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Aerospace Section

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AEROSPACE SECTION OF THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

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 bibliographic services.

FROM THE CHAIR



The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division is nearly established. As of writing this (on January 15) 52 petition statements have been faxed to me and

forwarded to Dorothy McGarry for review. Christine Kennedy at SLA headquarters is having the list of names verified as members. All former Aerospace Division members were transferred automatically to the Engineering Division when the merger took effect January 1. Once the Section is established, all former Aerospace Division members automatically will be made members of the Section. There is no extra charge for Section membership.

Along with the petitions, a scope note, which had been approved previously by the Engineering Division Board, was included. Its wording closely follows the scope note of the former Aerospace Division, which is published in the SLA Directory. The Aerospace Section scope note states: "The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information

KATHY HARKNESS

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 bibliographic services." (Approved at the Winter Meeting--*ed. note*)

Since the Aerospace Section will need a chair-elect to succeed Mary Ellen McMurtrie when she becomes chair in June, Dottie Moon and Marjorie Pearson have agreed to handle the duties of locating one or more candidates to be nominees. The primary duty of the chair-elect is to work with other Engineering Division planners to arrange programs for the next annual conference. If you are interested in volunteering for this position or to help Mary Ellen with membership, public relations or other responsibilities next year, please let Dottie, Marjorie or Mary Ellen know.

Conference Planning Activities

The only event the Aerospace Section is sponsoring for the Seattle Conference is a tour of the Boeing Everett Plant followed by a visit to the Boeing Technical Libraries on Thursday, June 12, 1997. There were several sessions the Aerospace Division was co-sponsoring, but Aerospace Section sponsorship was either dropped or taken

over by the Engineering Division. In addition, the Aerospace Section is co-sponsoring two social events, in conjunction with several divisions, partly due to the ample funds of the former Aerospace Division treasury, which is now part of the Engineering Division treasury. When your preliminary program arrives, you will find many interesting sessions and events that are of interest to the aerospace community.

Status of Travel Funding Support Ideas

In a previous column, I mentioned that the Aerospace Division Board had discussed possibilities for offering financial assistance to help some division members, who would not otherwise, attend annual conference. While our intentions were good, we learned that, with the merger underway, we were honor-bound to preserve the Aerospace Division funds intact and to transfer them to the Engineering Division. The balance in the Aerospace Division treasury was one of the factors Engineering Division members took into account when voting to approve or deny the merger. Once the Aerospace Section is established, I will bring our ideas to the Engineering Division Board for consideration.

T-Shirts Still Available

If you would like a free t-shirt with the Aerospace Division logo, let me know. I'll be sending out the 15 or so that have been requested by the end of January. You can phone me at (206) 234-4792 or send an email note to harkness@atc.boeing.com (that address will be changing to

katherine.r.harkness@boeing.com but I am not sure when.)

Aerospace Section Will Have Breakfast Meeting

Due to the requirement to meet before the Engineering Division has its annual meeting, we will be having our annual meeting at the Seattle annual conference on Monday at 7:30 a.m. The AIAA and DRI/McGraw-Hill have generously agreed to help underwrite the breakfast, and we are grateful for that support.

I am hoping to see you in Seattle ... and for breakfast on Monday.

COMMENTS FROM THE SIDE CAR* BY DON WELCH

* "Side car -- an airship car suspended, at an angle, away from the centreline plane of an airship"
Jane's Aerospace Dictionary

Finances...And Funding

The watchwords of 1996 were, at least financially, "little change". That's because, first, little changed for the division financially. Second, the finances of the division, though up and down, were better at the end of the year than at the start of the year, clearly letting us clear a little change.

In 1996, the division closed the year with \$16,652.76. In 1995, the division finished the year with \$16,264.75. That means that the division reported to the SLA that it had \$288.00 in 1996 that it didn't have in 1995.

Account-wise, the division had
 \$3,559.28 in checking
 9,112.43 in savings
 3,981.05 for the GMMA
 for a total of \$16,652.76.

Only \$750.00 was contributed in the last 12 months to the division, though. Five hundred dollars of that is a donation the AIAA has made already for use in Seattle. The rest was \$250.00 NERAC sent the division early in the year for the conference in Boston.

The majority of funding the division received was from the SLA. The association sent us \$1,806.00. That was the division's share of dues collected from members. Faxon also sent \$250.00 to help fund the GMMA.

Spending centered on conference related fees and expenditures ... and the many ballots printed, mailed, and counted for the numerous elections and votes that were required in 1996. Conference related fees were \$877.45. Printing, mailing and counting ballots cost \$659.73.

Interest earned in the savings account was \$180.69. Interest earned in the George Mandel Memorial Award account (GMMA) was \$108.54.

Ready To Serve

Looking for help? Maybe somebody to whom you can bounce an idea or two? Or, somebody who can tackle a question or problem that's got you buffaloed? Well, look to members for that help. You can on the Aerospace Division (now Section) listserv. There are members on the listserv who might know exactly where to go or whom to ask for the answers you need.

Through January 15, the division /section had 155 people and/or organizations registered as members of the listserv. That is an increase of seven over the 148 who were registered six months ago in June. That's also almost the same number on the listserv a year ago when there were 160.

To join or subscribe to the listserv, which is hosted and maintained by the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Program Office, members should send an email message to:

listserv@sti.nasa.gov

that says in the text: subscribe sla-aero
 <yourfirstname yourlastname>

The subject line of the message needs to remain blank.

An example of this would be:
 subscribe Sally Ride

A confirmation of the request will be sent to you by email.

Once you are a subscriber then you can send email to everyone on the listserv by sending email messages to:

sla-aero@sti.nasa.gov

The messages will go automatically to all subscribers. The listserv is unmoderated.

