia. The two CE courses are Biomedical Databases: Advanced Search Techniques for PubMed and BIOSIS, and Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians. The tours are Bartram Gardens and the Philadelphia Zoo. The Zoo tour was canceled because of low registration. Tours need more support from Headquarters. Laura also thanked Drexel for their generous support for the use of their facilities for the Biomedical Databases CE course.

H. Public Relations Committee- Annie Malley reported for the Committee. The Committee will place large heart signs in the booths of all our sponsors and encouraged all the members to visit our sponsors and say thanks.

I. Publications Committee- Jonathan Nabe reported that the committee published articles in *Biofeedback* this past year on how to get published and that on Tuesday there will be a getting published roundtable.

J. Student Relations/ Career Guidance- Tom Turner reported that there are seventy student members and the committee sent welcome letters to twenty new members. This is the first year the Committee had a student member. Two student members contributed a BioLife column for Biofeedback. The committee sponsored three students to attend the divisional breakfast at the Annual Conference. Tom reported that Janet Weiss will chair the committee next year.

K. Vendor Relations Committee- Lori Bronars reported that the Vendor Relations Committee organized a Vendors Round-table for Philadelphia in conjunction with a breakfast. Irene Laursen is the chair next year.

L. Contributed Papers Session- Peggy Jones reported that two papers will be presented on Wednesday. David Goodman-"Radical Conclusions from Straightforward Data: Paper and Electronic Journal Use and Costs." Edith Starbuck and Jane Thompson-"Practical Approaches to Ongoing Changes in Scientific Journal Publishing." The topic next year will be innovative applications of web and digital technologies in biomedical and life science libraries.

M. Philadelphia Program Committee- Nancy Stimson reported the committee developed a slate of eight programs in addition to the usual business meetings. In addition, the Division is cosponsoring six additional programs.

N. San Antonio Program Planning- Tom Turner reported that the committee is meeting on Wednesday. Topics will be set then but not necessarily the speakers.

VI. Medical Section Report

Pamela Barnard reported on the status of the Section. There were several articles in *Biofeedback*. There is a program on Tuesday called The Transformation of Health Care in the Information Age. There will be a member reception at the Mutter Museum on Monday. There is a draft of the procedures manual available to let people know what they expected to do. The section plans on getting a web page up next year.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. Medical Library Association- Annie Malley reported for Lorri Zipperer. This years MLA Conference was the largest ever and was combined with the Canadian Medical Library Association. Most of the activities of the liaison focused on a networking event between the Medical Section and the Philadelphia Chapter of MLA at the Mutter Museum.

B. International Relations- Janet Weiss reported the committee never met this year.

VIII. New Business

A. *Biofeedback*- The issue of electronic vs. Print was tabled until the next Board meeting.

B. BSD-Net- Laura Osegueda discussed the idea of a name change to Bionet-L or Biomednet-L.

C. Procedures Manual Changes- Annie Malley reported that there are a lot of small procedural changes. A new procedure had been recommended for the handling of *Biofeedback* invoices. However, the Treasurer and *Biofeedback* Editor are in agreement that this procedure would not work and the Editor or Business Manager will continue to send out the invoices.

D. Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee- Adam Schiff passed out two sets of handouts on the old Long Range Plan and a draft of the new Long Range Plan. Discussion of draft plan followed.

E. SLA Endowment Fund- Annie Malley inquired if the Division would like to participate. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to support programs developed by SLA Chapters or Divisions. The deadline this year is July 1. The Board endorsed the idea of the Division applying for grants but thought the deadline is to soon to meet this year but the Division should consider for next year.

IX. Adjournment

Annie Malley thanked Board and all the Committees for their hard work this past year. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted
John Tebo
Secretary
Biomedical and Life Science Division

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION
1999/2000 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Philadelphia, PA
June 13, 2000**

1. Call to Order and Introduction of Board Members

Annie Malley called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM and introduced the Biomedical and Life Sciences division board members. Vendors were thanked for their sponsorship of events at the 2000 conference: Adis International Inc.; American Chemical Society; BIOSIS; Chemical Abstracts Service; CSA-Cambridge Scientific Abstracts; CISTI-Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information; The Dialog Corporation; EBSCO Information Services; Elsevier Science; ISI-Institute for Scientific Information; John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; Majors, The Company Bookstore; Medscape; Rittenhouse Books Distributors, Inc.; SilverPlatter Information; Springer-Verlag; Wiley-VCH

2. Approval of Minutes of the 1999 Annual Business Meeting

Minutes approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Eleanor MacLean submitted the Treasurer's Report and list of income and expenses. The Division has \$23,863.27 cash and bank accounts; \$10,246.92 SLA Pooled Fund. Total assets as of 6/7/00 is \$34,110.19.

