MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Annie Malley

I have just returned from the SLA Winter Meeting in St. Louis. Division members, Ginny Lingle (Chair-Elect), Nancy Stimson (BIO Program Committee Chair), Lucy Rowland (2000 Philadelphia Conference Committee) and Judy Wojcik (Past-Chair) all attended the Conference.

The most exciting news of the conference was the announcement of Jo Anne Boorkman as SLA Fellow. Jo Anne's commitment to SLA and the field of Librarianship made her an outstanding candidate for SLA Fellow. Jo Anne is the head of the Loren D. Carlson Health Science Library at University of California, Davis. Jo Anne has been a member of SLA since 1971, and has been extremely active with the BIO Division. Jo Anne served as Division Chair in 1993/1994, she was one of the founding members of the Medical Section, and was Division liaison to MLA from 1995-1999 just to name a few of her contributions to the Division. Larry Wright and the Awards Committee put together a wonderful nomination packet that the SLA Awards Committee could not pass up.
Nancy Stimson and I spent most of our time during the Winter Meeting ironing out the details of the preliminary program for the Philadelphia Conference. The preliminary program should be in your hands now, and you will notice all of the hard work of the Program Planning, Professional Development, Vendor Relations, Publications, and Fund Development Committees. You have probably noticed that the preliminary program is not as robust as in years past. The Association wanted to develop a smaller less expensive publication and move conference attendees toward the web version of the program. I recommend spending time with the SLA Philadelphia Conference web page to view the complete program, as well as look at any changes to the program. Another significant change is that the Exhibits will be open from Monday through Wednesday, not Sunday through Tuesday. This provides attendees with a greater opportunity to participate in the Sunday CE courses. BIO is offering a Biomedical Databases CE Course on Saturday and a Molecular Biology and Genetics CE Course on Sunday. Other Sunday offerings include the Vendor Roundtable Breakfast, Medical Section Board Meeting, and the Medical Section’s tour of the Mutter Museum.

Philadelphia should prove to be a fantastic conference with lots of interesting programs and wonderful tours and receptions. I look forward to seeing you all in Philadelphia.

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**MEDICAL SECTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Lorri Zipperer  
Past Chair, Medical Section

The Medical Section will be holding a networking event Sunday, June 11, 2000 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Mutter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia with the Philadelphia Chapter of MLA and the BLSD Medical Section. See the College of Physicians of Philadelphia’s web site at [http://www.collphyphil.org/](http://www.collphyphil.org/).

Join with your colleagues for a guided tour of the museum and a wine and cheese reception to allow for members of the two organizations to meet. Philadelphia MLA members who are not registered to attend the SLA meeting are welcome to attend this activity.

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**FINANCIAL SUPPORT GROWING!**

Virginia Lingle  
Chair-Elect and Fund Development Committee, Chair

Financial support for the Division programming upcoming in Philadelphia continues to grow. Due to the diligent work of the Fund Development Committee, we have firm commitments of over $5000 and tentative sponsorship of an additional $3000. As you do business, please let the following vendors know how much we appreciate their contributions to our Division:

CISTI, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Majors, ADIS, American Chemical Society,

If you know of other vendors who could be contacted for support, it's not too late to send your suggestions to any Fund Development Committee member. Committee members are: Linda Maddux (Willamette University), Renee Bush (SUNY Buffalo), Janet Weiss (Wyeth-Ayerst Research), Heather Munger (University of Buffalo), Brian Westra (Montana State University), and Virginia Lingle, Committee Chair (Pennsylvania State University).

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**VENDOR BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE IN PHILADELPHIA**

Lori Bronars
Vendor Relations Committee, Chair

The Vendor Relations Committee has arranged for vendor updates during our Division continental breakfast on Sunday, June 11th. The breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. with vendor presentations beginning at 9:45 a.m. and lasting until 11:00 a.m. The presenters will be Vicky Reich from HighWire Press, Jill O'Neill form ISI, Kittie Henderson or Dave Kerin from EBSCO Information Services, and Anthea Gotto from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. We hope that you will be able to make time to attend this event which gives us an opportunity to hear about the latest developments and ask questions of key vendors as well as visit with other members of the Division.

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**CORRECTION:**

In the Vendor Relations column of the Fall issue of *Biofeedback* the word "ensued" should have been "ensured". We regret any confusion caused by this typo.

