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Aerospace Division

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AEROSPACE DIVISION

The objectives of the Aerospace Division are to encourage the free exchange of ideas and information between libraries and librarians who are directly concerned with aerospace technology and related sciences; and to maintain a dialog with NASA and other governmental agencies upon whom we rely as sources of technical data and bibliographic sources.

FROM THE CHAIR

MITZI RINEHART



The Annual Conference in Boston, June 8-13, is approaching rapidly. I cannot encourage you enough to attend this conference. It's the highlight of the year for me. It's when

we can all get together and play catch-up. Opportunities abound, too, for career development, new product introductions, meetings with vendors, networking with friends, and meeting new members. Sandy Moltz has arranged, rather thoughtfully I think, to have a tearout schedule of division activities in this issue for us, too. It's going to help me, I know, to make plans for conference.

Don Welch and Sandy Moltz, despite their workloads as solo librarians, deserve special thanks from all our members for their hard work on our behalf—Don as editor and treasurer and Sandy as program planner. Eileen Dorschner also has gone above and beyond the call of duty this year running two elections and canvassing the membership three times with ballots. Our division could not have survived without their help.

During the past year many of you have taken advantage of the Division listserv to let your officers know what your feelings are about possible merger activities. Thank you. Your input was very helpful and greatly appreciated. Based on the feedback we've received, Kathy Harkness and I met with the Engineering and Sci-Tech Division chairs at the mid-winter conference to discuss merging with one or the other of them. Both chairs have given us encouraging input. Still, the merger survey ballots must be processed and counted before any further action is taken with either the Sci-Tech or Engineering divisions. Since I lack the ability to forecast the future, I don't have any idea what your votes have been on the merger question. So, attend the business meeting in Boston, if you can, because that's where the merger will be discussed again. If you have not responded on the listserv or particularly taken the time to vote yet, we have no other choice but to take that as an indication that you are too busy to get involved or care.

This has been an interesting and hectic year for me, just as I'm sure it has been for most of you. Still, I've made a lot of new friends and learned a lot about the Special Libraries Association as well as the Division. I want to thank everyone for their continued support and help they have given me this past year. See you in Boston.

MUTINY AND THE BOUNTY

By Don Welch, Treasurer

The treasury remains solid, with \$18,000.00 available in Division accounts in March. That's what is going to be reported to the SLA, and the Division, in Boston. We are fine, fine, fine financially, even considering we haven't paid for Boston yet.

What we need to consider soon, though, is where are we going to find funds in the future for division activities, whether we're a division or not. That's because it's the consensus of those involved in soliciting donations and/or sponsorships from vendors this year that it is getting harder and harder to get vendors to contribute to the activities of divisions, particularly when you consider they get asked for money from a lot of divisions—27 or 28 or so.

Funds not only seem scarce, but there's just as many of us—divisions—competing for them as there ever have been. To me, it seems that the vendors have responded to this by making donations at the Association level rather than the division level. That's why it is significant, I think, to recognize the folks who have donated to our division activities this year. They are, if you didn't know, the **AIAA**, **NERAC**, **FAXON** and **Carroll Publishing**, which has agreed again to underwrite the publication of our division directory. Thanks, guys ... and gals.

Sandy Moltz, of course, has a project on the table that could raise us funds for quite a period. That is an index of where AIAA papers are published as journal articles. She and the AIAA have talked about how we should proceed on this, but the project has stalled there because Sandy needs help in identifying (or cross-referencing) exactly when and where the

papers were republished. Anyone interested in helping her with that?

Some of the vendors which have become sponsors at the Association level this year are **AT&T**, **LEXIS-NEXIS**, **Dun & Bradstreet**, **Moody's Investors Service**, **Disclosure**, **Ameritech**, **Knight-Ridder Information**, **EBSCO**, **Information Dimensions**, **Majors Scientific Books**, and **Readmore**. Thanks should be given to these, too, who have said yes to getting involved.

LISTEN ... WE'RE LISTENING

Got a hankering to tell somebody of your visions or dreams for your library? Or maybe about problems? Successes? Well, tell your peers on the Division listserv. Or, ask us your toughest reference question?

Members who wish to subscribe to the list, which is hosted through the auspices of the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Program Office, 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 header should be blank.

An example of this would be:

`subscribe sla-aero Sally Ride`

A confirmation of the registration will be sent to you via email.

Once you are subscribed, then you can send messages to everyone in the division by addressing, and sending, the messages to:

`sla-aero@sti.nasa.gov`

The listserv does not have a moderator, so messages will be distributed to everyone who is a subscriber. Interestingly, the division had 150 subscribers late in March. That's exactly 10 less than it had in November 1995.

Assuming all of these are members of the division (which I'd hesitate to believe) then five of seven division members are subscribing to the listserv.

