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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



One of the best things about getting involved with division activities is seeing how members work together to get things done. You and I both are dependent on the efforts of these people, and I thought I would share some of the behind the scenes work that is going on.

Don Welch, Sandy Moltz, and I are working on a revision to our by-laws. We are removing all sexist language, adjusting sections that do not reflect current ways we do business and adding sections on the George Mandel Memorial Award and job descriptions. Division committee chairs and officers are helping with this effort by writing a description of what their positions encompass. All of this will go into our membership directory so that we have one place to find out about how our division works.

Dorothy Gannon, Kitty Scott, Norm Brackett, and Barbara Lawrence are working together to coordinate our 30th anniversary celebration, which we will

## DOTTIE MOON

hold at the next annual conference in Montreal. Other Aerospace Division members helping to make the Montreal conference memorable include--Tom Tipsword, Mala Sistla, and Don Welch, who are working to secure vendor support; Margaret Gross, who will be moderating a session called "Technology Transfer"; and countless others who allow me to bounce programming ideas and speaker names off them to get their opinions.

Sandy Moltz is getting together a host of volunteers who will be working to develop an index of AIAA papers. Karen Holloway and the AIAA will be assisting as needed. This is an important project for the division as it will be a tool that many of us can use, and it will be a new revenue source for the division.

A new Government Relations Committee Chair has been found--Kevin Rosseel. He'll be keeping us up-to-date with activities in Washington. Take a few minutes to read his article in this issue as he has lots of good info for us.

Lola Kimbro (Membership) and Margie Pearson (Networking) have both responded to requests/questions from members. Lola is working to keep the directory accurate, and Margie has lent assistance to members needing help with our listserv.

This is just a quick review of what we're doing--my apologies to any members who are working on division business (GMMA Committee, for example) that I have neglected to include in this column...

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS NOTES**

**By Kevin Rosseel**

Greetings! As you might expect from recent news stories, Washington, DC, is alive and well, with a lot of progress being made on the information frontier. Federal information policy is constantly changing ... the Administration is working to plug Americans into the Info Superhighway ... and information managers, commonly referred to as "cybrarians," are coming into their own in policy circles, finally getting acknowledged as experts on how information works.

From a vantage point here in Washington, I'd like to provide some random (and some not-so-random) insights on the government relations front. With society's increasing awareness of the power of information, we can expect to see relations between information professionals, the federal government, and all of our respective "customers" improve significantly in the near future. And now, here's what's happening ...

### **UPDATE FROM AMERICANS COMMUNICATING ELECTRONICALLY (ACE)**

Since the first days of the current Presidential Administration, I have participated in an exciting organization called Americans Communicating

Electronically, also known as ACE.

This group, which started with a few federal information managers bandying around "reinvention" ideas, is now a burgeoning association of staff at federal, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and coalitions, libraries, public and private universities, and individual citizens.

ACE members are working together to further the goals of the Administration's National Information Infrastructure (NII), and hope to make government information as publicly accessible as possible. Whether you work inside the federal government or outside, your input is welcome -- and this particularly means librarians and other info providers!

Among ACE's goals is the provision of public information to individuals without computer access, largely through a network of Citizen Participation Centers in local communities. These centers will build on ongoing local efforts such as community free-nets, extension offices, Small Business Administration offices, Social Security offices, post offices, etc. One very successful pilot featured the use of a network of over 3100 Cooperative Extension Service offices to gather information about public access for the White House.

ACE products available via Internet include updates and core documents about the National Performance Review (see below); health information; data and reports from various federal agencies; and MORE!

To get on the ACE "mailing list," send the following one-line (all lower case) command to [almanac@es USDA.gov](mailto:almanac@es USDA.gov):  
**subscribe ace-mg.**

Once a subscriber, you automatically receive information about specific information products, ACE's gopher site, and other late-breaking news as it happens.

Elsewhere, with a flourish of new Executive Orders, legislation, and customer-focused initiatives, the federal government is methodically reinvigorating itself. NetResults, a growing network of people working together to help reengineer government, is one of those venues.

NetResults was created last fall to develop team-based approaches to implementing the National Performance Review, thereby creating a government that "works better and costs less." Because change leaders and teams require good information to make good decisions, NetResults is committed to providing useful information to anyone who wants to help reinvent our government. Many in the aerospace industry, and others, who have experienced downsizing, reengineering, and reinvention first-hand, now can exchange advice with the organization, which has information available on the Internet providing news on the reinvention of government -- on innovations, reinvention labs, NPR reports on specific areas, Executive Orders, and other items of interest.

