MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Virginia A. Lingle

By the time this newsletter reaches you, several members of our Division leadership will have recently attended SLA's Winter Meeting in Savannah, GA. Activities for the San Antonio Annual Conference will be further finalized with Tom Turner attending the 2001 Program Planning sessions; while plans for the 2002 Annual Conference in Los Angeles will be getting underway with Laura Osegueda serving as that program chair.

Michele Tennant and I will be attending Leadership Institute sessions on managing the division, the virtual association, and mentoring. Session summaries and reports will be forthcoming.

Recent news from SLA Headquarters:

1. Recently, a Chapter discussion list received an annoying SPAM which generated many complaints to Headquarters. SLA staff are looking into tightly integrating the discussion list system with the membership system so that list subscribers can be validated for SLA membership. This will help to prevent SPAM and encourage non-members or vendors to join the association in order to gain access to SLA
2. Currently SLA membership stands at just over 13,000. Membership Chairs were sent information on how to welcome new members and how to develop cost-effective media strategies.

3. Conference attendees in San Antonio will be seeing a new identity for the exhibitors. Starting this year, the name ":INFO-EXPO: SLA Information Partners" will be the new way to refer to the exhibitors participating in the Annual Conference. For additional information, contact Janet Brown, new Director of Exhibits, 202-939-3680.

4. The theme for International Special Librarians Day, Thursday, April 5, 2001 is ":A World of Information Within Your Reach 2001" and marks the tenth anniversary of ISLD.

5. The United Nations General Assembly has designated 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. Your participation in SLA at all levels is a significant part of that volunteer effort. The leadership role of our members is invaluable in putting knowledge to work.

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi! Two new columns are being added to Biofeedback. These are "Jobs" and "Special Announcements". Both will appear when there is something to include based on timeliness (remember, we are quarterly, so plan accordingly as you submit these news pieces to us). Remember we want to list news about our members. Let us know if you have published, been promoted, changed jobs, got married, etc. And we like to include brief notices about our NEW MEMBERS (aka Member Profile). If you are a new member, please send a paragraph or two to the Membership Chair for inclusion in this journal. Thanks and have a great year!

THE ODYSSEY CONTINUES -
FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SAILS ON!

Michele Tennant
Chair-elect and
Fund Development Committee Chair

Funding continues to grow for Division programming at the 2001 San Antonio annual meeting; we now have commitments of $10,125! Several other vendors continue to express interest, and are likely to make their funding decisions within the next few weeks. As you do business, please let the following vendors know how much we appreciate their contributions to Biomedical and Life Sciences Division:

A recent graduate of library school also makes one a recent survivor of the job search process. I was fortunate that I already knew I wanted to focus my education in biomedical librarianship. Many library school students do not know what branch of librarianship they want to go into or how to find the right job. With this article I offer some key tips for them.

My experience in finding a job after completing library school at the University of Pittsburgh started early on in my matriculation there. I immediately subscribed myself to the school listserv that posted several library and information science jobs daily. Familiarizing myself to the kinds of jobs that were being advertised, as well as the job skills that employers looked for, was key in further developing my curriculum in school to tailor it for those competencies needed.

I also got involved with local, student, and national chapters of library associations such as MLA, SLA, and ALA. I attended many Pittsburgh SLA Chapter meetings, which always included an educational component. It was a very good way to network with the local professionals and get their perspectives on the profession and how they prepared themselves for the jobs they were in. Also while a student visit school job placement offices and take interviewing skills and résumé workshops.

My final and most important tip for library and information science students is to attend to at least one national conference. I registered to have my résumé posted at "employment clearinghouses" at both MLA and SLA last year. It was at MLA where I had my first encounter with someone from my current job at Johns Hopkins University. I had a brief informal interview to discuss my job skills and interest in various positions they had advertised. Over the remainder of my summer term I had several more follow-up interviews with potential employers that I had met at these conferences. Attending MLA and SLA also provided another environment for networking with other students as well as professionals in the various fields of library and information science. I strongly
suggest that students seek out these job placement centers at the national conferences and register their résumés with them.