4. Election Results

Patricia Yocum, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee announced the election results. Michele Tennant was elected Chair-Elect and Nancy Curtis was elected Treasurer. Patricia said we had four excellent candidates this year and thanked all the candidates for running.

5. Brief Committee Reports

Awards- Larry Wright, Chair of the Awards Committee introduced the Committee. Awards will be presented later in the meeting.

Bylaws- Judy Wojcik, Chair of the Bylaws Committee said the Bylaws are in good shape. There were no changes in the Bylaws this year.

Contributed Papers- Peggy Jones, Chair of the Philadelphia Contributed Papers Session encouraged member to attend the Contributed Papers Session on Wednesday. This year's papers are David Goodman-"Radical Conclusions from Straightforward Data: Paper and Electronic Journal Use and Costs" and Edith Starbuck and Jane Thompson-"Practical Approaches to Ongoing Changes in Scientific Journal Publishing." The topic next year will be innovative applications of web and digital technologies in biomedical and life science libraries.

Fund Development- Virginia Lingle, Chair of the Fund Development Committee reported that the Committee raised over \$10,000 this year. She thanked all the Committee members and the seventeen vendors who contributed to the Division. Red thank you hearts are in each of the vendor's booths. Please stop by our sponsor's booths to say thank you.

Membership Committee- Diane Schmidt, Chair of the Membership Committee is looking for appointees to next year's committee.

Nominations and Election Committee- Patricia Yocum, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee introduced the Committee. She said the Committee followed the new election schedule approved by last year's Board. The revision moved all dates forward in the activity year to give more lead-time for newly elected officers to make conference plans. The Division is fortunate to secure four excellent candidates this year. She thanked Michele Tennant and Geeth Vijay-Rao for running for Chair-elect/Chair, and Nancy Curtis and Janet Cooper Weiss for running for Treasurer. The Committee mailed out 798 ballots and received 214 ballots back for a participation rate of 26%.

Professional Development- Laura Osegueda, Chair the Professional Development Committee reported that we have two CE courses and a tour of Bartram Gardens scheduled for Philadelphia. The two CE courses are Biomedical Databases: Advanced Search Techniques for PubMed and BIOSIS, and Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians. A planned Zoo tour was canceled because of low registration. Laura also thanked Drexel for their generous support for the use of their facilities for the Biomedical Databases CE course.

Public Relations- No report

Publications Committee- Jonathan Nabe, Chair of the Publications Committee reported that the committee published articles in *Biofeedback* this past year on how to get published and that on Tuesday there will be a getting published roundtable.

Student Relations Committee- Tom Turner, Chair of the Student Relations Committee thanked the Committee and introduced the student members who received the complimentary breakfast tickets. This year the Division had twenty new student members.

Vendor Relations- Lori Bronars, Chair of the Vendor Relations Committee thanked

the Committee. She reported the Committee organized a continental breakfast and Vendors Roundtable for Philadelphia that took place on Sunday.

Philadelphia Program Planning Committee- Nancy Stimson, Chair of the Committee thanked the Committee for their hard work and that we have a full schedule of quality programs in Philadelphia.

San Antonio Conference Planning Committee- Tom Turner, Chair of the Committee thanked the Committee and said the Committee will be meeting on Wednesday to work on the program.

Medical Section- Pamela Barnard, Chair of the Medical Section announced that Peggy Jones will be the new Chair.

Archives- Annie Malley reported for the Chair of Archives. Please remember to send your well-organized materials to Dottie Riemenschneider.

Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee- Adam Schiff, Chair of the Committee reported on a draft revised long range plan which will be submitted to the Board and appear in the next issue of *Biofeedback* for comments from the membership before the Board adopts the plan.

