AWSL news

October 2008

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WLA Conference: Wisconsin Libraries Building a Better Tomorrow
November 4-7, 2008

President's Report

Hello again.

It's time again for the WLA Conference, and I hope to see many of you there. The conference gives us an opportunity to make notice of the contributions special librarians make to the organizations where they work every day, as well as to the library profession and their colleagues through participation in our professional organizations. AWSL members will be sharing their knowledge as presenters in several programs during the conference.

The special library tour again will be a highlight of the conference and will generate more interest than our transportation and hosts can accommodate. I have always thought, and many of our colleagues apparently agree, that special librarians have some of the most interesting and challenging jobs in the profession. The role of AWSL is to support and promote the work of librarians in these positions, which are often as departments of one or two, perhaps easily overlooked or underappreciated. For these reasons, AWSL needs strong representation from those who care about special libraries, but asks for help from those who may be especially challenged to provide it. I encourage all of you to seriously consider taking a position in AWSL as a committee member or an officer. The time and effort needed is probably less than you think.

Please feel free to come to the business meeting on Wednesday at the conference where we'll be welcoming Anne Moser and Nichole Fromm as our new chair-elect and secretary. We've still got plenty of opportunity for you to get involved. Thanks again for your interest in AWSL.

- Stephen Johnson, AWSL President

AWSL Sponsored WLA Programs

The Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians is sponsoring a number of programs at this year's WLA conference in Middleton, November 4-7.

First up in the AWSL line-up is a panel on Services to Special Populations: Hospital In-patients, Jails/Prisons, and Other Institutions. Speakers will include Jennifer Friedman, Librarian at Mendota Mental Health Institute Patients Library; Casey Peterson,Consumer Health Librarian at St. Mary's Health Resource Center; and Wendy Cramer, of the Racine Correctional Institution. Please join us for this session in Salon H on Wednesday, November 5th, starting at 2 p.m.

AWSL is also co-sponsoring two sessions relevant to Special Librarians: Wisconsin Eye: A Progress Report in Salon G, starting at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 6th; and Library for the Blind: Update on New Audio Formats taking place at 4 p.m. the same day also in Salon G.

Also taking place on Thursday, November 6th, AWSL has arranged for a tour to two local, special libraries of note: the American Girl, Inc. Library and the Marshal Erdman Resource Center. This event will begin at 2 p.m.; meeting location to board bus, to be announced. Attendance is limited to 50, so be sure to register for this event along with your conference registration!

And finally, don't forget the AWSL Business Meeting in Salon H from 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.!
(For complete event desciptions please see your conference program.)

- Nikki Busch, AWSL Chair-Elect

Agenda for the AWSL Fall Business Meeting - November 5 from 12:15-1:45

1. **Introductions**
2. **Approval of 2007 Fall Annual Meeting Minutes**
3. **Changes to the Agenda/Announcements**
4. **Officer Reports**
    a. Chair Stephen Johnson
    b. Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Nikki Busch
    c. Past-Chair Julie Schneider
    d. WLA Board Representative Emily Wixson
5. **Committee Reports**
    a. Committee on Organizations
    b. Library Development and Legislative Committee
    c. Membership
    d. Publicity
    e. WLA Fouondation Scholarship Committee
    f. Webmaster

Alternative Fuels: Technologies for a Healthy Planet

Report from Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 17, 2008

This session was presented by the Transportation Division; Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Division; Science-Technology Division; and Chemistry Division and was sponsored by Thomson Reuters; Scientific; and CAS. Richard G. Nelson, Director, Engineering Extension, Kansas State University and an expert on biodiesel addressed the potentials of biofuels as a solution to rising energy costs. Alvetta Pindell, Head, National Agricultural Library (NAL), Informational Research Services Branch shared information on web resources and "Alternative Fuels/Renewable Energy –An emerging area of national concern." The handouts are available on the SLA conference web site:
http://units.sla.org/division/dtrn/seattle08.html (power point and a pdf file.)

Nelson explained that his presentation Biodiesel: Benefits, Issues, & Opportunities was based upon a number of presentations he has made to engineering and other professional organizations looking to lower dependence on petroleum. He tracks information on sustainable energy; bioenergy; biodiesel; and the challenges and opportunities in alternative fuels. He has served on the Western Governors' Conference and the National Biodiesel Board. Biofuels can be defined as mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats. They are designated B100 and

should meet the requirements of the ASTM D 6751 standards. They can be used in all existing diesel engines with little or no modifications. These fuels are not raw vegetable oil and feedstocks but are a blend of methanol and a catalyst to meet the cetane number for efficient engine operation and emissions levels. Potential sources of biodiesel: beef tallow (free fatty acids removed); palm, canola, and soybean oils, which do not have to have the free fatty acids removed. Two problem issues with biodiesel are the fact the methanol is a hazardous substance and in cold climates like school districts in MN, fuel cells can get "jelled up." On the pro side: biodiesel can be used in most engines – "pour and go," it has better combustion properties, high lubricity and virtually zero sulfur emissions. The current open markets for these fuels: urban trucking, school buses and some small blends in home heating. There is not as much application yet in marine engine environments.