Statistics from ALA and MLA say that there were at least twice as many jobs as job seekers at both of their national conferences last year. This profession is ever growing and changing and is clearly reflected in the job market. Listed below are a few references I recommend to students to help with the job process and in evaluating the future of the profession.


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**BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION**

**Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee**

**ANNOUNCES**

**2000-2001 Student Essay Contest**

Write an essay (400-500 words) on the following topic: **Preparing for the job market**

- Include phone interviews with two or three practicing biomedical and/or life science special librarians. (You can assure them that their names will be kept confidential if they wish by the review committee.)
- Ask them what you should be doing to find a job and how best to compete for jobs.

**PRIZES:**
ONE First Prize: $250 stipend towards the 2001 Conference in San Antonio
THREE Second Prizes: Ticket to the Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast, Tuesday 6/12/01 in San Antonio

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- You must be a current (as of March 31, 2001) member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division.
- You must be a student currently enrolled in an ALA accredited MLS (or equivalent)
Submit a letter from the Graduate School office verifying your student status or a copy of your most recent college transcript.

**DEADLINE:**
Entries must be received by March 31, 2001

- Winners will be notified by April 30, 2001. Winning essays may be published with the author's permission in the newsletter *BIOFEEDBACK*.
- Prize award is non-transferable to another person.
- The Committee reserves the right not to award the prizes if essays received are not of sufficient quality.
- No handwritten essays will be accepted.
- If submission is electronic, attachment must be in MS-WORD format.

**SUBMIT ENTRY TO:**
weissj2@war.wyeth.com
or
Janet Cooper Weiss
Manager, Library Services
Research Library
Wyeth-Ayerst Research
CN 8000
Princeton, NJ 08543-8000

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**JOBS**

**Assistant Director for Reference, Education and Information Management-Search Extended:**

The University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries (HSCL) seek an experienced librarian to serve as the Assistant Director for Reference, Education and Information Management (REIM). This position participates in designing the future of a growing and dynamic health sciences library. Has specific responsibility for the programs and activities of the Division, which include reference services, education, liaison services, and mediated searching. Participates as member of the library management team, works with the Director, Associate Director and the heads of the other library divisions in the overall planning and management of library operations and programs. Assistant Director for REIM collects and analyzes statistics, prepares reports, participates in policy and program development, staff development and mentoring, long-range planning, budgeting, and grant-seeking activities, and serves as the libraries' representative on library and university, statewide and extramural committees as appropriate. This is a non-tenure track position.

Responsibilities: Recruit, lead, and motivate a highly service-oriented staff. Supervise 6 FTE including 5 professionals. Establish division goals and objectives, define needs, and set priorities to ensure effective management and development of REIM Division. Direct operational planning for REIM. Evaluate the reference and educational services provided by REIM librarians. Design and conduct management studies aimed toward providing more effective use of information resources. Plan and implement long-range strategies for the
integration of a dynamic electronic collection with the more traditional print-based collection. Participate in the Liaison Librarian program with assigned departments. Participate in reference desk coverage 2 hours per week. Serve as a member of the library's senior management team. Develop grant proposals and other funding approaches for new and continuing library services and research as appropriate. Participate in professional associations and attend relevant conferences and meetings.

Required: ALA-accredited Masters degree in library or information science, minimum 5 years experience as a reference or instruction librarian in a health sciences, academic, or life sciences library, preferably with increasing responsibility. Demonstrated effective supervisory experience, ability to lead and develop professional staff. Demonstrated ability to plan and implement new programs, while maintaining quality of existing services and programs. Superior communication skills. Proven interpersonal skills. Ability to work effectively as a team member in a complex academic research library environment. Flexible and strong service orientation.

Desired: Member of the Medical Library Association's Academy of Health Information Professionals at either senior or distinguished level. Experience in providing services to library users in an academic health science center or large teaching hospital. Experience in evaluating staff, services, and programs. Grant writing experience.