ON SEATTLE, MERGER

By **Kathy Harkness, Chair-Elect**

Preparations are well under way for exciting programs and activities at next year's conference in Seattle. At the program planner's meetings in Cleveland, OH, in January, many ideas generated enthusiasm for things to discuss and teach. Thanks to those of you who suggested topics for us to consider. In fact, we wound up with many more ideas than we had time to fill. So, we'll be combining a lot of related topics with others. A partial list of some of the topics that have been approved follows. If you have suggestions for speakers on any of these, please notify me at: HARKNESS@ATC.BOEING.COM. I'll be looking forward to welcoming you to Seattle.

Now, here's the list I mentioned above:

- Pacific Rim information sources
- Java tutorial (or a next generation equivalent)
- Managing the virtual information center on a global scale
- Outsourcing
- Serials pricing/access to information versus ownership
- Contemporary collection development in science and engineering
- Internet applications / integration / economics
- How do management consultants evaluate libraries?
- Sustainable transportation
- Dealing with change

I'd like to add here some of the comments I made earlier in the year on the possibility of us merging with another division. I originally made them on the listserv, and those of you who are subscribers probably have seen them. I wanted to make sure everyone sees them, however.

Due to the need to have SLA headquarter's help in tracking Aerospace Division people when there is no longer an Aerospace Division (assuming that's what happens), then I think a section within another division (rather than a roundtable) is the preferred way to go.

If you look in *Who's Who in Special Libraries*, 1996, on pages 56-57 and pages 299-301 you will see how the Information Technology Division has visibility on which of its members are interested in which topics and who the leaders of one of the sections is. I could find no mention of roundtables at all, because to the Association, roundtables are invisible.

With the trouble we've had finding volunteers to lead the Aerospace Division, the likelihood that some roundtable volunteer will help us keep track of each other and recruit likely new members is slim. Certainly we are fortunate to have a listserv, but there will be no effective mechanism that I can see for recruiting new "prospects" to the Aerospace Roundtable or for informing them about the existence of a listserv.

The existence of an Aerospace Section would provide a way for new people to know that a subset of aerospace industry librarians exists.

There may be arguments to refute this (if so, someone please say so), but it seems to me as long as we are a section, it won't matter which division it is with which we merge, and there have been a number of

logical choices that have been mentioned here on the list in the past.

I also want to say that I've heard some retirees are hoping to save the division, as a division, by volunteering their time to keep it going. That may be merely a rumor, but if it's true, it's a very generous and thoughtful offer. However, I think it's important that the primary leaders of a division be employed in the industry, particularly in these days of such rapid change.

We will see comments on the proposed Aerospace Division status change in forthcoming issues of *Sci-Tech News*, and Mitzi will be sending you a ballot to get your opinion on a merger. I urge everyone to return it, whether or not you already have publicly expressed an opinion.

While I'm at it, I'd like to request that everyone who is willing to help volunteer some time to keep the Aerospace Division going for one more year until we can merge with another division (assuming that is an agreeable option to the majority of members), PLEASE LET ME KNOW!! From the example of the merger of the Petroleum and Public Utilities Divisions, which just has been accomplished after two years of effort, we know we need to have member involvement to keep us going for at least another year.

GMMA RECIPIENT QUITE A "FELLOW"

The George Mandel Memorial Award committee is pleased to announce that **Stan Elman** will be the recipient of the award this year in Boston. Though retired from Lockheed, Stan has been as busy as he ever was in 35 years of librarianship. In the past couple of years (since retirement), he has helped to automate the Polish National Library in Warsaw (as a Library Fellow of

the American Library Association) and has taught at the library school of the University of Warsaw (as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer).

Stan is a longtime member of the SLA and was a chair of the Aerospace Division in 1981-82. Some of that time will be recounted in Boston when he summarizes a recent paper he wrote for the division. This will be at the second Aerospace Division board meeting which is at 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 11. Entitled "International Networking, Involvement and Responsibilities for Information Professionals", the paper will be published later either in one of the SLA journals or on the division listserv.

The GMMA is awarded to a division member who has furthered the profession and/or division either in service or in publication. A \$500.00 stipend to attend the annual conference is awarded with the recognition, and FAXON helps the division meet that obligation.

STRAIGHT AERO

By Don Welch

I'm from an age when a "homepage" was my Mom standing on the porch calling me home to supper.

So, I don't know if I'm ready, either spiritually, mentally or technologically, for the coming age of information access and transfer. True, I've been excited by my forays onto the Internet and into the world of cyberspace, but I just can't help but feel that something is getting left unjustly in the wake of the juggernaut that technology has created. You will not find me, however, not using what I need to serve my patrons. If they need something from the electron tornado that's sucking up the good and the bad that's out there, then I'm going to plunge into it and try to find whatever it is.