Nelson went on to indicate problems associated with governmental mandates and the 2001 Bio Energy Program tax incentives. The push to increase the volume of fuels led to many junk fuel producers interested in making money but not understanding the reasons for the ASTM standards. Increased crop production demands have put pressure on food, water, prices and marginal lands. America's grasslands are important for sequestering emissions. Nelson feels that rather than world wide mandates, we need to step back to assess food and fuel and feed requirements in light of supply and demand and prices. Feed stock prices really shot up because of these pressures and at this time it still takes energy to create biodiesel and diesel fuels. The cellulose market is around the corner but how far off is that corner? There is a lot of potential for positive health benefits, but large transportation fleet managers have real concerns about biodiesel's fuel quality, engine warranties, storage, pricing, filter problems, stability, and issues of cold temperatures. ASTM has developed nineteen specifications that must be met for engine manufactures to be willing to provide warranties on the use of these fuels. Supply chain managements must be implemented to assure the quality of finished fuels. The industry needs a program of accredited producers, certified marketers, handling, and distributers and certificates of analysis for

Some sources of additional information: The National Biodiesel Board web site; The Jacobsen; *Economist*; www.biodiesel.org; and Biodiesel Education Network Magazine. His recommendation to future governmental administrations is to review and modify the governmental mandates until research, production and industry standards catch up with the goal of sustainable alternative fuels.

Alvetta Pindell, apindell@nal.usda.gov, had copies of a webography and her power point slides for distribution at the session. She also handed out her business cards. (I can share if anyone wants their own copies.) Starting with a brief history and description of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), Pindell indicated that the library and partner institutions have had to be creative in meeting their roles and responsibilities because of the challenging federal budget environment. The 2007 Farm Bill Proposal has six very ambitious program initiatives: Ag bioenergy and bio based products research; Biomass research and development act; Forest wood-to-energy; Cellulosic bioenergy; Biomass reserve; and Renewable energy supply & energy efficiency improvements. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) energy goals ensure balance in production of food, feed, fiber, and fuels through: sustainable agriculture and natural resource-based energy production; sustainable bioeconomies for rural communities; efficient use of energy and energy conservation; and workforce development for the bioeconomy.

To reach these goals the USDA uses multidisciplinary data driven research within the challenges of exponentially increased content prices and globalization of the information. Bioenergy research locations are distributed among eighteen states including Regional Research Centers in Beltsville, MD, Peoria, IL, Houma, LA, and Albany, CA. On-farm research is the main focus for the research center in Madison, WI. Ethanol from citrus waste is the key topic for the center in Winter Haven, FL.

These centers are funded by grants to state components through the Land Grant Universities and Extension. One of NAL's creative responses to these responsibilities is the National Digital Library for Agriculture (NDLA) seen as a dynamic system built on multi-institutional collaborations. Building blocks for the NDLA include: AGNIC; USDA's Digital Desktop Library (DigiTop); AgSpace: NAL digital repository; AGRICOLA – NAL's database; USAIN; and the Land Grant Colleges and Universities.
Pindell went on to describe the services and resources NAL can provide emphasizing its trusted, non-biased, science-based information.

Challenges in this are: Federal investments are dispersed; there are a lack of tools for handling and preserving large scale data sets; new energy industry interests to be met; globalization and the realities of interdisciplinary research. NAL is proposing the development of a Biofuels Information Center to draw attention to USDA's accomplishments in biofuels

research; to enhance the visibility of current research efforts; connect with partners more; delivery customized alert services; provide outreach and training; serve as an information gateway; and respond to consumer questions. She closed by asking all present to be vigilant regarding federal library agency budget cuts. There isn't any way to fund the Biofuels Information Portal with a 15% budget cut. Use the NAL resources, teach your users how to use them and inform Congress on their value. The general web site: www.nal.usda.gov

-Barbara J. Arnold, UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator, bjarnold@wisc.edu

Diane Gurtner Receives SLA FAN Travel Grant

Diane Gurtner, an Information Scientist in Kraft's Oscar Mayer Division, has received the 2008 Travel Grant for New Professionals from SLA's Food, Agriculture and Nutrition (FAN) Division. This grant assisted Diane in attending the SLA Annual Conference held June 15th – 18th in Seattle, WA.