If you have Internet e-mail, you can obtain NPR/NetResults materials by sending an e-mail message. To obtain a list of materials available via Internet e-mail, send a mail message to:

**almanac@ace.esusda.gov**  
with the following text: send netresults catalog

You will receive a return message containing a catalog of documents and instructions for obtaining any of the documents via electronic mail.

NPR and NetResults materials, including the report "Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less: Status Report 1994", can also be found at various gopher locations, including ace.esusda.gov, a gopher sponsored by Americans Communicating Electronically (ACE). From the ACE Main Menu, choose:

Americans Communicating  
Electronically/National Performance  
Review Information/For more  
information about reinventing  
government, contact:  
NetResults Phone: 202-632-0150  
National Performance ReviewFax:  
202-632-0390

Office of the Vice President  
netresults@npr.gsa.gov  
750 17th Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006

#### NOTES FROM NASA

In late July, NASA began distributing press releases via e-mail. To subscribe to this new service, send an electronic mail message to domo@hq.nasa.gov. In the message, type:

**subscribe press-release**

The system will reply with a subscription confirmation. A second message will include additional information on the service.

Additional information is available, too, from an anonymous FTP server at ftp.pao.hq.nasa.gov under the directory /pub/pao. Users should log on with the user name "anonymous" (no quotes), then enter their e-mail address as the password. The /pub/pao directory includes a "readme.txt" file explaining the directory structure.

For further information, contact Peter Ford, Operations Manager, Geosciences Node, NASA Planetary Data System at pgf@space.mit.edu.

### ACQUISITION REFORM

In the spirit of "reinventing government," Congressional staffers are working on an initiative to streamline the federal procurement process. A bill has been developed that would cut down on paperwork required to bid on federal contracts, by which government agencies purchase more than \$200 billion in goods and services annually.

The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, a bill supported by the Department of Defense, would simplify federal contracting rules and procedures, and could significantly improve the ability of the Pentagon, and other departments, to run their purchasing operations.

This legislation, if enacted, would phase in a Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET) within five years, allowing agencies to distribute contract solicitations by computer, and then accept bids or conduct electronic auctions. Availability of FACNET would improve upon (and perhaps render obsolete) existing procurement information resources, such as the

Commerce Department's *Commerce Business Daily*.

For those who work in the aerospace industry, passage of the legislation would provide another opportunity to work with procurement managers in streamlining a key business activity. Trackers of this legislation expect action on the bill before Congress recesses for Thanksgiving.

### FREE GAO REPORTS

The U.S. General Accounting Office, one of Congress's watchdog agencies, regularly produces reports at the request of Congresspersons seeking greater government accountability. Frequently, the reports indicate trends in federal government -- issues that may affect the aerospace industry -- and just about any other industry sector.

Single copies of GAO's informative reports and testimony are available free of charge by writing to:

U.S. General Accounting Office  
Post Office Box 6015,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015.

Orders also can be placed by telephone at (202) 512-6000 or by fax at (301) 258-4066.

Recent reports that may interest you include:

"Airlift Requirements: Commercial Freighters Can Help Meet Requirements at Greatly Reduced Cost", report order number GAO/NSIAD-94-209, July 11 (15 pages).

"Airport Improvement Program: The Military Airport Program Has Not Achieved Intended Impact", GAO/RCED-94-209, June 30 (36 pages).

"Aviation Insurance: Federal Insurance Program Needs Improvements to Ensure Success", GAO/RCED-94-151, July 15 (20 pages).

"Aviation Safety: FAA's Assessment of Pre-Flight Service Technology Options", GAO/AIMD-94-173BR, June 20.

"Commercial Practices: DOD Could Reduce Electronics Inventories by Using Private Sector Techniques", GAO/NSIAD-94-110, June 29 (56 pages).

"Defense Conversion: Capital Conditions Have Improved for Small- and Medium-Sized Firms", GAO/NSIAD-94-224, July 21 (11 pages).

"Defense Industry Consolidation: Issues Related to Acquisition and Merger Restructuring Costs", testimony by David E. Cooper, Director of Acquisition Policy, Technology, and Competitiveness Issues, GAO/T-NSIAD-94-247, July 27 (six pages).

