Chair's Report

Lucy M. Rowland

The December holidays are nothing but a blur and a memory, and 1996 is upon us with several challenges facing the Division. In November, with the SLA Winter Meeting only weeks away, we were somewhat surprised to find that a petition for a new Division, Health Sciences, had been submitted to Division Cabinet Chair. This is the same petition that was circulated a year ago by a new SLA member, and was marketed alternatively as a Medical Division of Hospital Division. At submission, the petition had 188 signatures to be confirmed by SLA headquarters that each is a paid member in good standing. The petition has been placed on the agenda for action at the Division Cabinet meeting in Cleveland. In Montreal, Past Chair Patricia Yocum presented the Biological Sciences Division's concerns about the process by which new divisions are formed and the existing loopholes that jeopardize the health of established divisions. Division Cabinet passed overwhelmingly a recommendation that SLA Board reconsider how new divisions are established. In light of the state of flux that the organization is in, it remains to be seen how Division Cabinet will choose to approach this particular situation. The proposed scope note is quite broad and encompasses not only our Division's existing activities, but those of at least five other divisions.

Meanwhile, interest continues in starting a Medical Section with the Biological Sciences Division, and a petition is now being circulated. With about 44% of our membership in the medical/health field, I expect that there will be a great deal of interest among our membership in supporting such a group. As members who have attended the annual conferences are well aware, medical and health care issues have always been addressed in our programming, and will continue to be so in the future.

Speaking of programming, we are nearing completion of all programs and events for the 1996 meetings in Boston, and what a

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blockbuster week it is going to be! I am indebted to 1996 Program Chair Anna McGowan and her committee for the hard work that they have put in starting 18 months ago when they began with a handful of ideas and names.

**Networking Events:** Sunday morning, BSD sponsors a ticketed continental breakfast prior to opening of the exhibits, and that evening is the traditional Open House co-sponsored with Chemistry and ERMD. On Monday, another Open House will be hosted for the three divisions at the Top of the Hub at the Prudential Center. Tuesday morning is the BSD annual business meeting, a ticketed breakfast. We will wind up networking opportunities that evening with a ticketed reception at the New England Aquarium, co-sponsored by the MIL, ERMD, NUC, BSD, S/Ls, and S-T Divisions, and underwritten by LEXIS-NEXIS.

**Program Sessions:** Monday has been designated Medical Information Awareness Day with three health-related programs. In the morning, BSD co-sponsors with ERMD a program on *Endocrine Disrupters in the Environment*. In the afternoon we are the lead Division on Tracking an Evolving System: The Changing Health Care Environment, with the Social Sciences Division, Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus, and Women's Issues Caucus as co-sponsors. We end the day with AIDS Information Networks and Education Development: Community and National Resources for the 90's, co-sponsored with Social Sciences and the Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus. These are all hot topics and the speakers selected are fantastic.

Tuesday morning following the annual business meeting, BSD and the Pharmaceutical Division co-sponsor the program on Bioinformatics: Directing the Flow of Genetic Information. In the afternoon we will be joined by ERMD, Geography & Map Division, and the Natural History Caucus in sponsoring Biodiversity: The Library of Life. Is it Going the Way of the Card Catalog?

On Wednesday afternoon, we will have a full program of speakers for our Contributed Papers Session, Locally Mounted Electronic Products in Biomedical and Life Sciences Libraries. An unprecedented five papers were chosen this year by the Committee from an unusually strong pool of contributed abstracts. As in the past, published proceedings will be available.

When you receive your preliminary program, I hope you will be impressed with the list of speakers we have managed to attract, many of whom enjoy international recognition for their work. Come to Boston and enjoy!

**CE Course:** The Professional Development Committee has selected *Molecular Biology for the Non-Molecular Biologist* as the topic for the all-day Saturday course. This a timely topic of interest to many of us—the instructor comes highly recommended by the committee—and with the speed at which biotechnology and molecular biology is changing, this can prove to be either an excellent beginning or a needed update.

**Field Trips:** This year, BSD is sponsoring two field trips. An all-day trip (co-sponsored with ERMD and the Natural History Caucus) to Woods Hole on Thursday should round out the week in fine fashion.
Cleveland Winter Meeting Update

Lucy M. Rowland

The Division was well-represented in Cleveland—Past Chair Patricia Yocom, myself, Chair-elect Kay Collins, and Seattle Programming Chair Pat Murphy. The cold weather was moderated by the warm welcome we received from the Cleveland Chapter members, and believe me, it was COLD outside!