6. Presentation of Awards

A. Distinguished Member Award

Eleanor MacLean, last year's award winner presented the Distinguished Member Award to Renee Bush of the State University of New York-Buffalo Health Sciences Library. Renee Bush has served the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division and the library profession in a number of ways. A member of the Division since 1981, she's been chair, program planner, program speaker, member of several committees, student group advisor, and more. While the extent of her participation in division activities is considerable, the quality of her contributions is also notable. She never agrees to accept a position in the division without careful consideration of her own skills, interests, and time constraints. This is because she wants to make an active contribution in whatever area she serves- she has never been a nominal committee member.

In addition to her work in BIO, Renee has made an ongoing contribution to the professional literature, particularly in the area of biomaterials related information.

Whether it's committee work, mentoring, writing, or simply brainstorming, Renee's contributions are of a quality that reflects her interest in the success of BIO.

B. Winifred Sewell Award

Winifred Sewell thanked the Division for the great honor and presented the

Award to Joanne Gard Marshall of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Library and Information Science. Joanne was selected for her innovation in developing and applying new technologies and her commitment to educating others about new technologies. Joanne Gard Marshall is an acknowledged leader, educator and researcher. Her expertise, publications and innovative research are rooted in 20 years of biomedical reference services and clinical librarianship. In her more recent role as a full-time educator, she has sustained her interest in fostering and adapting emerging technologies to improve access to information in the biomedical and life sciences.

Joanne Gard Marshall has been a leader for three decades in developing, applying and evaluating end-user training applications and technologies. She has focused on educating others and promoting medical information research technologies to librarians, perspective librarians, biomedical researchers, clinicians and patients. She is very deserving of the Winifred Sewell Prize for Innovation in Information technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences librarianship.

C. Chair's Award

Annie Malley presented the Chair's Recognition Award.

This year, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association proudly recognizes Nancy F. Stimson for her outstanding work as chair of the Philadelphia conference committee. Nancy anticipated issues and matters of importance. She was always one step ahead as she organized division activities, and two steps ahead in fulfilling the needs of SLA. Nancy's leadership has had a profound influence on program planning and every BIO session attendee benefitted from her programmatic vision and her truly amazing skills in organization.

With shared gratitude, this year's Chair Recognition Award is presented to Nancy Stimson in recognition of outstanding contributions and meritorious service to the division.

7. Landmark Members

Diane Schmidt, Chair of the Membership Committee presented certificates to our Landmark Members who were present at the meeting. She will mail the certificates to those not in attendance.

35 years: Martha Z. Kirby of Philadelphia, PA

30 years: Akemi E. Inouye of Hilo, HA

25 years: Susan M. Baker, John L. Carrigan, Susan Feinglos, Ruth Friedman, Linda C. Smith, Elizabeth Uleryk, Janet C. Weiss, and Connie Wolf.

20 years: Karen M. Albert, Richard K. Hunt, Reva Hurtes, Anne M. Linton, Barbara M. Pitschel, and Britain G. Roth.

8. Chair's Report

Annie Malley reported that a lot of work took place this year and the credit goes to the Board and the Committees. She thanked everyone for his or her help and advice this past year. She thanked all the vendors who sponsored our programs and the Institute for Scientific Information and Rittenhouse Book Distributors who sponsored this meeting.

9. Announcements

Larry Wright announced that the Division recommended Jo Anne Boorkman of the University of California-Davis Health Sciences Library for SLA Fellow. Jo Anne was named a Fellow this year. Congratulations Jo Anne!

Virginia Lingle, the new Chair of the Division called for volunteers for committee work.

10. Installation of New Officers

Virginia Lingle- Chair
Michele Tennant- Chair-elect
Nancy Curtis- Treasurer
John Tebo- Secretary
Annie Malley- Past Chair
Julia Perez- Director

11. Adjournment

Virginia Lingle, Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted
John Tebo
Secretary

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION
2000/2001 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Philadelphia, PA
June 14, 2000**

Present: Lingle (Chair); Malley (Past-Chair); Curtis (Treasurer); Tebo (Secretary); Tennant (Chair-Elect); Cruickshank (Publications); Laursen (Vendor Relations); Lepzelter (Home Page); Osegueda (Professional Development); Roper (Nominations and Elections); Schiff (Long-Range Plan); Turner (San Antonio Program Committee); Weiss (Student Relations); Wright (Awards); Zipperer (Medical Section)

1. Committee Lists

Virginia passed out a 2000/2001 tentative committee list. A final version will be ready by the end of June. All committees have a chair.