Salary: Negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Minimum: $40,000 (negotiable) plus full benefits package with medical, retirement, and leave benefits. No state or local income tax.

Environment: The University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries (HSCL) are the largest health science libraries in the Southeast. The Libraries serve faculty, staff and students in the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Shands Hospital and Health System. The Libraries' user population is 6,000 faculty and staff and over 3,700 students. HSCL includes a reading room at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Borland Library, a branch library located on the UFHSC campus in Jacksonville, Florida.

For full description, visit: http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/jobs.htm

To apply: Please send resume and coverletter along with the names and addresses of three professional references to Faith A. Meakin, Director, UF HSC Libraries, PO Box 100206, Gainesville, FL 32610 by February 16, 2001.

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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**Special Announcement:**

**Opportunity to participate in a project to identify core Public Health journals**

**Recipients:** Please redistribute widely.

**The project:**

To identify a list of core public health journals that should be in all libraries serving
public health organizations in any or all of the specialty areas covered. The list should assist libraries and faculty in selecting journals for purchase and in evaluating their own collections.

**The product:**
The end product will be a database organized under the subject areas utilized by the ASPH in the accreditation reviews: (See [http://www.asph.org/aa_section.cfm/3/53](http://www.asph.org/aa_section.cfm/3/53) for subject descriptions).

**Core:**
- biostatistics
- environmental health sciences
- behavioral sciences/health education
- epidemiology
- health services administration

**Additional:**
- occupational safety and health
- maternal and child health
- public health practice & program management
- international public health
- nutrition
- public health dentistry
- public health nursing
- biomedical lab practice
- (Note: this is not in the ASPH list)

**Also:** A "super" category of general public health, to include *Journal of Public Health, Annual Review of Public Health, Public Health Reports*, etc.

This is a marvelous opportunity to make a contribution which can assist Public Health educators and practitioners as well as librarians working in the field. Participants will be individually acknowledged on the draft and final products which are presented to the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), the Medical Library Association (MLA), and the American Public Health Association (APHA). A publication in a journal about this project, including a view of the data, is a good possibility. This project has the support of the Public Health/Health Administration Section of MLA. The full project description, including timeframe and database components, is available on the PH/HA website at [http://www.phha.mlanet.org/corejournal.html](http://www.phha.mlanet.org/corejournal.html).

**The process:**
Matt Wilcox at Yale ([matthew.wilcox@yale.edu](mailto:matthew.wilcox@yale.edu)) and Cristina Campbell at UCB Berkeley ([ccampbel@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:ccampbel@library.berkeley.edu)) are coordinating the project. We are inviting your participation in any of three ways, for any of the subject sections:

- as "primary developer" of a section (or sections!)
- as "partner" of the "primary developer" to react to the section and make suggestions for additions/deletions before the first review
- as "reviewer" of the section

**How to volunteer:**
By 2/1/01, send your name, contact information and expression of interest to both [matthew.wilcox@yale.edu](mailto:matthew.wilcox@yale.edu) and [ccampbel@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:ccampbel@library.berkeley.edu). Note: What subject(s) interest you. What role you would like to play for the subject: primary developer, partner, or reviewer. We look forward to hearing from you!
BIO Member and Winifred Sewell Prize Recipient (2000) Joanne G. Marshall is featured on the cover of *Library Journal* 125(19), November 15, 2000. The issue focus-article is on special libraries with Joanne's article: "Determining our Worth, Communicating our Value" (pgs 28-30).