Division Cabinet had several items of interest on its agenda. Jim Tchobanoff (SLA By-Laws Chair) did a superb job presenting the discussion paper written in response to BSD’s request for reviewing and improving the process for forming new divisions. The three issues were clearly presented, pros and cons to changes given, and each was discussed at length. Considering the amount of time and effort that has gone into clarifying the issues and recommending options, we can only hope that the Board will move forward with the process to effect these long overdue changes.

The proposed Health Sciences Division petition was presented. Division Cabinet had only been sent copies of the proposed division’s scope note and objectives in its newsletter. No one was furnished with copies of the full petition and all supporting documentation, even for collective review prior to vote. In spite of the fact that BSD Board had identified to SLA that the form of the petition did not conform to written Division Guidelines, our challenge was ignored. Because the justification given for establishing a Health Sciences Division—provided for the first time in Division Cabinet—encompassed the scope and substance of many, many established divisions, a great deal of discussion took place. A substitute motion was offered to set up a committee to address concerns raised by divisions prior to the formation of a unit which could be a section, caucus or division, that addresses health sciences. At the meeting, I spoke to and supported establishing the committee because I felt it would act both as an information-gathering group and would foster communication which has been in such short supply on all aspects of this matter.

BSD’s Executive Board will continue to address the situation in a positive and professional manner. There will certainly be more information forthcoming in the next few months. We are not the only division or unit that is affected by how rules and guidelines are interpreted, nor by how information is distributed to those who are destined to act upon an issue that will change SLA in any way. There are many questions that have been raised that need to be answered.

Our Division was established in 1935 by, coincidentally, a group of medical librarians and has attracted dedicated officers, committee chairs, and volunteers from that field year after year. As I delineated in my report elsewhere in this issue, we plan and implement programs that are highly relevant to our membership—including medical librarians. This year’s programs are continuous proof of that. We will foster this programming and plan to go forward with the Medical Section within the Division to help with that. Many Division members have suggested this avenue, starting in spring, 1995, and the Board is responsive to that request. Please consider sending a signed petition if you would like to be a member and are interested in working within the group to continue our commitment.
Why We Volunteer

Kay Collins

Some very tired librarians I know were discussing just why they joined professional associations like SLA, MLA, and ALA. On top of their ever-growing work load, they are all active in professional associations. Someone asked the rhetorical question: Why did I ever volunteer for this? The answers were mostly all very positive and the reasons varied. Do these sound familiar?

- I learn so much by working with professional colleagues from other libraries. It makes me evaluate the things I am doing and the way I am doing it.
- It is so much fun to work with other people. I have made some of my best friends while working on some committee/project/program.
- I am a librarian and I feel it is important for me to work with professional associations to advance my profession. When you work with others, you can advance the profession more.
- It is a requirement of the job if I want to be promoted.
- The programs and exhibits, when they are outstanding, can help me do my job better. Creating a good program for others is very rewarding.

Speaking for myself, these reasons are all important. I have not talked with one librarian who does not feel they are carrying a heavier workload than they ever have. But they all find time to work together to get some job done.

A couple of years ago the BSD board realized this trend toward less time available to volunteer so they have worked to create a system and atmosphere where people can volunteer and contribute the amount of time they have available. Very few of us can try to "do it all", as we used to. But, we can work with a growing number of others to take on a smaller amount of work and share the burden with more people. This gets the job done and increases your exposure to others. This year, thanks to leadership like Lucy Rowland’s, the amount of quality work that is being accomplished is just astounding. Some examples:

- The Fund Raising Committee has raised more money than ever before. This translates into the ability to sponsor better programs with outstanding speakers and activities. We owe this group a real vote of thanks. Volunteers to this group will learn some very important skills that can be used on the job raising money for your own organization. Other individuals who already possess these skills would be welcomed and appreciated. These people work at contacting a limited number of sponsors and develop a working relationship with them to make the job easier each time.
- The Membership Committee did more than contact new members to welcome them to SLA and BSD, they also worked to increase the division’s membership. In addition, because of current activities, the Board needed some evaluation of the membership. All their work provided important details needed to analyze specific activities.
- Biofeedback used to consist of an editor. Now there is an editor, associate editor, and business manager to get sponsors advertisements to defray costs and bring current information to our members.
- The annual Program Committees now do the work that used to be done by the Chair-Elect almost alone. They help formulate the various programs, get speakers, take care of details like equipment, and help in some of the most visible activities of the Division.
- We now have an Awards Committee to ferret out members who have provided outstanding service to the Division. Great way to get to know people.
- All those great tours and visits at annual convention and the CE courses take Professional Development experts to design and execute.
- One of the most exciting programs has been the Public Relations/Career Guidance activities. Each year we have developed new ways to bring students into the association and to say thank you very publicly

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to our financial sponsors. This is a new area of focus for SLA as a whole and it will need people with those special skills.
- We are always in need of people to act as liaisons to the International Relations Committee, Standards Committee, Natural History Caucus, Government Relations and other appropriate organizations.

