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## Aerospace Section

Kathy Harkness

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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

**KATHY HARKNESS**



We in the Northwest are looking forward eagerly to the Conference in June and wish we could see all of you there. Maybe

even at a tour of Boeing, where I work. But, since administration would let us only offer a tour of the Everett factory to 45 people, and since we expect the tour to fill quickly, I'd like to tell you how you can take the tour on your own. Tour information can be obtained by calling (206) 544-1264. The Gray Line (at 800-426-7532) also offers a 3 1/2 hour tour of the factory at 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The tour, which begins at the convention center, costs \$34.00 and must be paid in full at the time of reservation. No refunds or exchanges are allowed, either.

For those interested in libraries, the Technical Libraries at Boeing will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, June 11, and Friday, June 13, if you are unable to join the tour on Thursday afternoon. Attendance is by prior reservation only. Please call me at (206) 234-4792 to let me know when you plan to come and whether or not you are a U.S. citizen.

On an entirely different note, I've begun to explore what would be involved in updating what most of us know as the Criss Cross Directory. And, after posting a note on the Aerospace Section listserv about the possibility, I received several responses with suggestions and encouragement. I intend to continue investigating the question in the hopes of tackling the project. Some other Boeing librarians have indicated they'd like to see an update, too (and I interpret that to mean they'd volunteer to help!). I'll report later on more complete findings. We are fortunate that Sandy Moltz and Mitzi Rinehart, who worked on earlier versions, are able to contribute important knowledge about the project, as well as several librarians at NASA. They will be hearing from me, since I still have many questions.

I also have Aerospace Division t-shirts left, though primarily in sizes small and medium. If you forgot to request one, you can email me at: [atkatherine.r.harkness@boeing.com](mailto:atkatherine.r.harkness@boeing.com)

I'm going to be handing out whatever is left at the Aerospace Section breakfast in Seattle. Please plan on joining us at 7 a.m. Monday, June 9 (even if you don't want a t-shirt). The breakfast is being sponsored in part by AIAA and DRI/McGraw-Hill, and we appreciate their assistance very much.

I have learned a great deal serving as Aerospace Division/Section chair this year and have enjoyed working with many new people. I'd like to thank everyone who generously shared their time and knowledge to help me accomplish what I have. It hasn't been as much as I'd hoped, but I plan to continue to explore the possibility of updating the Criss Cross Directory and to help bring to a vote of Engineering Division membership a by-law change authorizing some funds to be used in support of Chair and Chair-Elect travel to conferences.

I would like to thank Sandy Moltz, Dottie Moon, Don Welch and Charles Lord especially for their help and abiding commitment to our profession. In closing let me add that if you have ideas for our Aerospace Section I urge you to communicate them to Mary Ellen McMurtrie and volunteer to help in some way.

Otherwise, I hope to see you in Seattle in June.

Kathy Harkness

Due to surges of energy in the publish-or-die-o-sphere, which eased memories and created emptiness where there used to be the promise of output, the name of the recipient of the 1997 George Mandel Award has been placed in a location of isolation and secrecy...so that it can be protected from the wantonness and volatility of the energies of News That's Not News Anymore. The winner of the award will be announced in Seattle at the Engineering Division/Aerospace Section business breakfast. Come eat, see and learn.

**T-NOTE...by the Treasurer**

Two of the accounts with which the Aerospace Division, now Section, did business have been closed, pursuant to the agreements of the former Aero space Division and the Engineering Division with which it merged. The funds from those accounts have been sent to the Engineering Division treasurer of 1997, Kelly Yuille, and have been deposited. The total of those funds was \$13,188.71. The Aerospace Section retains one account with which it intends to grant stipends to members to attend the annual conference. This fund, which will finance the granting of the George Mandel Memorial Award, had \$3,505.89 in it as of March 31, 1997.