That's why I'm glad some institutions and agencies are letting us know where we can find some of the things that we need. NASA recently let me know, again, by email, flyer and bulletin, that it was going to have a homepage with many of the goodies on it that all of us need. It even gave me the address for that—<http://www.sti.nasa.gov>

Others have, and do, announce "creations" like this all of the time. The AIAA recently publicized that it was going to have a homepage, too, at <http://www.aiaa.org> And, I'd be remiss here if I didn't mention that SLA has one, too. It recently announced that it was putting a homepage online just for information on the Boston conference, and this is at <http://www.cybercom.cet/-sla/>

This is good for all of us, of course ... if we are online with the Internet. Do you know that I saw recently where a writer predicted that conferences were going to be held on the Internet? Yep, he used an example of one being scheduled for chemists already as the basis for the prediction. Can you imagine conferences like ours in Boston being done via the Internet ... and not getting to go to Boston? I just don't know about that. I don't like packing and unpacking that much, but I don't mind being in Boston if that's where everyone else is going to be.

Do you think we'd get to vote on something like that? Maybe David Brin, a science fiction writer and scientist of whom many of you have heard, will have something to say about this and similar topics in Boston. He is to speak to us about "Libraries and the Flow of Information" on June 10. Having written and spoken much about the value of information, information technology, privacy, information overload, and copyright, David has thoughts on

change that we should experience in person.

Change is, of course, all around us. You've heard from others much more astute than I, and you've heard it for much longer than I've realized it or possibly been alive. Change is simply what fuels industries, and we serve those industries, don't we?

Speaking of change, I was looking at some of the older *Sci-Tech News* I have, and I saw quite a bit of change between them and the ones we see today. The earliest ones I have are thinner than the ones we get now. And, that's just the first thing I noticed. The typefaces also were different, and the layouts were different. The editor, of course, was different and so were some of the features. But, I liked *STN* back then, and I like it now. Change isn't bad. It's inconvenient, sure, and possibly uncomfortable, but it isn't bad.

One thing I noticed that hadn't changed from that time was the name of our Division. I'd forgotten this, but back when I was new to the division there was a suggestion to change its name that was discussed for a number of issues in *STN*. I was so new and unfamiliar with the division I guess I decided to stay on the sidelines for that. I don't have any memory of getting involved at all.

I realize now, particularly with the issue of a merger on our agenda, that I should have gotten involved enough to know what prompted someone to raise the suggestion. I remember now, after having a little time to think about it, that I didn't want to get involved because I basically didn't have anything invested in the Division. I realize, too, that that was a mistake. That's because if I, and many others like me, didn't get involved, then the question would be settled by a handful

of people. Just like the question of a merger might be decided this year.

What I guess I'm trying to say is that it's time for everyone to get involved. Every member of the division needs to get involved in this question of a merger.

Get involved by reviewing what has been written and said already, and then talk

to others in the division whom you respect. Subscribe to the listserv, if you haven't already, and air out what you think. Then, vote. The division needs your input now.

Another way of putting this, I guess, is to say this is your division "homepage"—you're being called home for a count of hands.

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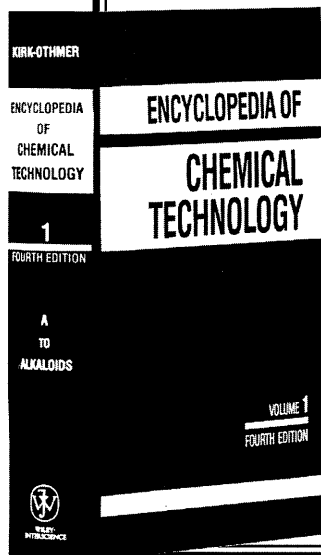
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BOSTON JUNE 9-13, 1996
AEROSPACE DIVISION AND MAJOR SLA SPONSORED EVENTS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
6:45 a.m. - ? Early Morning Bird Walk	9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. General Session Speaker	9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Locating Government Resources on the WWW
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Conference Registration	10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Electronic transmission of SGML	10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Visit the Exhibits
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exhibits Open	12 noon - 1:15 p.m. Aero Div. Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon	12 noon - 1:15 p.m. Professional Women in Engineering
		1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Designing Your Web Site
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Aero Div. Board Meeting	3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Standards Roundtable	3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Aero Div. Board Meeting
	9 p.m. - 11 p.m. Reception/Hospitality with Military, Sci-Tech and Solo Divisions	7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Reception at the New England Aquarium with Bio, ERM, ITE, Mil, NUC, & Trans Divisions

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. SLA Annual Business Meeting	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Field Trip to MIT Libraries, MIT Media Lab and Lotus Development Corp. Library
1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Internet to Intranet - Strategy for the Future	
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Boston High Tea — relax and enjoy some tea and treats	
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. SLA Awards Reception and Banquet	NOTE: Be Sure and Check the Final Program for Any Changes

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