SO, PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

For all the reasons outlined above, volunteer to do just one thing this year. There is one more reason: we need you! Begin thinking about where you would like to contribute and then just volunteer. I would like to have most of these positions filled by the annual meeting so that we can begin work at the annual meeting in Boston.

Those of you who have developed experience and are eligible to stay on the same committee, please consider doing so. Your experience can be valuable to new people on the committee.

You can contact me in any of the following ways:

Kay Collins
U.S. Government Publications Librarian
Main Library
University of California, Irvine
P.O. Box 19557
Irvine, CA 92713-9957
(714) 824-7290 (phone - I have voice mail, so leave a message)
(714) 824-5740 (fax)
kcollins@uci.edu

1996 Landmark Members Celebrated

As 1996 begins, we celebrate those members in our Division for whom this year will be a landmark in their participation as a special librarian. We are honored to recognize these nine individuals whom are celebrating their thirtieth, thirty-fifth, fortieth, forty-fifth, and fiftieth years as members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Years Member</th>
<th>Years Since Joined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irene Christopher</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/51</td>
<td>45 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert F. Clarke</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/61</td>
<td>35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra R. Duchow</td>
<td>Montréal, Québec</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/66</td>
<td>30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavinia L. Johnson</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/66</td>
<td>30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel McDonald</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/56</td>
<td>40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June M. Mitchell</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NY</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/46</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lussia Neumann</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/66</td>
<td>30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winifred Sewell</td>
<td>Cabin John, MD</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/46</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian E. Wittenberger</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Member since 12/31/61</td>
<td>35 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not only do we recognize our individual members, but we recognize our institutional members as well. Please thank Elsevier Science, one of our few institutional members, for their thirty years of membership in the Special Libraries Association.

Elsevier Science BV New York, NY Member since 12/31/66 30 years
Distinguished Member Award

FINAL CALL FOR 1995/96!

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL APRIL 1ST

The Biological Sciences Division will be awarding its first annual Distinguished Member Award at the 1996 annual SLA meeting in Boston. Please take a few minutes to read over the selection criteria and then nominate one of your fellow BSD members for this award. I know we have many distinguished members and this will give us an opportunity to recognize our colleagues for all of their hard work!

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. The award honors a member who has been active in the Division for at least the past four (4) years.

2. Particular attention will be to contributions to the Biological Sciences Division.

3. The following broad criteria will govern the selection process:

   Nominees must excel in one or more areas:
   Outstanding leadership in the Division, at meetings, and/or in committee work.
   Special and notable service to the Division, such as participation in special projects.
   Participation in workshops, seminars, teaching courses, public speaking activities, fund raising.
   Publications and editorial contributions to Biofeedback and/or the professional literature.
   Innovations in the work place.
   Mentoring activities, which encourage others in the profession.
   Extracurricular activities, which result in publicity and acclaim for the profession and/or the Division.
   Other achievements indicating noteworthy dedication to the profession of special librarianship/information science.

   The contributions made by the candidate shall have been made over an extended period of time.

   The contributions shall be deemed to have had an enduring effect on the Division and/or the profession.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES:

Fill out the nomination form on the next page and send it to Barbara Schader, Chair, Awards Committee. Attach documentation describing the outstanding professional achievements or contributions to the Biological Sciences Division of SLA and to special librarianship/information sciences. Include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward the nomination form and description, in confidence, with your name, phone number and email address to:

Barbara Schader, Chair, Awards Committee
Biological Sciences Division, SLA
Louise Darling Biomedical Library
UCLA
10833 LeConte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1798
310-825-6498 (phone) 310-825-0465 (fax) bschader@library.ucla.edu
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION
NOMINATION FORM - DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

Date:
Nominee:
Position:
Address:

Nominated by: 

Signature:

Nominator's phone: 

E-mail address:

Describe the reasons you are nominating this person for the Biological Sciences Division Distinguished Member Award including contributions to the Biological Sciences Division and/or to the profession of special librarianship (attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Nominations must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1996 to be considered.
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City

State

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Country

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World Wide Web URL: http://www.biosis.org
Petition to Form Medical Section Within BSD

Attention: All Members of the Biological Sciences Division, SLA

The following is self-explanatory. We need a minimum of fifteen signatures by current BSD members to present this request. If you are in support of this effort, please copy the petition, sign, then fax it to one of the two persons listed below by April 5 (extended deadline). A hard-copy "snail mail" follow-up would be appreciated. All signed petitions will be forwarded to Lucy Rowland for the Division Executive Board's approval in May, followed by review and hopefully approval by the Division Cabinet Chair and Chair-Elect.

