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Science-Technology Division

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News from the Science-Technology Division

Science-Technology Division — Hilary Davis, Chair

The objectives of the Science-Technology Division shall be to draw together those members of the Special Libraries Association having an interest in the role of library and information science as applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all areas of science and technology, and to promote and improve the communication, dissemination and use of such knowledge for the benefit of libraries and their users.'

As I wrap up my service as Chair to the Science-Technology Division, I'd like to share some thoughts with you regarding (1) a reflection on our 2010 Division goals; (2) a look ahead to 2011; and (3) a note of thanks for the opportunity to serve the Division.

Reflection on 2010 Division Goals: You'll recall that our goals included a website facelift; member retention & engagement initiatives; reviewing division communication tools; and updating our logo, brand, mission and vision in accordance with the SLA Alignment project. The results of this work are as follows:

- Our division webmaster, Margaret Smith, is working with SLA HQ to work out the kinks with SLA's adoption of WordPress as the new content management service and website platform. The Sci-Tech Division is an early adopter of the new platform! If you're headed to the 2011 Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., you'll get to learn more about SLA's adoption of WordPress. Look for changes in our division website over the coming months!

- Thanks to the efforts of many folks from the Membership Committee, Public Relations Committee, and the Student Relations Committee, several member retention and engagement initiatives are underway. Did you notice the new Member Spotlight section in the last issue of *SciTech News* (learn all about our Professional Development Committee chair, Susan Shepherd)? Sarah Oelker, Chair of the Membership Committee, has been following up with folks whose memberships in the division have lapsed to investigate the reason for the lapse. She's also publishing a list of new division members in *SciTech News*. Led by Diane Foster, the Public Relations Committee is creating a new division brochure that outlines the benefits of being a member of the Sci-Tech Division.

- Chair-Elect Joe Kraus collected many ideas on topics for focused discussions on our division listserv. A day-long discussion focused on library spaces was conducted in April with a few participants. While our listserv tends to be leveraged mostly by members of the division's Executive Board and Advisory Council, there's potential for more interaction amongst our members via the focused topic discussions. On the other hand, the division made great use of our WebEx web-conferencing account (which has now been replaced by another web-conferencing service called DimDim) to support planning for conference sessions and committee projects, as well as a popular division-sponsored webinar (Twitter for Special Libraries).

- By now you've no doubt noticed the activities of SLA HQ to collect feedback on proposed mission, vision, and values for the association. While SLA hones in on how to align the mission, vision, and values across the various divisions and chapters, the Sci-Tech Division is reviewing its strategic plan to ensure that our mission, vision, and goals are current and relevant and will integrate with the outcome of the association's Alignment Project. To find out more about our division's strategic plan review, contact the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Sue Brewsaugh.

Looking ahead to 2011:

- As of January 2011, Joe Kraus will assume the role of division Chair, accompanied by Cheryl Hansen (Chair-Elect), Nevenka Zdravkovska (Treasurer), Lisa Johnston (Secretary), and myself (taking on the role of Past-Chair). I've had the pleasure of working with each of these folks over the past year and am very impressed with their leadership and commitment. Expect great things from Joe, Cheryl, Nevenka and Lisa!

- If you're planning on attending the 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, you'll

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want to pay particular attention to the slate of sessions that are being planned by the division's 2011 Conference Planning Committee, led by Joe Kraus. You can't beat a combination of sessions that includes the Science of Ice Cream, Forensics Basics Murder Mystery, Science and Engineering 101, Science 2.1, contributed papers presentation, and the many other excellent co-sponsored sessions.

- Following the success of the ToxNet webinar and the Twitter for Special Libraries webinar, the Professional Development Committee, led by Susan Shepherd, is planning for more convenient, affordable training for our members.

A note of thanks:

I am grateful to the support of the Sci-Tech Division Executive Board and Advisory Council members for their support, encouragement, hard work, and expertise. They made my job easier and made me remember why I joined this division in the first place.

- The Sci-Tech Division offers a great mentoring program for all members.