## INDY ON THE MIND

By Mary Ellen McMurtrie

Sometime before the holidays, I promised you an update, though short, of things that happened at Mid-Winter, as seen through the eyes of a chair-elect. Well, I've been to Mid-Winter now and I'm ready, as chair-elect, to tell you about planning for annual conference in Indianapolis in 1998. So, read close.

If this is the part about being an officer that keeps you from saying yes to serving as chair, think again. It was lots of fun. I think the scariest part of planning is thinking you have to volunteer or originate all of these neat ideas for a conference that's a year and a half in the dim, dim future. Well, it's not that bad, as anyone who has held office will tell you. All the division chair-elects meet with the conference committee for Indianapolis twice. The first session is, or was in Fort Lauderdale, more of a briefing from the host city - Indianapolis - on what it has done, and is going to do, in providing the conference committee with information on the city. During the second session, we actually got down to working on ideas and writing them down for consideration. The format used to do this was to tape large flipchart paper on the walls around the room. Then, ideas were written on these, with a mark added next to them of the divisions interested in any of them. By the time we were finished, we had approximately 53 ideas on paper ... and probably more in our minds. We have spent a lot of times since January firming up these ideas with other divisions.

Some of the ideas that really were hits were:

digital libraries (and the many visions of what they are will probably spawn more than one program)  
knowledge management  
new roles for libraries in an organization (with focuses on training, document management, and maybe more) electronic serials -where they are and where they are going  
collection and/or cooperative development in the electronic age  
global copyright  
alternative careers  
site snapshots from the world wide web on the sciences

Ideas I have received since I went to Mid-Winter include:

a talk by a futurist on scenario planning and how we, as librarians, can help customers with this  
a talk by an aerospace industry expert on where the industry is going in the next 20 years  
a program on competitive intelligence searching techniques and basics-- for people who are used to doing scientific and technical information searches  
a report on the research of Tom Pinelli- on the information use of aerospace engineers and scientists  
an update on the Aerospace Database

Even though I have forwarded these new ideas to Betty Hicks, chair-elect of the Engineering Division, I am willing to take more. If you have an idea, I'd like

to hear from you. You can write me, call me, or email me. Take your choice at:  
Honeywell Avionics Library (HAL)  
9201 San Mateo Blvd.  
Albuquerque, NM 87113-2227  
(505) 828-5378  
mcmurtr@p05.dasd.honeywell.com

#### **WHOM TO NOMINATE OR NOT TO NOMINATE**

**By Dottie Moon and Marjorie Pearson**

Fulfilling the duties of the Nominations Committee for the Aerospace Section in 1997 was easy in comparison to the years prior to this. One of the major effects of us changing from a division to a section of the Engineering Division is that we no longer have as many offices or tasks to fill or fulfill. In fact, for this year, as we learn to function as a section, the committee was asked to nominate a candidate for just one position, chair-elect, Aerospace Section. The chair-elect, though, will have numerous responsibilities, and we had to look for a dynamic individual to take the job.

The nominations committee is pleased to report that Don Welch of Bell Helicopter Textron has agreed to run for chair-elect, Aerospace Section. Don has been a member of the SLA since 1985, and joined the Aerospace Division in 1987 when he began working at Bell Helicopter as a Librarian. Don is now a Senior Librarian at Bell. The first SLA office he held was as editor of the division's column in *Sci-Tech News*, a position he has held continuously since 1991. Don also has served as Treasurer from 1993 to present and has worked on a couple of George Mandel Memorial

Award committees as well as helping to rewrite the bylaws in 1995. He holds memberships, too, in the American Library Association, the American Helicopter Society, and with the American Helicopter Museum.

The election of a chair-elect will be held at the business breakfast meeting in Seattle on Monday, June 9. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time, providing the candidate put forward provides his or her consent. The incoming chair-elect will join 1997-1998 chair Mary Ellen McMurtrie and 1997-1998 past-chair Kathy Harkness on the board.