Please feel free to obtain multiple signatories to one petition (just remember that each must be a current BSD member), or to e-mail or fax this to others. Thank you for your interest and support.

Fax/Mail petition to one of the following:

Nancy Bryant
Information Services Librarian
Multi-Media Center
Morehouse School of Medicine
720 Westview Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30310-1495
Phone: (404) 752-1533
Fax: (404) 755-7318
E-mail: nbryant@ msm.edu

Sue Kacorz
Medical Section Petition
State University at Albany
University Libraries UL-227
Albany, NY 12222
Fax: (518) 442-3567
E-mail: skacorz@cnsvax.albany.edu

PETITION

Medical Section
Biological Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association

This petition is to propose a Medical Section of the Biological Sciences Division. This Section would serve as a forum for those BSD members who are engaged or interested in the exchange of information in the biomedical and health sciences, and the acquisition, organization, dissemination and use of such information in all formats.

Signatories must be current members of the Biological Sciences Division.

Name/Title

Institution/Address

(print name and sign)

Date

_____________________________________________
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

Responsible for the provision of collection development for both print and electronic resources, as well as online searching, specialized reference consultation, bibliographic instruction, and the development of networked electronic information services in the biological sciences; staffs the reference desk and participates as part of the SEL reference team in the planning and implementation of user education programs and activities; serves on Libraries-wide and University-wide committees, teams, and program planning groups as appropriate; participates in professional activities and research and writing for publication as expected and required for promotion and tenure as a University at Buffalo library faculty member.

QUALIFICATIONS: Required: MLS from an ALA-accredited program; minimum of three years relevant library experience; degree in biological sciences or a related discipline OR experience providing collection development, reference service, or bibliographic instruction in biological sciences or a related discipline; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to work collegially in small group and team environments; evidence of scholarly and/or professional achievement. Desired: Experience with science reference and instructional services; electronic information retrieval systems; Internet, CD-ROM technology, and database searching; familiarity with a networked information environment; and knowledge of a foreign language.

RANK/SALARY: The Biological Sciences Librarian reports to the Science and Engineering Library Director and holds a tenure track, library faculty position. A starting rank of Senior Assistant Librarian (minimum $30,000) or Associate Librarian (minimum $35,000) will be assigned depending on credentials. Salary will be offered commensurate with experience and qualifications.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO INFORMATION: World Wide Web: http://wings.buffalo.edu
SEL INFORMATION: World Wide Web: http://wings.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/sel

UB offers retirement programs including TIAA/CREF, health care coverage, 15-21 days vacation per year, and more.

Send letter of application and resume including the names of at least three references to:

Kenneth Hood
Human Resources Officer
University at Buffalo Libraries
432 Capen Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-1625

Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue until an appointment is made. Candidates applying by 3/15/96 will receive first consideration.

AN EO/AA EMPLOYER
Women and Minorities are Encouraged to Apply
Book Reviews

From Cape Cod to the Bay of Fundy: An Environmental Atlas of the Gulf of Maine.

On my last ferry trip across the Gulf of Maine I watched a large pod of "blackfish" (pilot whales) swimming in unison while over my shoulder, several busloads of retirees were working out on one-armed bandits. Somehow this juxtaposition of the crass and the sublime seems emblematic of the conflicting interests which collide in this complex region.

Editor Philip Conkling has compiled a comprehensive and beautiful description of both the terrestrial regime (the Gulf of Maine watershed) and aquatic regime (the "sea within a sea" defined by the submarine hills and ridges of Georges and Browns Banks) which comprise this region. In eleven chapters, the volume progresses from descriptions of geologic, meteorologic, and oceanographic processes to detailed treatments of biology, hydrology, and human impacts (social, cultural, and economic).

Drawing upon the historical record of intensive economic exploitation and scientific surveys as well as more recent and extensive remote sensing, bathymetric studies, and GIS work in the region, Conkling has produced an almost overwhelming array of full color images (an average of 14 images per chapter). The volume concludes with a brief appendix (a "Primer on Remote Sensing"), a slight glossary (one wonders how the editor could settle on a selection of 50 terms for a volume the breadth and scope of this one?), and a list of "Selected Readings" which includes fifteen citations (again, a wonder of abbreviated selection).