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**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS**

Jonathan Nabe
Publications Committee, Chair

We continue our series on getting published with the second part of David Duggar’s column on publishing at the state level. Look for our bibliography on this topic in the next issue of *Biofeedback* and be sure to join us Tuesday afternoon at the Annual Conference for our panel discussion, which will include Tony Stankus, whose name should be familiar to you all, as should Ruth Seidman’s, editor of *Science and Technology Libraries*. Diane Schmidt will also join the discussion, as will Sue Easun, the Acquisitions Editor for Scarecrow Press.

*Publishing at the State Level: Part Two*
The Louisiana Library Association produces a quarterly journal. Two of the four issues are devoted to a particular theme guest edited by the theme's proposer. The other two issues contain articles submitted during the year by librarians across the state.

I had the honor to be the guest editor for the 1997 Winter theme issue. The deadline for all columns and articles for the Winter issue is December 1 with the issue printed and distributed in January. For a theme issue, the proposer must submit the topic of the issue, draft of article ideas to cover the topic and the names of authors who will be asked to contribute these articles. In cases where the idea is there but not the authors, the Editorial Board of the Bulletin can help suggest librarians to contact who are experienced in those areas.

Some of the previous theme issues have covered Ethics, Genealogy, and the role of Louisiana public libraries during World War II. My topic was "Violence in the Library." I wanted articles covering the issues of safety, security measures, and crime in all four major types of libraries for the association - academic, public, school, and special. There had been incidents in the past two years at public libraries in the parish I lived in and another nearby. I asked the directors of these two libraries to recount their experiences of the crimes and what had occurred afterwards in the community and library. I wanted the experience of a prison or mental health librarian and found a librarian honored to be asked listed in the Institutions section of the Louisiana Library Directory. Her article covered her experience working with the violent patron in a mental institution's library. Another library director had spoken at the 1995 state conference on the rights and responsibilities of librarians dealing with 'problem patrons.' Unfortunately, he was not able to participate, but the Director of the State Law Library was. The Editorial Board gave suggestions for contacts for school and academic articles. I was very fortunate to have those contacted agree to contribute articles about campus violence’s effect on the campus library and issues regarding school safety.

All contributing authors were given between six and nine months to write their articles and send them to me. During this time I sent out reminders and kept everyone (including the Editorial Board) up to date on the progress of the issue. I proofread all articles, retyping those not submitted on diskette, and made minor editing corrections, also making sure graphs and charts were submitted camera-ready. Some were slower in arriving than others. Of the two articles that I had wanted to write, one was cut from the list as I did not have all of the survey data compiled in time. But that still left seven articles covering all four types of libraries across the state.

Doing a theme issue was not as hard as I had imagined. The hardest part was the initial proposal, defining the topic and deciding the areas to be covered in the articles. Locating contributing authors was not as difficult since the journal’s Editorial Board could recommend subject experts. I would strongly encourage others to consider this form of publication.
I would like to encourage members of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division to subscribe to BSDNET-L to stay informed about current happenings in the Division as well as to communicate with your colleagues if you have questions or need to disseminate relevant information. In the near future, the listserv will be renamed BIO-SLA to reflect the change in the division name. This change should occur with no disruption to the list. Also, Laura Osegueda will be taking over as primary listowner.

The commands below should be sent to listserv@listserv.ncsu.edu. Remember to leave the subject link blank when you send commands to the listserver.

To subscribe to BSDNET-L, send the message: subscribe BSDNET-L firstname lastname

The subscription request is forwarded to me for verification so there may be a slight delay between the time you send your message and the time you are subscribed.

To unsubscribe to BSDNET-L, send the message: unsubscribe BSDNET-L

If you will be out of the office and use an automatic reply feature, please either postpone BSDNET-L mail or temporarily unsubscribe to the list.

To postpone mail, send the message: set BSDNET-L mail postpone

To resume mail, send the message: set BSDNET-L mail noack (or ack)

For assistance with other settings, send the message: help set

To post a message to BSDNET-L, once you are subscribed, send the message to bsdnet-l@listserv.ncsu.edu. BSDNET-L is unmoderated so your message will be automatically posted to the listserv.

For assistance, please contact, Laura Osegueda, laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu, or Alesia McManus,mailto:am245@umail.umd.edu.

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CALL FOR PRESENTER - PHILADELPHIA 2000
MEDICAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING
BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

To all members of the BIO division:

The Medical Section of SLA's Biomedical and Life Sciences Division will continue its speakers program at the Medical Section annual business meeting at the Philadelphia
The purpose of this program is to allow the Medical Section to capitalize on the knowledge and experience of its members, while highlighting the work of an individual member. The Section also believes that members should be given the opportunity to present to their peers in a national venue. Through the sharing of our knowledge from the broad health care arena in this way, it is hoped that this event will draw interest from the membership of other divisions, including Pharmaceutical & Health Technology and Insurance & Employee Benefits divisions.

