

Contents

President's Message	1
Conference Report	2
Thank You to Sponsors	4
Medical Section	5
Awards	8
Member News & Publications	10



Message from the Chair

Howard Fuller

Annual Meeting in San Diego: Does it Get any Better?

For the first time in SLA's history, the city of San Diego, California, played host to our Annual Meeting. As usual the meeting was full of great programming and networking and provided the opportunity to meet new colleagues. You will find the [board and business meeting agendas and draft minutes](#) from the conference on the DBIO website. Below are a few highlights.

Operationally, the Division is current in all required reporting; financially healthy; and is maintaining a solid membership base. This is all great news, for, without this foundation, we would not be able to continue to offer standing-room-only programming. You can find highlights from various Annual Meeting programs later in the newsletter.

The Business meeting is also where we present Division awards. Tony Stankus, chair of the awards committee, presented the Division's Distinguished Member Award to Claudia Lascar. Claudia is with the CUNY libraries (City College of New York) and well known in the national and international library community. She truly epitomizes professionalism, generosity, and graciousness. And she will always give you an honest answer to any question you ask of her. Tony and the awards committee do not announce who is being awarded prior to the business meeting, so it's always a surprise, this year a little more so than most. As Chair of the Division I have the option of presenting a Chair's Award in recognition for service to the Division, the Association, and the profession. This year, two highly deserving and generous individuals were presented with a Chair's award: Rebecca Kuglitsch from the University of Colorado and Claudia Lascar, yet again. For those that want, you can 'google' each awardee's professional accomplishments. But I would like to share with you a couple 'fun' factoids for each that may not be as discoverable. Rebecca has run two marathons and has been quoted in the *Huffington Post*. Claudia has held an officer position in DBIO every year since 2003 and was an early editor for the popular health website NOAH. As I said, fun

factoids. Both have impressive professional portfolios and if you ever run into either of them at a conference or meeting you should introduce yourself, as they are two exceptional leaders in the profession. For more on the Division awardees for 2013, see the Awards section of this issue of *Biofeedback*.

The [Conference Re-envisioning Task Force](#) made themselves available throughout the meeting for feedback about what members think works and what changes we'd like to see in forthcoming meetings. The task force is still seeking your input and can be emailed at slacrtf@gmail.com.

As you know, DBIO committees turn over on the calendar year, so watch for calls for volunteers for 2014 on the e-discussion list.

Although we've just left San Diego it's not too early to start planning for [Vancouver, British Columbia](#). See you there.

Conference Report: The Biodiversity and Medical Heritage Libraries: Online resources For the World

Dorothy Barr, Natural History Caucus Convener

The [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) (BHL) has been around for several years. It is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries founded to digitize the legacy biodiversity literature. It also includes some materials that are still under copyright but for the use of which the publishers have given permission. BHL is also the literature component of the [Encyclopedia of Life](#) (EOL). It is obviously a significant resource and one that continues to evolve and expand.

Although there have been presentations in the past about the BHL at SLA, not everyone is familiar with it, and even those who use it are not necessarily aware of recent enhancements. Rebecca Morin, Head Librarian at California Academy of Sciences, gave a lively presentation on the BHL today. She also demonstrated some of its new features that make it easier to search and download.

And there is a new resource that is doing for the medical literature what the BHL does for Biodiversity. The [Medical Heritage Library](#) (MHL) is a collaboration of medical libraries working together to digitize books,

pamphlets, journals, and films to make them available for scholars and readers from many fields. Its purpose is similar to that of the BHL, and like BHL, although most of the digitized materials are in the public domain, there are items still in copyright for which permission has been obtained. The collection includes something from each of the past six centuries and continues to grow.

Since the MHL is quite new, many people are still unaware of it. Julianne Schneider, Metadata Librarian at Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, introduced the audience to the site. She also handed out postcards that featured a 19th century drawing digitized by the MHL that warns men about the hidden dangers of syphilis.