Diane has been active in SLA for many years, including a recent stint as President of the SLA Wisconsin Chapter. Still, she hasn't always been able to attend the larger SLA events due to budgeting issues. "I'm currently a part-time employee and without the FAN travel grant it's unlikely I'd be able to attend the Seattle conference," says Diane. "I'm also still very new to the Food & Food Science world of information," adds Diane, who started working at Kraft in 2006. "I see this as an opportunity to benefit from the many FAN programs and the networking opportunities at the Annual Conference." Every year, the FAN Division of SLA reimburses travel expenses of up to $500.00 for a professional new to the field of food, agricultural or nutrition information. Recipients of the grant also agree to serve for one year on a FAN committee. With a BS in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh as well as an MA in Library & Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Diane is interested in serving with the Membership or Public Relations Committees of FAN.

About FAN:
The Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Division of SLA is an internationally diverse group with members from the corporate world, academia, government organizations and more. Our focus is all aspects of foods, food technology, and the related fields of nutrition and agricultural production. FAN publishes Food For Thought quarterly, and maintains a discussion list for members. For more information, visit us on the Web at http://units.sla.org/division/dfan/

About SLA: The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 11,500 members in more than 60 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic, and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. For more information, visit us on the Web at http://www.sla.org

Conference Report for The One Person Library

2008 Special Libraries Association Annual Conference
Seattle, WA, Monday June 16, 2008 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Embedded Librarianship: Background and Overview

Moderator: Josh Duberman, Informationist/Research librarian , National Institutes of Health, dubermaj@ors.od.nih.gov, 301.594.6200
Speakers: Susan Whitmore, MS, MSLS, Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health Library, susan_whitmore@nih.gov, http://nihlibrary.nih.gov, Building 10, MSC 1150, Bethesda, MD 20892-1150, 301.496.1157
David Shumaker, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, shumaker@cua.edu, Embeddedlibrarina.wordpress.com, 202.319.5551
Additional guest presenter: Ron Rodriguez, Hewlett Packard Labs. Inc.
Note: Robert Linde II, Groton Leader, Therapeutic Area Scientific Information Services, Pfizer Inc. was unable to attend.
Presented by the Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Division

Duberman started by indicating the program is a sequel to the SLA 2007 Annual Conference contributed paper session: "Embedded Library Services: An Initial Inquiry into practices for their development, management, and delivery," by

David Shumaker and Laura Ann Taylor, Research Librarian, LMI Government Consulting, http://www.sla.org/pdfs/sla2007/ShumakerEmbeddedLibSvcs.pdf

Susan Whitmore described the NIH Library informationist program that has 14 information/subject specialists assigned to 40 working groups at NIH research centers at both the basic science and clinical research levels. These interdisciplinary embedded librarians have both clinical and research job responsibilities and are working in close proximity to their research teams. They all have specialized subject training or work experience in biomedical, behavioral or social science disciplines in addition to current expertise in the information sciences. Working with the endorsement of the project administrator and with the support of a team mentor, they are key collaborators in the success of their teams. Their work goes beyond providing expert database searching to analysis, synthesis and recommendations on questions raised during clinical rounds or questions on experimentation protocols. To support the development of their subject expertise, the informationists are guided in a continuing educational program that includes training, college courses, classes offered through NIH and online providers. Each person is encouraged and supported in attending and presenting at professional conferences and their performance review includes an evaluation of their progress on their educational plan.

Whitmore had copies of "Informationist programme in support of biomedical research: a programme description and preliminary findings of an evaluation," *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, 25, 2008, p. 135-141. Results of the process and outcomes evaluations of the program should be published soon. See also: *The NIH Catalyst*, November-December 2005 and 2007 for two articles by Cindy Clark on the Embedded Librarian. http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/LibraryServices/Informationists.htm

Josh Duberman has served the NIH Imaging and Probe Development Center, the Division of Technology Development and Transfer in the Office of Technology Transfer. He has a background in chemistry, biotechnology, intellectual property, pharmaceutics, engineering, competitive intelligence and technology transfer. In developing services to NIH chemists, he has contributed to a basic clinical research class, and has been responsible for developing searching guidelines. He has saved his teams money with patent searching.

Ron Rodriguez, Hewlett Packard Labs and Agilent Technologies, stepped in at Josh's invitation to add his experience working with engineers. Referring to himself as bragadocious, he was able to earn the trust and respect of the engineers working on tungsten applications by locating an INSPECT article from 1898.