As our understanding of global conservation proceeds toward integrated and sustainable management of entire ecosystems, volumes such as this one will play an essential role in defining the dimensions of our management challenges. An excellent addition to any collection focusing on natural history, environmental studies, conservation biology, or ecosystem research/management.

Tom Moritz
California Academy of Sciences

Whales, Ice, and Men: The History of Whaling in the Western Arctic.

In Whales, Ice, and Men, John Bockstoce has produced a thorough study of a less well known segment of whaling history. It was not until 1848 that the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas were first exploited by an undaunted Yankee whaling skipper, but within two years of the first voyage through the Straits, two hundred vessels were hunting bowhead whales there. In 1850, 1,700 whales were taken; by 1852, the crews had already killed one-third of the whales that would be taken in the entire era of the hunt, two-thirds by 1869, and by 1910 commercial whaling was no longer viable in the Arctic.

The volume under review is based upon extensive studies of the records of hundreds of whaling cruises in the western Arctic from 1848 to 1914. During this era, 2,700 cruises were identified and for 20% of these, usable documentation was found. Data were extracted from these records covering 66,000 days of observations (a remarkable instance of extrapolation of biological observational data from documentary sources).

The resulting work is anecdotally rich, depicting not only the broad pattern of decimation of the bowheads but the idiosyncratic detail of the men (almost exclusively) involved in the culture and society of the whales fisheries. We meet missionaries and Confederate raiders, the profane and the pious. We learn how modest technological advances accelerated the destruction of the whales. Moreover, the interplay between the commercial exploiters and indigenous peoples of Siberia and Alaska--whaling folk themselves--is a disturbing (but sadly familiar)

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subtext, alcohol and venereal diseases play their inevitable role. We learn how walruses become a "secondary" target of the whalers resulting in the "harvesting" of 150,000 walruses--85% in the 10 years between 1869 and 1878--an era when the impact of unrestricted whaling of bowheads was being felt.

The volume yields yet one more instance of the consequences of unmitigated exploitation of nature. Another instance of what "non-sustainable" use of "natural resources" can mean. Reflecting on our current circumstances one is left to wonder whether the natural world can possibly survive while humankind continues, in mindlessness, to repeat its failed habits of exploitation of nature--as if we were somehow exempt from the consequences!

This volume is not exactly popular reading but it is amply illustrated with archival and other images. For scholars, both historical and environmental, it provides one more powerful collection of evidence. It incorporates extensive scholarly references in its appendices.

Tom Moritz
California Academy of Sciences

Books Received


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Also on Thursday, we will sponsor a half-day trip to Harvard University’s Garden in Glass and Museums of Cultural and Natural History. Either is a real bargain in cost and entertainment!

The other committees are also working hard! Pat Murphy will be in Cleveland to work with other Seattle program planners. The Membership Committee continues to monitor member activities as never before, and the Career Development/Public Relations Committee has started a much needed dual-purpose survey. More information about other activities are in this newsletter. It has been an amazingly busy year so far and with only a few months to go before Boston, I am still in awe that previous Chairs were able to do so much in such a short period of time, often with limited resources and NOT E-MAIL!

If you enjoy snow, may you have lots.
New Members

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6738 5th Ave. NW
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1-206-543-3557
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Fax: 1-914-677-5916

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LIBEM115@SIVM.SI.EDU

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Monrovia, IN 46157
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Fax: 1-317-342-9518

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Technical Services
1 Atkinson St.
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Canada
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Fax: 1-905-770-0312

Miranda D. Scott
17 Bennett St.
Freehold, NJ 07728
1-908-699-6500

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1-206-543-1244

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Cynthia D. Bertelsen
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Linda K. Bourgeois
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1929 N. El Paso St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
1-719-589-8768

Juliet A. Conlon
4801 Connecticut Ave. NW
#301
Washington, DC 20009
Fax: 1-202-328-7555

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Physical Sci. Library
Riverside, CA 92521
1-909-787-3511
Fax: 1-909-787-2223

Susan C. Curtis
Univ. of Georgia Libraries
Boyd Grad Study Bldg.
Athens, GA 30602
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Fax: 1-706-542-6523

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500 Sansome #500
San Francisco, CA 94111
1-415-433-5500
Fax: 1-415-433-0100

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Minneapolis, MN 55408
1-612-925-6972

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Kathlene M. Hanson
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Arlington, MA 02174

June M. Mitchell
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Fayetteville, NY 13066
1-315-637-9035

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