Both the BHL and MHL work in partnership with the [Internet Archive](#).



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From the Medical Section

Amy Donahue, Medical Section Chair

This year has been something of a rebuilding year for the Medical Section, and, at the SLA 2013 Conference in San Diego, we had a chance to catch up with each other over coffee and chocolate. It was a low key reception with a brief business meeting, similar to what the Section has held in the past. The business meeting itself consisted of a bit of an overview about the Medical Section, introductions, and announcements, including who was presenting during poster and other sessions.

Going forward, the Medical Section will likely continue to hold receptions at the annual conferences as a way for members to connect with each other in person. Planned programs are not off the table, though, so if you have ideas or topics you'd like to see, please do share! And, starting in 2014, we will have enthusiastic new leadership with incoming Medical Section chair, Tallie Casucci, and incoming secretary (our first since 2008!), Elaine Dean.

Outside of the conference, the Medical Section serves as a smaller home group within the larger SLA and DBIO organization where members can find relevant information in this column, find helpful resources on our website, and connect with each other using the SLA directory to find colleagues (something I've done several times).

Now it's time for a quick note on a couple other sessions at SLA that I found particularly interesting as a medical librarian. If you didn't get to either of these sessions, whether because you were enjoying some other session at SLA (I did hear lots of people commenting on the tightened schedule) or because you couldn't get out to San Diego, I encourage you to check out the presenters' materials!

- [Next Generation Sci-Tech Librarians: Helping Institutions and Researchers Increase Their Impact](#) – this session was presented by the Chemistry and Science-Technology Divisions and focused on how librarians can help quantify the impact of both institutions and individuals by analyzing research use. Both Elizabeth Brown and Susan Makar had great ideas that I found highly informative (in the highly competitive medical field, demonstrating impact can boost applications for that crucial grant funding). And if you haven't heard Jason Priem, credited with coining the term "altmetrics," definitely look at his presentation!

- [Biodiversity Heritage Library and Medical Heritage Library](#) – sponsored by DBIO as well as the Natural History Caucus, this excellent session introduced me to two great resources that I was previously unaware of. Although they may not impact my day-to-day work, these digital collections are accessible from anywhere and are changing the way research (both current and historical) is being done. Check out the presentations, then visit the digital libraries!



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Awards

Distinguished Member Award

Claudia Lascar, of the Science and Engineering Library of the City College of New York, within the City University of New York system, received the 2013 Distinguished DBIO Member Award. She has been previously named a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals. Claudia has served on multiple DBIO committees in the past, and she has continued to serve, now for several years, on our web committee, currently as Content Manager. She has also managed our Jobs website. In addition, Claudia is the author or coauthor of ten articles in the literature, appearing in *College & Research Libraries*, the *Journal of the Medical Libraries Association*, *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship*, and in *Science & Technology Libraries*. Last year, articles she coauthored in *Science & Technology Libraries*, advocating the debunking of creation science as an assignment for college students in critical thinking and information literacy, were downloaded 569 times according to Taylor & Francis, the journal's publisher. In addition, she has mounted successful major exhibitions on Women and Minorities in Medicine at her university.

Chair's Award

The Chair's Award is presented at the discretion of the Division Chair to a Division member who has contributed to the work of the Chair, the Executive Board, and/or the Division. This year, Howard Fuller presented two Chair's Awards.

Rebecca Kuglitsch has really stepped up to multiple plates for the Division the past few years. A little bit about Rebecca. She:

- Was born the year our Chair, Howard Fuller, graduated from high school
- Has run two marathons
- Has authored several book chapters on digital inclusion
- Was quoted in the May 24, 2012 edition of the *Huffington Post*

For the past two years she has been Treasurer of the Division, this last year unexpectedly with Andrea Miller-Nesbitt. She has also been Program Planner for the past eighteen months, making everything in San Diego happen. That is a mid-sized project management job that requires managing the minutiae of detail and entering all that detail into a program planning tool. For example, she ordered all the food and room setup, collected speaker release forms and speaker printouts so people could download them from the conference planner, sequenced the programs to avoid conflicts, and acted as our communication portal to SLA headquarters for all things "Annual Meeting". It is the single most time-consuming and intensive officer position in the Division. While attending to multiple officer positions she also moved from Oregon to Colorado.