David Shumaker is continuing to develop his SLA research grant by identifying models of embedded librarianship, reviewing applications of this concept in a variety of organizational settings. There are examples of this worldwide, but he is still interested in gathering more stories. He hopes to develop an evidence-based model to guide librarians considering this career path. Slides from his presentation and selected references are available http://embeddedlibrarian.wordpress.com/

Embedded librarianship is not that new a concept for specialized librarians. There were team librarians working on a power plant siting team in Michigan in the 1970's. It does mean working outside a "library" and in a more responsible role than a traditional responder to questions. It requires confidence and independence in the informationist and more subject area expertise, but the rewards and customer satisfaction can outweigh the isolation of working "outside".

Submitted: Barbara J. Arnold, UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator

Nanomaterials and the Environment

Summary of a Session from the SLA Annual Conference in Seattle, WA, June 17, 2008, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

"Nanomaterials and the Environment," was sponsored by the Environment & Resource Management Division and the Chemistry Division. It was sponsored by Elsevier, Inc. The featured speakers: Bettye Maddux, Assistant Director, ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative and Art Miller, Project Coordinator, NIOSH Nanoparticle Information Library were asked to talk about the challenges and opportunities in the developing green Nanotechnologies. Maddux works at Corvalis, OR at the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI.) This is a cooperative research effort supported by the OR State University, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Portland State University and the University of OR.

The field of nanotechnology is an area of applied science and technology at a very small product scale (under 100 microns). Nanoproducts have great potential applications because of their unique properties in optics, imaging, sunscreen, therapeutics, drug delivery and sensors. These products are being introduced to our environments in personal care applications to appliances. There are grave uncertainties for possible public health effects. Can these particles become toxic? Will they bioaccummulate? What are other environmental impacts that need to be considered?

The ONAMI consortium of scientists' is using the twelve principles of Green Chemistry that were developed in the 1980s. Maddux explained some of the key principles from these twelve: prevent waste; maximize atom economy; and design less hazardous chemicals. The applications are important in the development of new pharmaceuticals that can use less solvent in the manufacturing process, changing chemistry to cut wastes and thereby cut costs. The goals of nanotechnology are developing higher performance products that are cheaper, more convenient and greener. Working to get the chemistry right the labs hope to merge design, manufacturing and assembly to produce materials more efficiently. ONAMI has three broad research groups: 1) designing safer materials and testing in biological systems; 2) greener nanomanufacturing; and 3) interface particles for device applications.

One example is in the use of gold particles in bioassays. Previous model was dangerous and hazardous. Using the new nano method eliminates wasteful benzene in the manufacturing. The process is a lot cheaper. The purification process used to be washed in a solvent and now can use a filter in water resulting in very pure particles. Maddux went on to discuss other applications and concerns from the shape, size and charge of particles. She described it as an iterative process for designing greener nanoparticles. A nanomaterials effects database is being built to provide design strategies that can be used commercially. Work continues to develop techniques that will produce materials for useful manufacturing quantities like a microcapillary reactor that can be scaled up and a nanofactory that uses microreactor technology.

Art Miller indicated that his presentation was based on work by Chuck Geraci and Andrew Maynard for the Occupational/Health and Safety NIOSH Informatics Model. The library they are developing includes research and technology developments at the atomic molecular level (1-100 nm); creating and using these products; and control or manipulation on that scale. Micron particles are the size of some viruses. Nanomaterials are being developed now with an expectation of much larger operations by the year 2014. Questions related to engineering these products raises real issues about safety and minimizing risks. If for example unbound nanoparticles that escape during the manufacturing process, where do they go? There are lots of particles surrounding us in nature from forest fires, volcanoes, viruses and gases, but nanoproducts can be smaller and more complex. There are questions related to surface chemistries, are they soluble or insoluable; what is the size and structure of the surface? There are no metrics in place yet to measure or regulate the particles that are being produced. Are there risks? Some studies have indicated there might be implications for toxicity, lung fibrosis, cardiovascular inflammatory effects and concerns of the uptake of metals in brain cells.

Small particles sizes can create inflammatory reactions at much lower doses. These small particles can be inhaled and translocate to the liver faster. If workers are exposed there is almost no way to measure the mass of the particle and body reactions may be very different. Miller went on to describe some new technologies for monitoring and filtering work environments which hold promise for the future. Risk characterizations must still be modeled and estimated so NIOSH can make recommendations for interventions and new occupational regulations. The NIOSH website (http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/) has a Nanotechnology topics page (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/) for more information on this emerging area. The "Nanoparticle Information Library," (http://www2a.cdc.gov/niosh-nil/index.asp) is a database that Miller is compiling on particles and health and safety information. His time and resources for building this resource are unfortunately limited so there is a lot of work still to be done for NIOSH and the EPA. Developments in this arena may be important to monitor for the future's public health.

See also the National Research Council of Canada, "NRC Newslink", Summer 2008, ISSN 1913-1607 for more information on Nanotubes and funded nano projects.

Reported by Barbara J. Arnold, UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator from her notes taken at the conference.

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