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Aerospace Section

Amy C. Smith

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Aerospace Section

Amy C. Smith, Chair



The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information professionals concerned with aerospace, aeronautical and related technologies. In addition, it fosters dialog with entities such as NASA, the AIAA and other important sources of technical data and bibliographical services.

Welcome to 2007!

I was elected to be Aerospace Chair Elect-Elect at the Aerospace Breakfast in Baltimore this past year. Therefore I would have been Chair-Elect in 2007 and Chair in 2008, allowing me plenty of time to become accustomed to the Aerospace Section. Through circumstances beyond my control I have hopped, skipped and jumped a few steps and have become Aerospace Section Chair for 2007. Just after SLA 2006 Ginny Jarvis, Chair Elect 2006, had to resign her position due to a wonderful new career opportunity. The transition from Chair-Elect Wannabe to Chair has been very smooth and can be attributed to the wonderful pre-planning for Denver that Ginny Jarvis and Bob Tolliver, 2007 Engineering Division Chair, had done prior to my arrival on the scene.

Speaking of Denver, things to look forward to are: Tom Henricks, former astronaut and now President of McGraw Hill's *Aviation Week* speaking on how his career as an Astronaut prepared him for a career in the Information Industry; and the Aerospace Breakfast meeting where Edna Paulson, Principal Outreach Specialist for NASA CASI, will speak about the Aerospace Database and what it has to offer. And, let us not forget our two for one tour! You have the opportunity to tour the National Center for Atmospheric Research followed by lunch, a hike and a visit to the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. What more could you ask for on a spring day in Denver?

By the time you read this I will only have been Chair for a month and already I am sending out thanks to David Hook, past Chair, who worked really hard and has found the Aerospace Section a new Chair-Elect for 2007. Please welcome Kathryn Breiningner of The Boeing Company. If you are interested in nominating yourself or a colleague for Aerospace Section Chair-Elect 2008 please feel free to contact Marcia Rodney or myself. Many thanks also to Marcia Rodney for all her hard work and support in 2006, I am certain she will enjoy being Past-Chair this year. More thanks go to Kathy Nordhaus, Engineering Division Chair in 2006, for all her support, mentoring, fun and friendship.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Eileen Dorschner for offering to be the Mandel Nominating Committee Chair this year. Though it may be a bit late for 2007 nominations, please be thinking of potential nominees for 2008. If you have received the Mandel Award in the past, please also think of volunteering to be on the nominating committee.

I have a few other topics of personal interest that I would like to share with you. One is RSS feeds (Really Simple Syndication). Have you discovered these yet? I am a recent convert, having just started using them about 6 months ago. RSS feeds have opened up a new way to keep me up to date on so many different things. I use it to stay current in the news and on such topics as innovation, technology, what's new in books, vendors news, and what's happening in the profession. ALA is now offering an RSS feed (what's up SLA?). I am such a convert in fact, that while I was doing a usability study and was asked if I would use the email alert function, I said that I'd rather have an RSS feed. Who wants another email to deal with?

My other topic of interest is in having librarians/information professionals get involved in the organization of information. You may say "what?" we already do this; or isn't that the definition of a librarian/information professional? My reply to you would be "could have fooled me." If you work in a library, yes, to a certain extent you do organize information (especially you catalogers); or perhaps you organize and synthesize information for a client. But what about taking a wider view? Your skills are in high demand. Don't leave the issues of knowledge management, records management or the retention of corporate knowledge in the hands of IT. They may know how to build it, but do they know how to organize it? If you are already working on these issues I would love to hear about your work.

Looking forward to seeing you in Denver! ❖

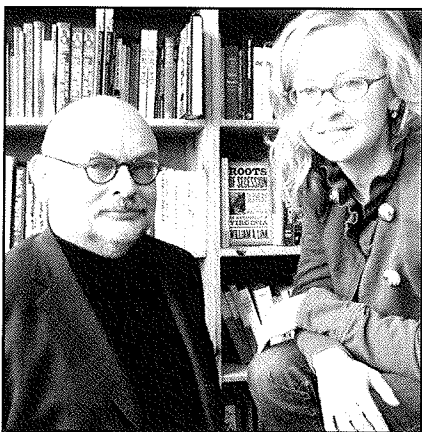
Amy C. Smith
Chair, Aerospace Section

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