- We encourage the growth of our division by engaging with LIS students (e.g., offering the free student memberships contest every year).

- We recognize the expertise and valuable contributions of our members by supporting both monetary and recognition awards.

- We welcome the enthusiasm of members who want to gain experience by joining a committee and actively contribute to strategic initiatives (e.g., developing division brochures, planning conference programs/sessions, enhancing our website, conducting outreach) or by participating in our programming at conferences as speakers, organizers, moderators, audience members (such as the famous Science and Engineering Resources 101 series).

- Our *SciTech News* online-only publication (which spans multiple science divisions) and includes a peer-reviewed section keeps our members in touch with each other and gives a voice to our collective interests.

- The recent online webinars that we've conducted (which have been free to Sci-Tech Division members) offers opportunities for learning and networking in addition to our sessions and face-to-face networking events at the annual conference.

Thank you for an exciting year! Any and all who are interested in getting involved are welcome to get in touch with me and Joe Kraus. I look forward to continuing to serve the Sci-Tech Division in the coming years. ❖

Hilary Davis
hilarymdavis@gmail.com or
hilary_davis@ncsu.edu

Volunteer for the Sci-Tech Division

Interested in volunteering for a Sci-Tech Division committee or other project work?

Please send the following information to me (hilarymdavis@gmail.com or hilary_davis@ncsu.edu) or Joe Kraus (joseph.kraus@du.edu). The list of committees is available at: http://units.sla.org/division/dst/Officers/officers.html

Name:
Email:
Phone:
Organization:
Sci-Tech Division Committee/project interest:

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Science-Technology Division

Joe Kraus, Chair-Elect

I have been thinking about scholarly communication issues a lot lately. I have been reading many reports and articles concerning the future of libraries, the future of books, and the future of publishing and scholarly communication. Some of these reports are:

Report -- The ARL 2030 Scenarios: A User's Guide for Research Libraries (http://www.arl.org/news/pr/scenariosguide19oct10.shtml)

Report -- "Assessing the Future Landscape of Scholarly Communication: An Exploration of Faculty Values and Needs in Seven Disciplines" (http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/publications.php?id=351)

Report -- "Peer Review in Academic Promotion and Publishing: Its Meaning, Locus, and Future" (http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/publications.php?id=357)

Book Review -- "The Case for Books: Past, Present, and Future; Reading and Writing the Electronic Book. Synthesis Lectures on Information Concepts, Retrieval, and Services" (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.21434/abstract)

Blog Post -- "2515 Futurology: The Role of the Library in 500 years" (http://www.mazar.ca/blog/2010/10/30/2515-futurology-the-role-of-the-library-in-500-years-according-to-me/)

(I tag articles and reports like these at http://www.delicious.com/jokrausdu/future so follow along if you are so inclined.)

It was also Open Access Week recently (http://www.openaccessweek.org) and our library celebrated by helping to organize the Provost Conference. This year, the topic of the conference was "Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age" (http://portfolio.du.edu/provostconference). We were able to bring in many great speakers such as Heather Joseph from SPARC/ARL, Dr. Diane Harley from the University of California-Berkeley, and Jamaica Jones from the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

What does this have to do with special librarianship? The way research is conducted and the way those results are communicated to the public is changing. While scientists and engineers will always write journal articles, technical reports, and conference papers, they are also writing on blogs or sharing their thoughts on wikis. Concerning scientific data, the National Science Foundation will require researchers who receive NSF grants to provide a data management plan (http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp). Many scientists, engineers, librarians, and information technologists are working on the infrastructure for the curation of this data (https://wiki.internet2.edu/confluence/display/cidays/Home).

I am sure that we will be discussing many of these issues over the next year. The Sci-Tech Division will be sponsoring and co-sponsoring several sessions where these issues will be discussed. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2011 SLA Conference in Philadelphia where we can continue to discuss topics along these lines.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and a happy new year.