"Electromagnetic Fields: Federal Efforts to Determine Health Effects Are Behind Schedule", June 21, GAO/RCED-94-115 (54 pages).

"Environmental Cleanup: Inconsistent Sharing Arrangements May Increase Defense Costs", GAO/NSIAD-94-231 (14 pages).

"Military Airlift: Comparison of C-5 and C-17 Airfield Capability", July 11, GAO/NSIAD-94-225 (14 pages).

"Overhead Costs: Costs Charged by McDonnell Douglas Aerospace's Space Station Division", GAO/NSIAD-94-150, June 23 (10 pages).

Environmental Protection Agency headquarters to make information more readily available, please contact me at (202) 260-3715, or at [rosseel.kevin@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:rosseel.kevin@epamail.epa.gov).

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(Kevin Rosseel is a Public Affairs Specialist with the United State Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC.)

### **TERRIFIC TEES**

Division T-shirts, with the division's logo on them, are available for \$15.00. Adult sizes of small, medium, large, and extra large are available. Send a check or money order, payable to "Aerospace Division, SLA," to:

Don Welch  
Bell Helicopter Textron  
Engineering Library, MS 1302  
P.O. Box 482  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

and specify sizes and return addresses.

If you have any questions about federal information initiatives, or would be interested in what we're doing at

### GMMA ... DEADLINE NEARS

Applications for the George Mandel Memorial Award are being accepted now through the end of December. The award not only honors a current member of the division for his or her activities, but it also honors George Mandel, a member of the library community for 30 years. He was chairman of the Aerospace Division in 1977-78 and, as a project chair, also was the driving force behind the compilation and publishing of the NASA Criss-Cross Directory of NASA N Numbers to DoD AD Numbers. The sales of this have provided the division with its major source of revenue for years.

George, however, was killed in a van accident on Highway 180 near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on July 16, 1989. At the time he was Chief of the Technical Information Services Division at NASA Lewis Research Center.

The GMMA was established in 1989 by the division as a tribute to George. The Faxon Company has agreed to be the corporate sponsor of it in the amount of \$500.00 per year. The division acknowledged in approving the award that it will preserve George's enthusiasm and goals for the division, as well as his beliefs that participating in professional organizations is important to an individual's professional growth and development.

The George Mandel Memorial Award has been established by the Aerospace Division and sponsored by the Faxon Company to provide financial support to qualified Aerospace Division members to enable them to participate in the SLA annual conference or winter meetings. The Faxon Company is awarding \$500.00 to the recipient.

Application for this award is open to all SLA Aerospace Division members who have been members for three consecutive years and who are members in good standing as of January 1 of the year the award is given.

Application or nomination can be made for oneself, or another Aerospace Division member, based on the criteria which follow.

To qualify for the award, the applicant must do one of the following:

- 1.) During the previous or present year published an article in library literature
- 2.) Be a speaker or panel member (but not a moderator) or present a paper at the SLA annual conference.
- 3.) Have actively participated in and/or significantly contributed to Aerospace Division activities
- 4.) Made significant contributions to the profession through place of employment or publication.
- 5.) Received an award for outstanding service from their employer in the aerospace industry

Application or nomination should be made by contacting the chair of the awards committee by January 1 of the year the award is given. The chair of the committee this year is Dorothy Gannon. She is at Creare, Inc.; P.O. BOX 71; Etna Road; Hanover, New Hampshire. 03755. She is also at (603) 643-3800, (603) 643-4657 for faxes, or dag @ creare.com for e-mail.

All applicants will receive notification of award status by February of the same year in which the award is given.

The George Mandel Memorial Award will be administered by the Awards Committee. This committee will be formed at the annual business meeting. The committee will be composed of five members--the Chair-Elect, Secretary, Past Chair, and two volunteers at the business meeting. The committee members will select their committee chair, and all committee members will serve a one year term. Others members of the committee this year are Tom Tipsword of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Eileen Dorschner of MIT, Mala Sistla of Lockheed Aeronautical Systems, and Don Welch of Bell Helicopter Textron.