This past fall, ISI celebrated BIO member Gene Garfield, not only for his 75 years but also for his many contributions in both the scientific and information communities. At the celebration, Gene was presented with an advance copy of the monograph "The Web of Knowledge." ([http://www.infotoday.com/pressreleases/pr001113.htm](http://www.infotoday.com/pressreleases/pr001113.htm)  [http://www.isinet.com/isi/news/2000/0915](http://www.isinet.com/isi/news/2000/0915)) "The Web of Knowledge" is a festschrift, produced in Gene's honor. "It addresses the history, theory and practical application of citation indexing and examines its impact on scholarly and scientific research 40 years after its inception." .... a sentence lifted shamelessly from *Information Today*. *Information Today* covered the event. The book was released at the (November) Annual Meeting of ASIS&T in Chicago. For more information about the festschrift, see: [http://www.infotoday.com/catalog/asis.htm](http://www.infotoday.com/catalog/asis.htm). In addition, *Information Today* 17 (10) (November 2000) (pgs 1 continued on 65,66,67) presents an interview with Gene with the headline: "Eugene Garfield Celebrates a Birthday and a Career: ISI founder discusses the state of information science, scientific publishing and more." A list of Gene's publications can be found at [http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu](http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu).

[Thanks to Larry Wright for providing these news items about our members. - Editor]

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**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

As of the end of December, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA had 771 members, as follows:

30 Associate Members  
4 Forty-five Year Members  
5 Sustaining Members  
6 Life/Honorary Members  
633 Regular Members  
13 Retired Members  
80 Student Members

For those of you whose membership expires at the end of December and haven't yet paid your dues, it isn't too late! You won't be dropped from the roster until the end of January.

Diane Schmidt  
Membership Committee, Chair

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**From the SLA Office**

**A Decade of Celebrating International Special Librarians Day!**

Ten years ago, the Special Libraries Association decided that there should be a day
dedicated to the profession that would recognize the unique contributions made by information professionals and the critical role they play in the international information arena. As a result, International Special Librarians Day (ISLD) was created. Held in conjunction with National Library Week, ISLD encourages information professionals to promote the services they provide to their users, customers, and management within their organizations and to external communities. The first celebration turned out to be such an overwhelming success that the Board of Directors decided to make it an annual event, thus laying the foundation for future events.

So here we are a decade later. ISLD continues to serve the same purpose in 2001 as it did in 1991; the only notable difference is that it has grown steadily into an international event because of the continued support and commitment from information professionals around the world. As a leader in the global information community, on the front lines everyday obtaining first-hand knowledge and experience on the perceptions and attitudes surrounding the profession, you understand that your participation and communication play an important role in raising awareness and recognition for the profession. With that in mind, a theme was created that embodies the ISLD message. "A World of Information Within Your Reach" conveys that information professionals are the best trained people to tap into, manage, and connect you to today's complex and overwhelming world of global information.

To get you started down the right path, this year we added a new press kit. The press kit contains a sample press release, media alert, letter to the editor, fact sheet, and radio PSA, all of which are available on the SLA website. The international observance of ISLD provides a news hook or angle for developing news and feature stories and the press kit is a valuable communications tool for you to send to your local print and broadcast media.

Thanks to the generous support from Factiva, A Dow Jones and Reuters Company, and the Freedom Forum, we have prepared a great promotional kit for you to use in celebrating this very special occasion. Please take full advantage of the ISLD theme and logo on the SLA website. The SLA website also contains information on activities for celebrating ISLD, information on ordering free promotional items, and the criteria for the ISLD Award. For the second year, the Freedom Forum in Rossyln, VA, will host a special event which includes a self guided tour of the Newseum (an interactive news museum). Here are a few easy tips to assist you in getting the message out.

Invite your colleagues, local officials and the media for an open house to ... Share and showcase the services and contributions of your library ... Leave your patrons dazzled and amazed by your presentation which ... Demonstrates your vast resources, knowledge and abilities

I want to remind you that on April 5, 2001, your opportunity awaits. This is your day to speak loudly and clearly about the value information professionals bring to their organizations. Your observance and participation of ISLD 2001 contribute to changing people's attitudes, perceptions, and understanding about the importance of what you do and the value you add.
NEW MEMBERS

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**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

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**2000/2001 SLA BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE APPOINTEES**

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**Biofeedback**

Biomedical & Life Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association  
c/o Ted Johnson, Reference Librarian