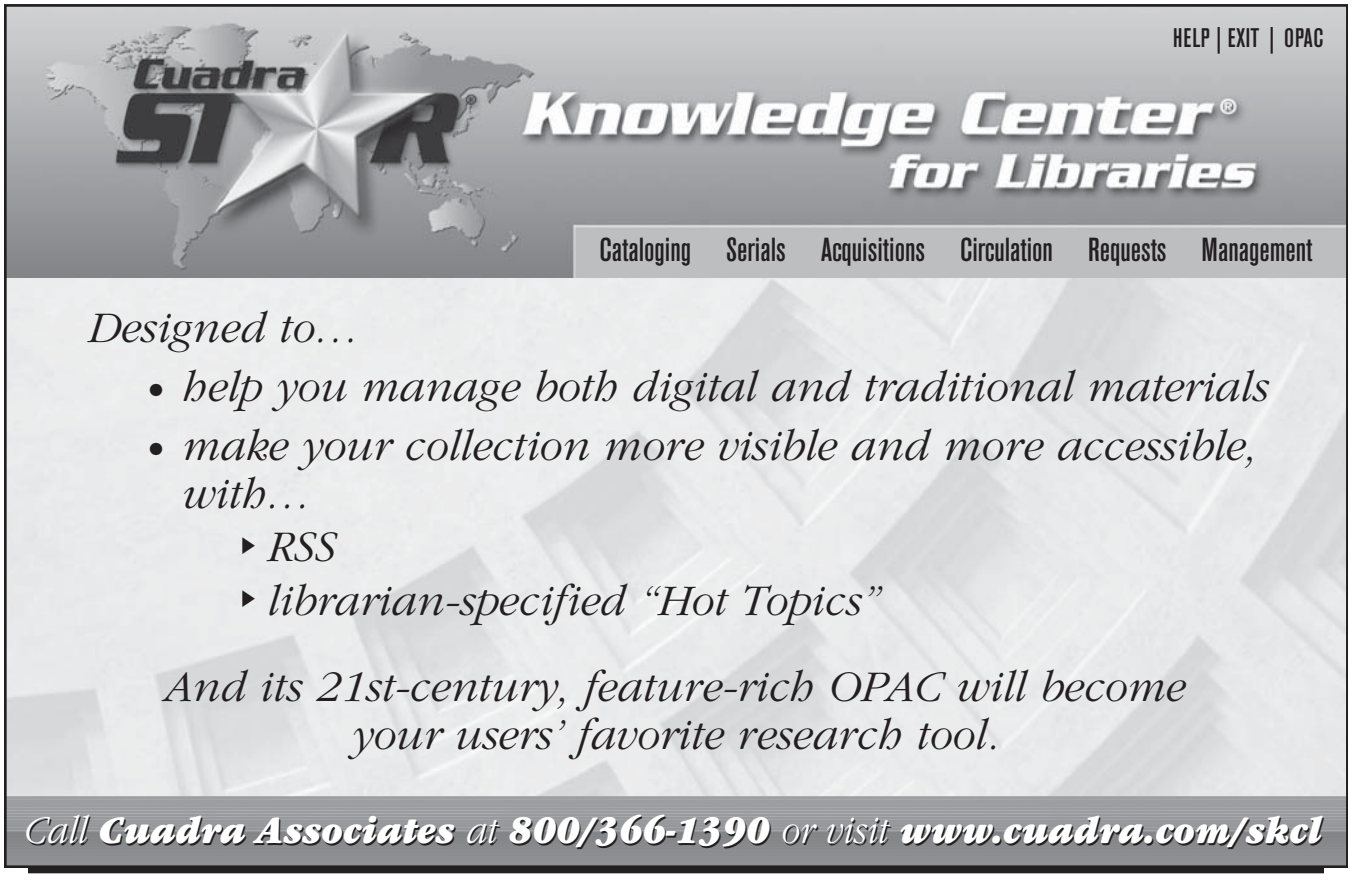
Best,
Joseph Kraus
joseph.kraus@du.edu ❖

Report from the Sci-Tech Division's Elections Committee

Submitted by Christine Whitaker, Chair, Sci-Tech Division Nominating Committee

I am pleased to announce that our Science and Technology Division Chair–Elect for 2011 is Cheryl Hansen. I am equally pleased to announce that Nevenka Zdravkovska is incoming Treasurer. Their terms will begin on January 1, 2011.