2. Minutes

Minutes of 6/9/1999 Executive Board Meeting approved.

3. Announcements

Virginia asked that all board members and committee chairs please send all inactive files to Archives. Please make sure they are well organized.

4. Old Business

A. Awards- The Board approved a motion to add an honorarium of \$250 to the Distinguished Member Award. We currently award an honorarium of \$250 to the winner of the Winifred Sewell Prize. The Board also approved a motion to make the cash honorarium retroactive to the 2000 Distinguished Member Award winner.

B. Professional Development- Laura Osegueda requested that the Board consider a thank you gift for the Hagerty Library and Ken Garson at Drexel University and for hosting the CE course and Andrea Horne of the University of Pennsylvania for assisting with local arrangements. The Board approved \$250 for both gifts.

C. *Biofeedback*- In 1999 the Board recommended that the Treasurer take over responsibility for invoicing for *Biofeedback*. This recommendation was not implemented since neither the Treasurer or Editor could see how to make the new procedures work. The Board agreed to continue the current practice of having the Editor invoice the advertisers.

D. Endowment Fund- Virginia Lingle encouraged the Division to apply for funding from the Endowment Fund. The application deadline is July 1, 2000. There was discussion of the possibility of taking one of the CE courses on the road. It was decided that the timetable is too tight for this year but the division could work on it for the following year.

E. Ad Hoc Long-Range Plan- Adam Schiff asked if this committee should be made a permanent committee. To make it a standing committee a bylaws change would have to be made. It is the responsibility of the past-chair to review the document each year. The revised plan will be posted on the web page for the membership to review.

F. Virginia Lingle thanked Annie Malley for all her work as chair of the division and presented her with a gift as a token of appreciation.

5. New Business

A. Nancy Curtis passed out new budget forms and requested that committee budget requests be sent back to her by August 30th. She reminded everyone that in order to get reimbursements, the forms sent to be sent to her along with the receipts.

B. Annie Malley mentioned that vendors do not get copies of the conference programs. It would be nice if each vendor got a copy so they knew about the date and times of the programs.

C. Larry Wright mentioned that the Awards Committee needs to know the target date for requesting complimentary registration for Winifred Sewell and the winner of the Winifred Sewell Prize. Tom Turner said he will let the committee know of the deadline.

D. Virginia Lingle will send out responsibilities and procedures to each of the committee chairs along with a tentative calendar of dates and deadlines.

E. Tom Turner distributed a handout of proposed programs for 2001 San Antonio Conference. Among the proposed topics include Alternative Electronic Publishing- Real Progress? Real Impact?; Systematics- An Introduction; Knowledge Management and Health Information; Health Care and Health Care Information for the Underserved; Patents 101- An Introduction to Patents and Patent Searching; Winner's Circle of Web Sites; Natural History Caucus Program; Genetically Modified Foods; Implications of Electronic Publishing on the Value of Special Libraries; Academic Science Librarians' Roundtable and Continental Breakfast.

F. Laura Osegueda is looking for ideas for good places for tours in San Antonio. She is looking into the possibility of a tour to the Primate Center.

G. Carol Lepzelter said she will archive the division's web page once a year. She also mentioned SLA's policy on advertisements. If you only have an electronic newsletter you can have ads. If you have a paper and electronic newsletter you can have no ads on the web.

H. Adam Schiff will put the revised long range plan on the web and in *Biofeedback* for membership comments and submit the final plan to the board for approval.

I. Irene Laursen has been talking to vendors about sponsorship and Annual Review is interested in sponsoring a program.

J. Fred Roper needs nominations for three offices this year. The three offices that need to be filled are Chair-elect; Secretary; and Director. Please send names to Fred by July 1. Self nominations are most welcomed.

K. Annie Malley will review the bylaws.

L. Annie Malley is chairing the Contributed Papers Session for San Antonio. The theme is "Innovative Applications of Web and Digital Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences Libraries." Deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15, 2000.

