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Asian Chapter Award Winner Conference Report

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U.S. Department of State. Some words by Mr. Powell left a deep impression on my mind, for example, "We had to change because we are in a new world- in a world of information explosion- information that needed to be turned into knowledge, and it was time to catch up with technology." Yes, when change happens, (and when does it not?) information professionals and future librarians must remember to think about how to adjust their new roles in a time of great opportunities.

The INFO-EXPO in the exhibit hall was the place where I experienced the latest technologies, tools, and services from the top companies in the information industry. Many databases of exhibitors like Dialog&ProQuest, EBSCO, ERIC, JSTOR, OCLC, Springer and IEEE are commonly purchased by most libraries of universities and institutes in China to support academic research. Walking among the booths I noticed that an increased focus on real-time and near-real-time information which indicated that eventually all kinds of information will need to be updated instantly. Therefore, the information professionals should also be prepared to be at any inflection point right now.

The four days' trip in DC was interesting and meaningful for me as it was not only my first time to visit the U.S. but also to attend such a big conference. It was wonderful to talk with the nice people at both the Science & Technology Division Business and Awards Breakfast and the Asian Chapter Breakfast Meeting. I was proud of being part of this great organization and the excellent information professionals helped me gain the confidence that librarians are charming, knowledgeable, helpful and important.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the SLA Science & Technology Division and the Asian Chapter for giving me this great honor and for making this trip possible, even in the tough economic climate. Thanks to all these people who looked after me so kindly, especially to Sheila Rosenthal and her husband, with whom I enjoyed interesting sightseeing and delicious western meals, and to Scott Davidson, who helped me with the arrangement of the trip and also gave me valuable advice for my future career.

This experience of attending the SLA Centennial Conference in Washington, D.C. will become an invaluable treasure of memory to be cherished in my life. I am looking forward to meeting you in China some day in the future! ❖

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by P.K. Jain
Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, Delhi, India

Special Libraries Association (SLA) organizes an annual conference every year in different parts of the world since 1909. This year was the 100th year celebration of SLA. It is a great opportunity for library and information science professionals to attend this wonderful conference and network among professionals.

I am thankful to all who supported me to attend the SLA conference. I first got an opportunity to attend an SLA conference in 2000 in Brighton, UK and this is the fourth SLA conference which I attended. I would like to attend more SLA conferences in the future.

Inaugural Session

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, during the inaugural session. Many awards were also given during this session.

Science-Technology Division Breakfast Business Meeting

This is the first time I got the chance to attend the Science-Technology Division breakfast business meeting on 15 June 2009 at 7:30 am. I never saw such a wonderful division in my life. This was a great opportunity for me to interact with the division board members and other distinguished members.

I am very much thankful to the Science-Technology Division, Special Libraries Association to award me the Bonnie Hilditch International Librarian Award and give me a chance to attend the 100th SLA conference in Washington DC, USA. Special thanks to Pam Enrici Chair, Sci-Tech Division and Sheila L. Rosenthal, Award Chair for this award to me. I feel very much honored to receive this award. During the conference, I met many old professional friends

as well as new friends. This is an excellent platform where we can meet and exchange ideas with the eminent personalities in the field of Library and Information Science.

The Science-Technology Division is a very wonderful group of information professionals. I attended its breakfast meeting and I am very much impressed with the professionals of this division. I have learned a lot. It was a great moment in my life when I received this award.

Presidential Citation Award

I also received the 2009 Presidential Citation award. Stephen Abram, Immediate Past President, gave this award to me during the International Reception at the Embassy of Zambia on the evening of 15 June 2009.

Australia and New Zealand Chapter Meeting

I also attended the Australia and New Zealand Chapter Meeting on 14 June 2009 at 7:30 a.m. at breakfast. I met many members of this beautiful chapter and I am very much impressed with them.

Asian Chapter Meeting

The Asian Chapter meeting was organized on 16 June 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Hyatt Hotel. About 30 professionals attended this meeting. The Asian Chapter has been recognized as the fastest growing chapter of SLA, as its membership has been increased about 3 times within the last eight months. This is the first time about 25 professionals attended the SLA conference from Asia. Janice Lachance, SLA CEO, Linda Broussard, and many other SLA officials also attended this meeting. There was a discussion about the achievements and future plans of the Asian Chapter.

Sessions

I have attended several sessions and gained knowledge. Some of the papers were very interesting and useful for my skill development. Some of the techniques and services I learned and came to know from the conference could be used in my libraries, which I feel is the direct benefit out of the conference.

Info-Expo

Info-Expo is the place where exhibitors display their latest products. It provides the opportunity for us to interact with them. It was nice to see more than 400 exhibitors displaying their latest products.

Open Houses

During the conference I attended many open houses, like those of the B&F Division, S&T Division and IT Division. I found it's very useful especially for networking with professionals. During the open houses I met many intellectuals and professionals in the field of Library and Information Science.

Washington DC

Washington DC is a very beautiful city. I visited many places in Washington DC including the White House, Washington Monument, US Capitol, Library of Congress, National Mall, museums and many more places. I loved this city very much. I also spent 3 days in New York after the conference and visited Times Square, Statue of Liberty and other places in New York.

Suggestions

My suggestions are that every library and information science professionals should attend the SLA conference at least once in their professional career and if possible attend as many times as they can attend. The SLA conference is such a wonderful conference which is never seen in other conferences around the world. I would suggest that fellow professionals should try in their organizations to request funds for travel grants and, if needed, they can also approach SLA Divisions and Chapters for travel grants. Info Expo is that place where we can see the latest technology in our field. It is really a wonderful conference which starts from 7:30 a.m. and continues until 11:00 p.m. ❖

Winners of the Sci-Tech Division Free Student Memberships Contest
Thea Allen, Chair, Student Relations Committee

The Student Relations Committee of the Sci-Tech Division conducted a contest for LIS students to win two free SLA memberships (including affiliation with the Sci-Tech Division and a chapter of their choice). The contest invited current LIS students to come up with some creative ways that the Sci-Tech Division could engage with library/information science students who are looking forward to a career in sci-tech librarianship. Our winners are **Laura Wynholds** and **Andrea Richeson**. Laura is currently in the MLIS program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Andrea is a student at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information, pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Studies program for Information Architecture & Design.

Some of the fun and exciting ideas sparked by the contest are as follows. Share these ideas, act on them, blog them, and build upon them:

Start a joint student/librarian community via a blog

- Invite/recruit a collection of students from different programs across the country to contribute posts and comments

- Invite/recruit a collection of current librarians to contribute posts and feedback as well, acting as colleagues and mentors(something akin to this, but less formal and more student oriented: http://digital-scholarship.org/digitalkoans/)

- While the proposal focuses on the idea of a blog, the function is building an online space for students to engage with SLA sci-tech students and librarians in a collaborative environment.

- Facilitate networking between ztudents and SLA sci-tech librarians (as future colleagues)

- Facilitate networking between students (as future colleagues) would give the students a chance to make a good impression on future hiring committees, through their writing, sharing current projects and ideas, demonstrating their involvement in the field, and ability to find and share resources.

- Act as a resource and net-working tool for less connected students at smaller schools

- Act as a communication tool for students and librarians so that they can be up to date on developments in the field

- Provide positive PR for the division

- Act as an outreach tools

Start a group twitter account

- Allows distributed postings or a regular account managed centrally that posts information about professional resources as well as information about conferences and events, scholarship opportunities, and job openings.

Facilitate other Web 2.0 ideas

- Develop an online wiki available to students and professional members that shares