On behalf of the Elections Committee, I offer congratulations to both, and thanks to all division members who voted! ❖



Winners of the Sci-Tech Division Free Student Memberships Contest

Submitted by Thea Allen, Sci-Tech Division 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 should engage with library/information science students who are looking forward to a career in Sci-Tech librarianship. Our winners are Caroline Starbird and Andrea Kepsel.

Caroline lives in Denver, Colorado and Library Information Science is a career change for her. She always had an interest in science, but after graduating from Stanford University she ended up with a career in International Development and Education. In the past few years she became interested in how technology can connect people around the world, so she entered the LIS program at the University of Denver to learn how information systems are built. Caroline is interested in digital repositories and especially curation of digital scientific research data. Caroline is currently doing an internship at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado in Boulder. In particular, Caroline is interested in the metadata schema and database systems that provide the foundation for a digital ecosystem in which people from different fields and different geographical locations can share data.

Andrea received her bachelor's in molecular biology from Michigan State University in 2004. She then began working as a research assistant at Wayne State University. After spending time in two cancer biology labs she moved to her current position where she is studying the effects of blast-induced traumatic brain injury. After realizing that she is better suited to life outside of the lab, Andrea joined the School of Library and Information Sciences at Wayne State in 2008. She has slowly been taking classes while continuing to work full-time, and plans to graduate in the spring of next year.

Below are the winning ideas suggested by Caroline and Andrea. To see some of the other fun and exciting ideas sparked by the contest visit http://units.sla.org/division/dst/studentmembershipcontest.html. Share these ideas, act on them, blog them, and build upon them:

- Video blog, created monthly or quarterly, distributed to student members. Authors/creators of the videos will be professionals in the field with a wide range of topics covered, including current issue or challenges, advice, tours of the professional's library, or even a day-to-day synopsis of what life is like in the "real world."

- Online conference with students, professionals, vendors, and professionals in the fields that sci-tech libraries serve. Video chats can be used for a more personal environment, but also provide other ways for students to connect (such as chat services). Digital presentations and posters can be presented from both students and professionals alike, and papers can be shared.

- A student-only blog or listserv. This will allow students from all over to connect, share ideas and opinions, and help each other with problems.

- Have a student column in the *SciTech News* with alternating student authors. Students can share their class work and ideas on the profession. An expansion of this idea is to create a newsletter just for students.

- Create a SMS text messaging service that updates students to news and events.

- Sponsor a science librarianship week and have each student chapter hold some events during that week, with central support from the Sci-Tech division.

- Interview various people in the Sci-Tech Division, asking them to talk for 5 minutes or less about their jobs, and put those videos on the website. You could brand the page with the videos "Exploring Science Librarianship" or some other catchy name. Components of the program could include:
  - The video interviews on the website, starting with about four videos and adding a new one every two months or so during the year.
  - Organize real time video or audio conference calls with the people featured in the videos, so anyone on the conference call can ask questions. Archive the

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conference call so other people can view/hear it later.
- Feature science library related organizations and highlight some specific projects they are doing.
- Spotlight large foundations who are involved in the digital information space and how they are involved in the intersection of science data, research, and digital collections.
- Spotlight interesting sources/projects that science librarians are involved in, including projects such as Linked Data.
- Organize virtual field trips to a site somewhere in the world where they are involved in some interesting scientific research, and have those people talk about the data they are collecting, how they store it, and what they do with it. ❖

Science-Technology Division New Members

Submitted by Sarah Oelker, Membership Committee Chair, Science-Technology Division

Dhanukumar Pattanashetti
Bangalore
India

Yvonne Socha
Knoxville, TN
USA

Caroline Starbird
Englewood, CO
USA

Andrea Kepsel
Madison Heights, WI
USA

Matthew Smith
Urbana, IL
USA

Andrew Nelson
London, ON
Canada