Last year, Janet Hughes of Pennsylvania State University presented a paper on teaching the Internet. Her full paper was published in the Summer 1999 issue of Biofeedback.

**ABSTRACT**: A 200-500 word abstract should accurately convey the subject of the talk, its scope, conclusions and relevance particularly to the medical information arena.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**: April 1, 2000

**PRESENTATION**: If chosen, acceptance of your abstract reflects a commitment on your part to 1) submit a 1000-word referenced (if necessary) synopsis of your presentation to the section chair by May 15, 2000 for use in Biofeedback; 2) give a presentation on said topic for no longer than 10 -15 minutes at the Philadelphia SLA conference; 3) provide appropriate hand-outs at the session, as there will be no opportunity for audiovisual aids at this event.

**SUBMIT ABSTRACT BY EMAIL TO**:

PAMELA BARNARD  
2000 Medical Section Chair  
Allina Health System  
Library Services  
*barnard@allina.com*

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**BIOLIFE: STUDENT COLUMN FOR BIOFEEDBACK**

Tom Turner  
Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee, Chair

[This issue's column is written by Wayne Loftus, the student member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division's Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee. Wayne is nearing the completion of his MLS at the University at Buffalo, where he is the president of the university's SLA student group. He is currently weekend reference supervisor at the Health Sciences Library at UB. --Tom Turner, Chair Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee.]

In October of this year, the SLA Student Group of the University at Buffalo held the first workshop in what we hope will become an annual series: "Preparing for the Job Hunt: A Workshop for Future Librarians". The focus of the event was twofold: to provide students
in their final semesters with the information they need to conduct a successful job search, and to provide those at earlier stages in their education with an idea of the kinds of skills, traits, and experience that are currently in demand in the marketplace. The first part of the event included the presentations of three speakers, speaking in turn on the ins and outs of the interview, the importance of service and work experience, and the workings of the publication process. In the afternoon, we let the students loose into a room full of twelve professional librarians, practicing in a variety of institutions in the area, for one-on-one consultations and small-group discussions. Listening to the speakers, moving from group to group, and speaking to the librarians both during and after the event, I noticed certain refrains repeated again and again. A wide variety of applicants, it seems, are making the same mistakes in their job searches - annoying their potential employers in much the same way. As the entire point of the event was to give students an idea of how to stand out from the crowd, avoiding these errors may go some way toward doing just that:

Résumés:
Given the stereotypical image of the librarian, it may come as something of a shock to learn that the most common problems cited were spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. This kind of carelessness is obviously fatal. Proof your résumé a second and third time, show it to friends and colleagues, but whatever you do, don’t rely on the spellchecker. Another common concern was length: striking the balance between providing sufficient information and overwhelming the reader can be difficult, but it is a problem worth giving some serious consideration. It is important to describe the details of your relevant experience, but best to avoid, for instance, listing your hobbies.

Cover Letters:
The importance of tailoring your cover letter to the application at hand cannot be overemphasized. It is apparently rather common for applicants to make do with form letters which do not spell out why they are interested in this particular position or how their experience fits this particular job description. This is a lack which does not go unnoticed. The letter is the perfect opportunity to tell your potential employers what you believe sets you apart from the pool of candidates they are reviewing - it is best to do so.

Interview:
Interviews are nerve-wracking, but keep in mind that once you’ve made it that far, you already have a foot in the door. It’s now important to go the extra mile. Doing your homework is both a good way to fend off your nervousness and show your potential employers that your interest in their position is not simply the result of a desperate effort to find employment. Read as much as you can on their services, collections, and clientele, and develop some intelligent questions to ask. Be there on time and dress professionally. Prepare yourself to answer those dreaded questions: what are your greatest strengths and weaknesses, anyway? Preparation and enthusiasm are key.