6. Adjournment

Virginia Lingle adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
John Tebo
Secretary

SLA PROGRAM INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For those who attended the SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Tuesday, June 13, 2000 and the session *E-materials: Barriers to Revolutionizing Scientific Information*, the unavailable graphic about the alternative post-publication peer review concept, and other supplementary information (such as the URLs for other mentioned items) are now available at <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~dstern/slaemat.html>.

David Stern
Director of Science Libraries and Information Services
Kline Science Library

The Division Board will be voting to endorse the Long Range Plan put forth by the Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee chaired by Adam Schiff, but would like to give the membership the opportunity for comment before the Plan is accepted. Please send any questions or comments to Adam Schiff (aschiff@u.washington.edu) by September 1, 2000.

BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION, SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

LONG RANGE PLAN: 2000-2005-2010

Prepared by the Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee, 1999-2000

**Adam L. Schiff, Chair
Anna Thérèse McGowan
Judy Wojcik
Lorri A. Zipperer**

Draft of July 5, 2000

Mission

The mission of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association is to further the objectives of the Association by providing representation and

support for those professionals concerned with the provision of information services in the life sciences.

Scope

The scope of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division encompasses all aspects of the life sciences, both pure and applied, including: biology and biochemistry, zoology and botany, microbiology, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, ecology, veterinary and human medicine, health sciences, and other aspects of the life sciences not specifically noted, or encompassed by another SLA Division. The Division promotes the exchange of information and ideas about trends and advances in information storage, retrieval and analysis, collection management, and dissemination in these fields to support research, education, and commercial endeavors.

Division Objectives

In keeping with the Mission and the Bylaws, the Division will:

- nurture a positive collegiality within the Division
- attract new members and retain existing members
- provide opportunities for continuing education and professional development through relevant programs at conferences, and through other currently available venues
- support sections that exist or that may be established within the Division
- encourage increased student interest in librarianship and information services within the scope of the Division
- facilitate communication among Division members through the Division newsletter *Biofeedback* and via the Division's home page and electronic discussion list BSDNET-L
- maintain a sound financial balance between services offered and funds available
- stay abreast of current trends and developments in technology and information processing and delivery

Division Goals, Continuing

1. The Professional Development and Program Committees will develop activities for both conference and non-conference programs with representation from all Division sections and the Natural History Caucus.
2. The Publications Committee will encourage members to write for *Biofeedback* (the Division's newsletter), *Information Outlook* (the Association's magazine), and other relevant publications.
3. Joint programming will be sponsored with other Divisions, Chapters, and Caucuses in the Association and with other related organizations.
4. The Division will provide support for students wishing to attend the Division's programs during the Annual Conference.
5. An ad hoc long range plan committee will be constituted on a regular basis and given sufficient time and resources to conduct a ongoing needs assessment and revision of this Long Range Plan.
6. At the Chapter level, Division members will be encouraged to contact and recruit library school students to join the Division.
7. The Fund Development Committee will develop on-going strategies for securing a

financial base for the Division.

8. Members will be encouraged to contribute to the goals of the Division through active membership on committees and programs and through participation in conference activities sponsored by the Division.
9. The Division Bylaws will be reviewed on an annual basis to assure the Division's rules align with Association standards. Bylaws will be considered and formulated to conform to proposals and/or activities of the membership.
10. The Division will provide programs and other opportunities to support new biomedical and life sciences information professionals.

Division Goals, Short Term

1. Increase Division membership to 6% of the total Association membership over the next five years: 2000 through 2005.

Actions:

Continue to contact former members to determine considerations for dropping membership. Invite them to renew Division membership.

When planning conferences and other programs, explore opportunities to partner with other related organizations, and in particular with local or regional chapters of organizations such as the Medical Library Association, International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers, etc.

Division members who are in close proximity to one or more of the library schools will be encouraged to recruit students to join SLA and the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. This will be achieved through direct invitation or working with faculty at the school to promote the Division, its missions and goals.

2. The Fund Development Committee will raise funds to support Division and section projects and Annual Conference programs.

Actions:

Build and maintain a reserve fund equal to the cost of a slate of programs for one annual conference.

Maintain and continue to develop a portfolio that identifies current and potential sponsors and resources for funding that is updated annually.

Increase advertisement revenues in Division publication, *Biofeedback*.