#### **FROM THE SIDECAR**

**By Don Welch**

Sometimes, somethings just don't register with me. Or, me with them, sometimes. I'll admit it. But, I still consider myself fairly adept and purposeful at learning what I need to know, even when it doesn't come quickly.

I do need a reason to learn, though. If I have an interest in something, then there's not a problem in getting motivated to grapple with complexity or uncertainty. If someone I respect asks for help or support in a project than I get focused quickly on understanding what I need to know to help them. I guess what all of this means is that I can be enticed personally into stretching myself above and beyond positions or places I've found to the edge of the envelope for me.

These are the thoughts that came to mind recently when I got to thinking about the listserv we have. Originally,

the idea of e-mail and "using the Internet" were kind of scary, just like using a PC in library school to get into Dialog or BRS and do that first search. I didn't know but what I'd do something to make the system self-destruct. Then, bells and whistles would sound and the MPs - media police - would come and take me away and take me to a corner in the basement and make me contrive Cutter numbers for the rest of my life.

Well, nothing like that ever happened, or has happened since I got onto the Internet and begun to use e-mail. E-mail, actually, has become something I anticipate, like ILLs from the Library of Congress. I love getting, and sending, e-mail. Most of the time I also prefer sending e-mail to making a telephone call, particularly when I'm calling someone at a government agency or a large company.

Deciphering and staying patient with the messages and choices I have to make just to put myself in contact with someone who probably is at the photocopier anyway is hard, hard, hard for me to do. With e-mail I can send a message that goes directly to the person I want to see it. He or she then can respond just as they would to a message I left on a recorder.

That's why I celebrate the fact that we have a listserv for the section. It appears to be growing, too. Three months ago there were 155 persons and/or libraries registered as users. Now, there are 163.

And, since I'm talking about SLA listservs, I want to mention the one in operation now for folks interested in or going to the conference in Seattle. Some of the folks in Seattle have been sending the rest of us tidbits and hints about the area, hotels, and transportation, and they (the tidbits) are fabulous ... as are the people.

If you are interested in either of these, and are not members now, you can register for membership in seconds. To join the section listserv send an email to "listserv@sti.nasa.gov", with the subject line blank, and the following as the body of the text - subscribe sla-aero [YOURFIRSTNAME YOURLASTNAME].

A confirmation of your registration will be returned to you by email. Then, if you want to send a message to everyone on the list, you do that by addressing it to "sla-aero@sti.nasa.gov"

To join the listserv devoted to the conference in June in Seattle, send an email to "listserv@sla.microsoft.com", with the subject line blank, and the following as the body of the text - join Seattle97. You will receive a reply from the listserv with instructions on how to send messages and how to unsubscribe when the conference is completed.

I've registered for both of these, of course. And, never regretted it. See, sometimes I can get myself to register quickly on something. And, I even find it easy to do.

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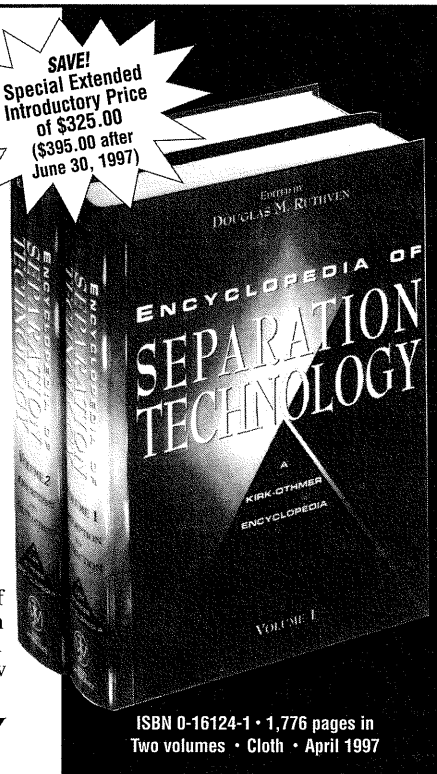
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