Experience:
Finally, it is important to actually have the skills and experience to emphasize in your job search. Hone your computer skills: they are a must these days. Seek out on-the-job experiences through internships, volunteer opportunities, or part-time employment while you’re still in school - the classroom is a necessary part of your education, but there is
no replacement for the thing itself. Get involved in at least one professional organization - it shows your potential employers that you are committed to the profession, as well as providing you with opportunities to hear the opinions and insights of actual practitioners. Lastly, take part, and take advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the profession. Librarianship is a complicated field getting more complex every day: the greater your understanding, the better your prospects.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LIAISON REPORT

Barb Butler
Government Relations Liaison

Have you heard of UCITA? Basically, this legislation started as a proposed section of the Universal Commercial Code (UCC). The American Law Institute (ALI) and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law (NCCUSL) draft the UCC. After several years of work, the ALI has withdrawn their support but the NCCUSL is still backing the proposal, but under the name of the Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act or UCITA. UCITA was approved by the NCCUSL in July of 1999 and is now in the process of state-by-state ratification. Because of its far reaching effects on licensing issues, librarians should be aware of this legislation. Start at these sources to learn more about UCITA:

Information Outlook, December 1999 (p. 44-46)
American Libraries Association which includes an Issue Brief on this subject available via pdf.

EnVironmental Education oNline: EVEN

When asked how they (university faculty) help students become proficient in the literature of their academic discipline, the answer is remarkably consistent: a silent shrug of the shoulders! EVEN was created to help faculty and students understand the environmental literature, appreciate the scholarly communication of original research, become comfortable with how libraries organize information related to the environment, and to serve as a springboard for finding international environmental information quickly and efficiently.

This Web-based curriculum support tool is designed to help graduate and undergraduate students "master" the scholarly literature of chosen environmental sub-disciplines to give them an edge in the job market or in the pursuit of an advanced degree. However, EVEN is more than a simple guide to the print and electronic resources related to the environment. It is a collaborative effort between the academic library and research faculty which fosters an understanding and appreciation for how knowledge is created, evaluated, and disseminated. Users of EVEN are encouraged to become lifelong learners who not only consume information but contribute to its development in the cause of environmental
initial funding for EVEN was secured through a grant submitted to the Plum Foundation. Arizona State University East’s Science Librarian, Bill Johnson, supplied the resource content with input from faculty and librarians across the Internet. Technical support was provided by a technician at Texas Tech University Libraries who converted Word documents into hypertext pages. Project implementation began in the summer of 1999 and was completed in December. Spring 2000 will be spent testing the site and making revisions based on input from students, faculty, and librarians at the site’s home institution (Arizona State University) and around the globe.

While environmental studies are quite interdisciplinary, the content focus of EVEN is reflected in the environmental curriculum at Arizona State and Texas Tech. Hence, at this point you will not find a significant amount of information related to marine, polar, or other environments which do not constitute a large proportion of the curriculum at these institutions. However, more of this information may be added depending on the interest expressed by users of this resource beyond the parent institutions. Free access to full-text information around the world is an important element of EVEN, yet certain proprietary sources are included which are restricted to parties affiliated with Arizona State University.

In addition to scientific information related to specific environmental sub-disciplines such as agrochemicals/soils, air/water pollution, hazardous waste management, toxicology, human health, emergency management, and international issues, users of EVEN will find information on environmental careers and finding a good grad school. For those confused by the language of bibliographies, a section on the anatomy of a citation is offered. You can even test yourself on the material presented. While an extensive collection of related links are included, you will also find information on traditional print sources found in academic libraries around the world: classic books and core journals.

EVEN is presented with frames and numerous JAVA-based pop-up windows are included to explain what was included to foster the development of independent researchers and scholarly communicators. Netscape 4.0 or higher is the recommended browser for a visit to EVEN. A guest box is included whereby you may submit comments and suggestions. Your input is highly appreciated.

Bill T. Johnson, Science Librarian
Arizona State University East
scilib@asu.edu
Many of you have reported that searching EMBASE for the route of administration of a drug can yield false hits when more than one drug is indexed. At last we can announce that starting in January 2000, we are introducing a change in the indexing to resolve this problem: routes of drug administration will now be indexed as drug links, linked specifically to the drugs that are administered by that route. Note that all 47 new drug links are pre-existing terms, which have been indexed until now primarily as medical descriptors (minor terms).

Beginning with the records indexed in the year 2000, we expect that this change will make it easier to retrieve these concepts. However, you should be aware that for records indexed from 1974 through 1999, you will still need to search as you have done until now, (i.e., search individual routes of drug administration as medical descriptors).

**DEFINITION**
Drug links for routes of drug administration are used to modify drug terms by any associated administration routes mentioned in the article (with or without emphasis). If the drug administration route is emphasized, the drug link "drug administration" will be linked also to the specific drug name. See the sample indexes below for the old and new situations:

**OLD SITUATION** (1974 to December 1999)

Drug administration routes are indexed as medical descriptors (Medical B terms - minor descriptors).