3. Increase participation of entire Division membership in Division and section committees and programs.

Actions:

Work with SLA chapters to support regional meetings of interest to BIO members.

Focus on supporting interests that include librarians among the fields of natural history, zoos, botanical gardens, and related areas.

Publish, annually, a calendar of Division activities and events of interest to the membership in the winter quarterly issue of *Biofeedback*.

Invite members to volunteer to serve on committees through solicitations published in *Biofeedback* and through the Division's electronic discussion list.

Establish an international relations ad hoc or standing committee to focus on recruiting members internationally. Create networks and outreach programs for members, especially in Canada. Create mechanisms to market Association and Division activities in central and eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, South and Central America.

4. An ad hoc committee will be named every third year (2003, 2008) of a five-year cycle to survey the Division membership's needs, concerns, and interests. Information from the survey will be used to revise the Division's Long Range Plan.

Action:

Publish survey results to inform members. Use information to revise Long Range Plan. Disseminate draft of Long Range Plan, request feedback from membership, and revise draft based on feedback.

5. Conduct survey(s) annually to: (1) solicit input and suggestions from members for programming, Division services, etc. (2) evaluate currently offered programs and services.

Action:

Design evaluation and survey instruments (e.g., evaluation forms) and dissemination methods for them, and collect evaluations and input from the membership.

Relay the results of the survey(s) to the appropriate Program Planning Committee and to the Executive Board.

6. Review the bylaws annually to assure that the rules are in accordance with the legal standards outlined in Article XVI of the Association Bylaws.

Action:

If necessary, formulate new bylaws or changes to existing bylaws that conform to the legal standards of the Association and that accommodate recommendations and/or proposals from the membership.

Request assent to bylaws changes by ballot or by vote at the annual Division business meeting.

7. Increase participation of members on the Division's electronic discussion list,

Action:

Promote the discussion list through the Division newsletter *Biofeedback*, on the Division home page, and at Division programs at the Annual Conference and elsewhere.

Investigate the feasibility of automatically subscribing new members to BSDNET-L.

8. Continue to develop and increase the use and utility of the Division home page.

Action:

Promote the Division home page through *Biofeedback*, through BSDNET-L, and at Division programs at the Annual Conference and elsewhere.

Maintain the timeliness and accuracy of information on the home page.

Develop a graphically pleasing and easy to navigate set of pages that is browser-independent.

Provide links to resources of use to members and keep these links current.

**OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
2000 Philadelphia Conference:**

**ADIS International Inc.
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**Continental Breakfast and Vendor Roundtable
Sunday, June 11, 2000; 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Lori Bronars
Vendor Relations Committee, Chair

On Sunday morning, at the 2nd Continental Breakfast and Vendor Roundtable, four vendors gave presentations on recent developments in their services and products. Attendees at this session heard from Jill O'Neill (ISI/Institute for Scientific Information, jill.oneill@isinet.com), Anthea Gotto (CSA/formerly Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, anthea@csa.com), and Vicky Reich (HighWire Press, Stanford University Libraries, vreich@stanford.edu). Among other news, we saw a sample screen from the new ISI interface to BIOSIS Previews, found out that CSA is planning to add some abstracts to Zoological Record, heard about the Journal Access Core Collection Project that EBSCO Information Services arranged with California State University, and learned more about the links, data, and additional values provided by e-journals through HighWire Press.

This session was co-sponsored with the Chemistry and Environment & Resource Management Divisions. Special thanks go to ISI and CSA for their support.

SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Simon Wilson is a new member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA. Since completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies in 1997 he has worked in both medical and commercial libraries. His current post is Information Scientist at DePuy International Ltd (a Johnson & Johnson company) based in Leeds, where he runs a library and information service, and acts as a patent liaison. Professional interests include evidence-based medicine and the history of public libraries in the United Kingdom. He is an active member of the UK Library Association and achieved Chartered Status last summer.

MEMBER NEWS

Anna McGowan is now the Chief of the Program Support Services Branch at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C.

David Duggar reports that the Louisiana State University Medical Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans have changed their name. As of September 1999 they became known as the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans. The e-mail addresses for all employees will also be changing effective July 15, 2000 from [lsumc.edu] to [lsuhsc.edu].