Claudia Lascar is long familiar to the international library community. A few facts about Claudia. She:

- Has held a DBIO officer position every year since at least 2003 to the present, including multiple chairs...with no end in sight (and that's just in SLA and does not include other library associations in which she is actively involved)
- Has contributed professionally to the peer-reviewed literature, given invited presentations, and was an editor the internationally known health web site NOAH.
- Has actively curated many exhibitions, organized professional programs for her academic community, and won research awards and grants as reflected by the rigor, quality and professional stature she has achieved. She has served as a mentor to many within and outside the SLA community, both as a thought partner for

veterans in the profession and a steward to those new to the profession.

Student Travel Stipend

Gwen Short, Science Library Associate at the College of Wooster, was awarded the student travel stipend. She sends this message to the Division:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks the SLA-DBIO for sponsoring the student travel stipend. I also want to thank Allison Scripa chair of the Student Relations Committee for selecting me to receive the scholarship. I look forward to working more with the Student Relations and Career Guidance & Employment Committees. The San Diego conference was a great experience. This was my first professional library experience and it was really wonderful. It was fantastic to meet so many great librarians with a wide range of professional experience. I look forward to future work with SLA-DBIO. Thanks to the division for making such a great professional experience possible!

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Member News and Publications

Lori Bronars

DBIO member **Ramune Kubilius**, at Northwestern University Galter Health Sciences Library, has been awarded the Vicky Speck ABC-CLIO Leadership Award for 2012. This award is given every year to a leader in the Charleston Conference who has made a lasting contribution to the mission of the Conference. At this conference, over 1000 librarians, publishers, executives, electronic resource managers, consultants, and vendors gather annually in Charleston, South Carolina. Ramune was a director of the organizing committee for the 32nd conference which took place November 7-10, 2012, and she was one of the planners of the conference's 12th Health Sciences Lively Lunch session, "Point of Care Tools and Libraries". Ramune also completed 3 years of service on the Medical Library Association's 2013 National Program Committee as Section Council liaison. This Committee, with MLA and global partners, worked to create a federated international meeting incorporating the 2013 Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the Medical Library Association, the 11th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, the 7th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists, and the 6th International Clinical Librarian Conference. The meeting took place May 3-8, 2013 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA and offered 287 posters and 190 papers, invited and contributed, plus a "This Just In: Talks on One Health" session featuring fifteen lightning-round speakers. There were 2,722 attendees. With the Section Council webmaster, Melissa Rethlefsen, from the Mayo Clinic, Ramune also participated in one of the four poster sessions with a submission entitled "One (Online) Site: A New Paradigm for MLA Concurrent Session Planning?".

Cheryl Banick, Chief, Library Service, VA Medical Center, published an article, "Personal Health Records: A Look at My Health e Vet" in *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* 2013 13(2):142-149.

Lori Bronars, Science Research Support Librarian for Life Sciences at Yale University's Center for Science and Social Science Information published an article, "Reviews of Science for Science Librarians: Best Botany and Plant Science Books 2008-2012" in *Science and Technology Libraries* 2013 32(3):123-136.

Jean Crampon of the Science & Engineering Library at University of Southern California, has been appointed Assistant Director of Public Services Division I. The Director of the Division is responsible for four libraries: Gerontology, Science & Engineering, Architecture & Fine Arts, and Philosophy. Jean will serve as Assistant Director with primary oversight for collections, reference, instruction, and outreach for the Science & Engineering Library.

Executive Board 2013

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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html>

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