*Medical A terms (major terms)
  - respiratory tract infection (link) drug therapy
  - antibiotic therapy
*Medical B terms (minor terms)
  - randomized controlled trial
  - intravenous drug administration
  - oral drug administration, etc.
*Drug terms (major or minor)
  - amoxicillin (link) drug administration, drug therapy, drug comparison
  - tetracycline (link) drug therapy, drug comparison

**NEW SITUATION** (from January 2000)
Drug administration routes are indexed as drug links

*Medical A terms (major terms)
  - respiratory tract infection (link) drug therapy - antibiotic therapy
*Medical B terms (minor terms)
  - randomized controlled trial, etc.
*Drug terms (major or minor)
  - amoxicillin (link) drug administration, drug therapy, drug comparison,
oral drug administration
- tetracycline (link) drug therapy, drug comparison, intravenous drug administration

Since the drug link "drug administration" is indexed only when this topic is emphasized in article, less than a third of EMBASE records will have this "link". This policy is unchanged in 2000. Please be aware that routes of drug administration may continue to be indexed as unlinked medical descriptors (minor or major), as is the case also for all other link terms.

SEARCHING
To search routes of drug administration before and after 2000, use the following guidelines:

1974 - 1999: search (drug) AND (route of drug administration)
2000 - forward: search (drug) LINK (two-letter code for route of drug administration)

The details of how a link is searched will depend upon the host search software.

For a list of the new route of drug administration link terms, see below.

Drug links: Routes of drug administration arranged alphabetically

- buccal drug administration
- intranasal drug administration
- epidural drug administration
- intracerebroventricular drug administration
- inhalational drug administration
- intracavitary drug administration
- intraarterial drug administration
- intracerebral drug administration
- intrabursal drug administration
- intracardiac drug administration
- intracysternal drug administration
- intracavernous drug administration
- intracerebral drug administration
- intracranial drug administration
- intracerebroventricular drug administration
- intracranial drug administration
- intradermal drug administration
- intraduodenal drug administration
- intragastric drug administration
- intraleisional drug administration
- intralymphatic drug administration
- intramuscular drug administration

- NT's sublabial, sublingual
- BT intraspinal
- BT intraocular
- BT intraspinal
Sea Change Corporation releases WebClarity, the Web Gateway for Z39.50 databases

Toronto, December 15, 1999
Press Release

WebClarity is Sea Change Corporation’s new Web Gateway to information databases. It allows any Web browser to access any Internet based information database that supports the popular Z39.50 access standard. WebClarity’s powerful features allow any organization to provide seamless searching of multiple large databases or “virtual” union catalogs. WebClarity is ideal for libraries, resource centers and information publishers of all kinds as a tool to facilitate access to their data. WebClarity will be sold through our international network of library automation and research tool resellers. An OEM version is also available for library automation developers who wish to incorporate it with their existing systems.
The Z39.50 standard is being embraced by a rapidly increasing number of information publishers and libraries. Z39.50's usage is exploding because it is one of the only standards for direct access to complex structured databases. Although many libraries publish their holdings using Z39.50, few library web sites provide access to other Web based database resources. WebClarity eliminates this limitation by providing seamless and integrated access to both local and remote Z39.50 accessible resources.

WebClarity runs in the user friendly Windows NT environment, and features the same innovative user interface and powerful search capabilities that have made BookWhere the market leader in Z39.50 search technology. WebClarity servers can be easily configured to reflect the user's specific environment and access requirements.

"WebClarity responds to the needs of Internet users by providing one of the first 'out of the box' examples of server software that supports true distributed, standards based, distributed indexing capabilities. By combining our leading BookWhere search technology with an easy to use server architecture, we have made finding materials on the Internet even easier. With WebClarity, Sea Change hopes to further accelerate the deployment of standard's based (Z39.50) indexing technology for the Internet", says Richard Earle, President Sea Change Corporation.

Sea Change Corporation is headquartered in Mississauga Ontario Canada. The company provides a wide range of Internet related products and services. Sea Change launched BookWhere, its Windows based Z39.50 client in June of 1995. BookWhere is currently used by thousands of libraries and researchers and is distributed worldwide by over 35 resellers. In early 1999 Sea Change released the BookWhere Application Programming Interface (API) which allows third party software developers to incorporate the power of BookWhere into their own applications. ISI ResearchSoft (formerly Research Information Systems) has used this technology in their ProCite and Reference Manager products. Sea Change has used this same API to develop WebClarity.


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1999-2000 BIO Officers and Appointees

Address Changes

If you have a change of address or phone number, please send this information to SLA so that they can be updated. You can mail those changes to: Membership Department, SLA, 1700 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-2514

Biofeedback

Biomedical & Life Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association