As of May 2000, the membership of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division was as follows:

27 Associate Members
4 45 Year Members
6 Sustaining Members
7 Life/Honorary Members
603 Members
13 Retired Members
76 Student Members

This includes 545 individuals who listed our division as their primary division and 191 who listed us as an additional division.

Diane Schmidt
Membership Chair

BIOLIFE: STUDENT COLUMN FOR BIOFEEDBACK

Janet Weiss
Chair, Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee

Philadelphia and Back Again: A Student's Journey
by Diane T. Sands

I will admit from the beginning that my main motivation for attending the 91st annual SLA conference was to pick up a check. I had the honor of receiving one of SLA's student scholarships and my bank account could sorely use the help. But from the moment I arrived in Philadelphia, and throughout the conference, I felt welcomed and supported by all those I met. Their excitement for the field of librarianship and their drive for excellent service was contagious. It was the best souvenir I could have hoped for.

Returning to San Francisco after a week of frenetic workshop hopping (why is it that all of the talks one wishes to attend are scheduled at the same time?) I was able to finish absorbing the wealth of information presented. From the discussions of Ethics and Science Research, to the interview between David Talbot and Terri Gross, to the American Paleontology lecture given at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, the talks presented an amazing amount of data in a supportive environment that made learning new things easy.

Philadelphia is a city replete with political and social history. I came home from my first visit richer in many ways. I walked away with a renewed respect for the profession which reaffirmed my commitment to the field of Special Libraries.

A Student's Perspective of the Annual SLA Conference 2000: June 10-15
by Holly A. Harden, MLIS Student
University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences

This year's Special Library Association Annual Conference presented me with a variety of invaluable opportunities for learning and advancement. The new and changing environment that the library field is going into is exemplified by the courses, sessions, and emerging technology that is presented at these types of conferences. I was able to partake in attending two Continuing Education courses offered this year in exchange for volunteering to help with these courses. The course on "Advanced Techniques for PubMed and BIOSIS" sponsored by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division was truly fulfilling as it enhanced my skills and gave useful tips, techniques, and strategies for searching life science databases.

In addition to the many wonderful classes that are offered by the division, there were other equally tempting sessions to attend. It was amazing to see the heightened interest in the topics covered. The field is an ever-changing one and relays this in its strong commitment to educating its members on the changes in technology and dissemination of information. I won tickets to attend the Continental Breakfast and Vendor Roundtable as well as the Division Annual Business Meeting. These were great chances to get to see how vendors and librarians work together and how the wealth of great ideas flourishes in such an environment.

As a "first timer", it was indeed invigorating to go to the various breakfasts, luncheons, teas, and other activities that newcomers are expressly invited to attend. Going to these events were excellent opportunities to learn about the various divisions and sections of SLA and to network with other professionals. I met information professionals from all over the world and from many different kinds of organizations. One could really feel the global as well as national flair that SLA has in the profession.

A student can't go away from the conference without first spending at least a few hours a day touring the vendor exhibits. The grand nature of the exhibits alone can set you back at least half of the day if done all at once. By visiting the exhibits, you get a good idea of the new technologies and tools that are available. Vendors are very eager to answer any questions you might have and show you the "latest and the greatest" features of their product.

Another added plus to attending the conference was the Employment Clearinghouse. I found this to be extremely attractive in that one could meet with potential employers for interviews as well as view job opportunities from all over the country. The caliber of companies represented at SLA was also very impressive. The corporate nature of special librarianship was very obvious and showed me that librarians can also work in dynamic fields that require them to take on new roles as information specialists.

The most worthwhile feature of the conference is networking with other information professionals. As a student I gained a wealth of knowledge from having the chance to network with future peers and learn of new and exciting ideas for the Association and plans for the future of the profession. Listening to the views of those who are respected in the library and information science profession made me feel very lucky to have had the chance to attend the SLA conference.

The conference theme, "From Independence to Interdependence: The Next Phase in the Information Revolution," was aptly applied as librarians are actively involved in new realms in the global information market. This theme rang true throughout the entire conference in every meeting, exhibit, and session. It was a pleasure attending this year's annual SLA conference as I found the gathering of ideas among those in the profession educates as well as provides a foundation for the fostering of ideas for future meetings. Undoubtedly, SLA is a valuable organization that provides both professional development for its members as well as nurtures networking that facilitates leadership in the field.

**MEDICAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING
PRESENTATION SUMMARY
JUNE 11, 2000, PHILADELPHIA**

June D. Carter
1999-2000 Secretary, Medical Section
Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University

Evidence Based Health Care

Background

Evidence based health care (EBHC) has founding philosophies that go back to the nineteenth century, yet it has recently become popularized. One formal definition of the related concept evidence based medicine is:

"... the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients." (1)

The practice of EBHC entails the adoption of a process of continued self-learning of the best available clinically relevant information to be used in concert with educational foundations and clinical expertise in making decisions about individual patients.

New types of evidence such as systematic reviews and meta-analyses are being generated which could bring about major changes in patient care. The information needs of clinicians may be met in part by consulting with colleagues. They may go unmet due to the lack of currency of available textbooks or the lack of time. Without some method of keeping up with the new evidence, clinical performance will decline over time. Studies have shown that traditional Continuing Medical Education (CME) fails to modify clinical performance and does not improve the outcomes of patients. EBHC aims to efficiently fill this need for new clinically relevant information in a way that is directly related to

patient outcomes. (2)

Criticism

Although EBHC sounds good in theory, there are reasons some have not adopted it. One reason is that many current practices do not lend themselves to the best EBHC approaches (3). A clinician must know the types of questions for which EBHC is appropriate; he might expect to use it on one or two questions each week.

Practicing EBHC

The five steps of EBHC are:

1. Framing an answerable question appropriate to the need of the patient
2. Efficiently finding the best available evidence
3. Critically appraising the evidence for its closeness to the truth and clinical applicability
4. Applying the results
5. Evaluation of the process

The focus of this presentation is the step that most clearly overlaps with what we do as librarians: step 2. Holtum poses the idea that unless clinicians are willing to invest the amount of time necessary to fully understand the complexities of database searching, librarians should be relied upon for most literature searches, much like specialists are called upon for specific types of patient care (4).

Regardless of who is doing the searching, it is important to know the types of literature that will be most likely to provide clinically useful answers. Librarians are trained to search databases for topics. EBHC requires the subsequent step of filtering for those articles that are likely to be clinically useful such as randomized controlled trials and case-control studies. These types of studies make up a small proportion of the medical literature (5, 6).

The research of Haynes and colleagues provides searchers with sets of terms to combine with searches to get more evidence based results (7). Haynes also describes the following single-term strategies that are most effective at retrieving appropriate articles when combined with MEDLINE content searches.

- Therapy - clinical trial (publication type)
- Diagnostic Tests - sensitiv: (truncated textword)
- Etiology - risk: (truncated)
- Prognosis - cohort studies (exploded)

Key EBHC Resources

For clinicians who don't have the time to learn how to extract the best evidence from databases like MEDLINE but who want to use the best evidence possible to help make patient care decisions, there are resources to help. PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>) provides a Clinical Queries interface, based on the filters developed by Haynes.

The Cochrane Collaboration (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/>) has produced the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, a growing full-text collection of regularly updated systematic reviews of the medical literature on particular topics. Each review is structured for quick access to information like main results and implications for practice and research.

Journals like *Evidence Based Medicine* have appeared, in which selected methodologically sound and clinically relevant articles from top clinical journals are presented with an enhanced abstract and expert commentary. *Best Evidence* is a full-text database of the articles found in the journals *ACP Journal Club* and *Evidence Based Medicine*.

Librarian Involvement

Librarians are currently involved in EBHC in a number of ways, among which are the following (based in part on responses to a request for information posted to MEDLIB-L):

1. Teaching the mechanics of EBHC to groups served by the library
2. Participating as literature experts in courses taught by clinical faculty
3. Incorporating EBHC-oriented examples into library educational sessions like MEDLINE searching
4. Teaching other librarians about EBHC through lectures, CE courses, articles, and books
5. Working with clinical faculty on EBHC projects
6. Participating in the production of systematic reviews
7. Participating in morning reports and EBM journal clubs of medical departments (8)
8. Licensing resources that can deliver important clinical information to disperse locations in a timely manner (5)
9. Creating EBHC web sites

Evidence based health care resources are not yet robust enough to fully meet the information needs of clinicians, but they are growing. With the help of librarians EBHC can make more of a difference in the continued quality of care offered by clinicians.

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