Papers, Boys

The AIAA Technical Information Committee will hold its sixth program on the production, transfer, dissemination, use, and management of scientific and technical information (STI) at the 36th Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit in 1998.

In existence about 10 years, the committee also is broadening and redefining the scope of its activities and looking for ways to reinvigorate

committee membership and participation. Previously, the committee was involved almost solely in organizing a technical papers session at the Aerospace Sciences Meeting. Now, under the chairmanship of Manjula Ambur, the committee is looking again at the original scope of the committee, which was to promote the development of aerospace scientific and technical information services and resource identification. That resulted in limiting membership on the committee primarily to information professionals. End-users, i.e. aerospace engineers and scientists, are being invited to participate now ... even in writing papers.

Papers for the 36th meeting should address at least one of the following:

1. the application of information technology to the production, transfer, and use of STI, including database development, retrieval systems, and information analysis tools.
2. the use of the Internet to retrieve and disseminate STI.
3. the information seeking behavior of aerospace engineers and scientists.
4. the planning and development of STI products, services, and systems.

Appropriate topics include, but are not limited to: digital libraries; full text databases; electronic journals; web and searching tools; Internet resources; multimedia and image databases; user interfaces; electronic publishing of scholarly research; intelligent search-and-retrieval tools; engineers, productivity and desk-top access to STI; research productivity and use of STI systems and databases.

Send three copies of an abstract/manuscript, by May 16, 1997, to:

Manjula Y. Ambur
Information Systems and Services
Division, NASA Langley Research
Center MS157, Hampton, VA
23681-0001

In 1997, the papers presented at the 35th Aerospace Sciences Meeting were:
--"Desktop Access to Full-Text NACA/NASA" / by M. Ambur and D. Adams of NASA

Langley and P. Trinidad of Computer Sciences Corporation. (AIAA-PAPER-97-0467)

--"The Use of Aerospace Journal Citations in the Collection Management Process" / by K. Jordan of Pennsylvania State University. (AIAA-PAPER-97-0468)

--"Where and How Do Engineers and Scientists Learn to Use and Create Scientific and Technical Information" / by J. Jourdain of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, M. Von Seggern of Washington State University, and J. Dean of the Phillips Laboratory at Kirkland AFB, NM (AIAA-PAPER-97-0469)

--"A CFD Technical Exchange System for Code Validation Concepts" / by L. Rodman of Nielsen Engineering and Research in Mountain View, CA (AIAA-PAPER-97-0470)

Straight Aero...an opinion

Like thousands of people before me (or professionals, if you like) I rely on the work of those who preceded me to help build the future.

Think about it - many of the processes and machines we use today, not

only at work but at home, were tried and tested for us by pioneers. We likewise help (even if only by validation after the fact) with the trying and testing of processes and machines that will be taken for granted in the future.

Do you think the Internet ever will be taken for granted? Probably so, I say.

Recently, while looking for something on the Internet that I can't remember at the moment, I discovered <http://www.nlr.nl/public/lib/> This is a site created by the NLR or National Aerospace Laboratory in The Netherlands. Some of you probably have been in it. I hope you have. I found something, though, that I would like to share with you.

What I found was a report on a workshop entitled "Improving International Exchange of Aerospace Information", held April 24, 1996, in Amsterdam. According to the report, there were six papers presented there that were stimulating individually but also collectively colossal.

They were:

"STI Publications via Aerospace Databases or Internet -- Library Unemployment or New Activities" / by W.F. Wessels of the NLR "Scope, Coverage and Major Sources of Aerospace and Aerospace Related Information" / by John Harrington of Cranfield University in England

"Metadata Formats and Standards - A World Wide Web Perspective" / by Karen Kaye of the National Science Foundation in the U.S.

"Emerging Use of the Internet and Its Impact on Obtaining Aerospace and

Aero-space Related Information" / by Marian Bremer of Bolt Beranek & Newman of the U.S.

"AGARD Initiative of the International Aerospace Information Network Working Group" / by Gladys Cotter of the National Biological Service in the U.S.

"Operation of an Information Center with Current Technology" / by Sybil Bullock of the Redstone Information Center in the U.S.

Most of the papers were available for download (and were readable with Adobe Acrobat) but all were not. Still, each had at least an abstract. And ... the topics were interesting and topical.

Actually, there are a lot of places to find similar kinds of things ... which are interesting and topical. They also relate to aeronautical and aerospace information. I just happen to have a handful of sites you might find interesting. (Some are good as of January 1997; some of the others I haven't visited recently.)

Let's see, there's:

<http://www.awgnet.com/awst> - which is the www for *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. You'll need a password to get to the stuff that's good.

<http://www.afit.af.mil> is the site of the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology, which has a lot of stuff that it sends to us from time to time on loan

<http://www.afmc.wpafb.af.mil> is to the U.S. Air Force Material Command (and can get you to more, too)

<http://voyager.paramount.com> is the site for information on Star Trek Voyager, the television series (Sorry, I couldn't leave it out.)

and finally there's
<http://techreports.larc.nasa.gov/ctibin/NTRS>

All of these, as well as many you know that aren't here, are worth the time to visit and use when the need is right, which is where you and I enter the picture as librarians. Hopefully, we know when the time is right to try a site. Assuming that's true, then we get the information patrons want, and we contribute to building the future, at least from a technical contribution standpoint.

We can contribute, too, by commenting on the effectiveness of sites ... and lack of the same. We should try to make whatever comments are relevant to the webmaster or domo, etc. That way they can use the input to improve the page or list or whatever for everyone.

Sometimes it's the little things, or a little change, that makes the future bright.

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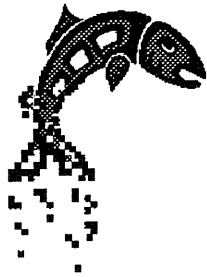
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