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(The article which follows is being republished here for members of the Aerospace Division--Editor)

### **DIVORCE HITS AEROSPACE DATABASE; NASA AND AIAA SPLIT UP**

One of the oldest alliances in the database industry, the joint support between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) that produced the Aerospace Database, has dissolved after some 30 years. The Aerospace Database, available from DIALOG (File 108 for users in the U.S.), supplies abstracts for open literature in the multidisciplinary field of aeronautical and space research. Coverage encompasses journal articles, books, conference proceedings, unclassified government publications, unclassified government contract research reports, etc. For decades, NASA has had a sole source contract with the AIAA that supported

production of the database, as well as internal NASA access. NASA contributed unclassified copies of abstracts for merger in the database -- material covering U.S. and non-U.S. government-performed or government-contracted research, as well as international material acquired through agreements with NASA. NASA contributions appear on their own in NASA's Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports (STAR) database available on NASA's RECON search service.

NASA had programs underway to investigate life without their AIAA partner as far back as 1991, according to some sources. When the five-year contract ran out in mid-1993, NASA did not renew beyond a few months. Instead, they announced plans to handle open literature internally with help from contractors. However, as of yet, no RFP or sole source contract has been released. In fact, in December 1993, the NASA headquarters directed the NASA Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program to stop acquiring, abstracting, and indexing open aerospace literature for the first six months of 1994. Coverage of classified and unclassified report literature, the traditional core of NASA's collection procedure, continued. To access current open literature, NASA staff and contractors would have had to switch to AIAA's commercial Aerospace Database or an array of other databases.

NASA STI staff argued that a breach of coverage extending six months could not be repaired without tremendous expense. Open literature constitutes as much as 65 percent of the previously merged NASA/AIAA



database available on the low-cost RECON service, according to some estimates. NASA STI managers hoped that regional NASA centers and RECON searchers would request NASA headquarters to reconsider their decision. They also hoped the international aerospace community, whom they consider an important constituency, would make their voices heard. At present it appears that the open literature procurement process has revived, but slowly, as NASA headquarters staff still debate the degree of negative impact from cancellation. AIAA's last offer, however, has been rejected.

Neither NASA nor AIAA is talking about what led to the split-up. However, in this era of tight budgets, NASA might have found footing the bill for production of a database from which AIAA made most of the money for spin-off products a little too generous, particularly when the arrangement did not go through a competitive bid process. Multidisciplinary files like Aerospace Database originated in a different era of information tools. They may be more vulnerable in an era when computers can link databases and searching processes across files across continents, as well as across tape drives in a system. For example, AIAA currently suggests its users apply DIALOG One Search procedures to link NASA STAR material in NTIS (DIALOG File 6) with their own material (File 108). By the way, some of the NASA N-documents from STAR include non-U.S. government reports.

#### Meanwhile Back at AIAA

The AIAA quickly resolved that the loss of NASA support would not deter them from their responsibility to provide open literature coverage of international aerospace research. AIAA has decided to continue uninterrupted coverage of open aerospace literature through its databases without NASA assistance. AIAA had bibliographic coverage programs in place before NASA existed, according to Barbara Lawrence, head of AIAA's Technical Information Service (TIS). Apparently they don't intend to let this setback interfere with doing their job.

AIAA continues to publish their print product, *International Aerospace Abstracts*. Since January only IAA records appear in Aerospace Database. Report literature from NASA's Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports (STAR) material is no longer added, though past STAR listings remain in the file. AIAA will establish an advisory group to investigate innovative products and services.

When we spoke to Barbara Lawrence, she reported that the crisis was bringing out the best in the staff. In fact, she described the process as frightening but fun, with the force of the challenge and freedom from government red tape bringing a burst of energy and enthusiasm throughout the staff. A few scant months after the end of NASA support, AIAA TIS has undergone a complete restructuring. No one is in the same job as before, according to Lawrence, and most job descriptions have been redesigned. By summertime

Lawrence expects to have her entire team trained on all tools and the full array of literature. With the new freedom they hope to find imaginative new products and redefine old products.

New products will involve more partnering with other information providers and co-marketing efforts. Minimizing duplication and establishing smooth, automated work flow procedures is another outcome of the new environment. One of AIAA's primary goals is to recover the part of the file formerly supplied by NASA. No announcements as of presstime, but AIAA was clearly investigating alternative suppliers--from NTIS' NASA collection to the European Space Agency. Lawrence hoped that the current atmosphere would improve in time. AIAA looks forward to serving NASA as a customer and building improved amicable relationships in mutual support of the international aerospace information user community. "It should be a friendly parting," said Lawrence. "After all, we have the children to consider."

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