

August 1989

Aerospace Division

Lynn Ecklund

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Recommended Citation

Ecklund, Lynn (1989) "Aerospace Division," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 3 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol43/iss3/8>

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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

Congratulations to our out-going Chair, Dawn Villere, for helping to stage a terrific affair in the Big Apple! NYC is a dynamic and exciting city — the perfect setting for an annual conference focused on “User and Information Dynamics: Managing Change.” Approximately 60 Aerospace Division members were present at the conference, a good representation for a “small division” in an expensive city!

Our division sponsored a well received panel presentation: “Online Problem Solving in Aerospace and Defense.” Presentations were given by Judy Hedden (Predicasts), Judy Fair-Spalding (Dialog), Jay Gast (Jane’s Information Group), Scott Trover (USNI), Paul Ryan (DTIC), Ron Buchan (NASA), and Lynn Ecklund (AIAA). Each presenter approached a main topic to show how their particular database contributed specific information to help develop a complete information package on the subject.

The Aerospace Division also co-sponsored a program with Chemistry, Engineering, Metals/Materials, and the Nuclear Science Divisions on “End-User Training: Views from the Association, Corporate and Academic Perspectives.” This program focused on information products (e.g. online databases, CD-ROM’s, audiovisual sources, etc.) and the various strategies planned or in place to train end-users to use these products.

Over 250 exhibits provided a variety of useful information about new developments in products and services for the information community. The exhibits were spread out between the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels and received lots of attention from conference goers over the four days of the conference. I enjoyed meeting many of you while working in the AIAA booth in the Hilton exhibit hall.

Judging by all the empty plates and bottles, the shared open house with the Engineering Division, sponsored by AIAA, NERAC and Mead Data Central was a huge success. The food was great, and the atmosphere was condu-

cive to meeting new people as well as catching up with old friends.

Plans are currently in the works for next year’s conference in Pittsburgh. Mark your calendars for June 9-14, 1990 for the 81st Annual Conference, “The Information Professional: An Unparalleled Resource.” Pittsburgh has seen a tremendous revival during the past 20 years and is located in a scenic area bordered by the Ohio, Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers. The area offers the wide variety of educational and recreational resources expected of a world class city. Preliminary planning for Aerospace Division Conference activities has already begun, and programs promise to be exciting and informative. If you have any suggestions for programs and/or are interested in working on them, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

I would like to thank the AIAA/TIS (American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics/ Technical Information Service) for their gracious support for my term as Chair. I have been working under contract with the AIAA/TIS since 1985 as their Western Region Marketing and Training Representative for their various products and services, including the Aerospace Database. My time with AIAA/TIS is in addition to my role in Seek Information Service as Vice President, and the support of the AIAA/TIS is sincerely appreciated!

Lynn Ecklund

Annual Business Meeting

The annual SLA Aerospace Business meeting was called to order June 14, 1989 at 7:30 a.m. by Dawn Villere, Chair. She reported that as of May 1989 membership totalled 279 members for the division. This was an increase over 267 members the previous year.

Aerospace sponsored activities were summarized:

Panel: “On-Line Problem Solving in Aerospace and Defense”

Program: "End-User Training: Views from the Association, Corporate and Academic Perspectives" (co-sponsored with Chemistry, Engineering, Metals/Materials, and Nuclear Science Divisions).

Open House: Co-sponsored with Engineering Aerospace Division sponsors this year were NERAC, a computer search firm, Mead Data Corporation, and AIAA.

Julia Keim, Treasurer, reported that the SLA loan to cover the \$7500. Invoice for printing the *Criss-Cross Directory* has been repaid in full. Due to sales of the Directory and Translations, the Division is financially stable with a balance of \$10,000. For full details, see the Treasurer's Report.

Mitzi Rinehart, Nominating Chair, reported election results for 89-90:

Chair Elect: Phyllis Fischer

Secretary: Kay Salm

Treasurer: Ellie Rieter

Minutes of the last business meeting were read and approved. Kitty Scott, of the SLA Board of Directors, congratulated the Division on financial improvement.

George Mandel, Special Projects, provided a status report on the *Criss-Cross Directory* sales. For full details, see report.

Ralph Lewis announced the development of an AIAA Technical Committee on Technical Information. An objective of this committee will be to draft an AIAA position paper on "Access to Information." A roundtable will be held in Southern California on February 6, 1990 to discuss electronic publishing and address initiatives being pushed by DoD. He asked the Division to assist in contacting potential participants.

Tom Pinelli, NASA Langley Research Center, reported on research in progress to better understand knowledge diffusion and the flow of information. Phase 1 involved a survey of AIAA members on how they get information. Phase 2 will involve a survey of information intermediaries to determine their role in information diffusion. Phase 3 will address Aerospace undergraduate and graduate students and information.

George Mauter announced availability of a publication of aircraft drawings which he compiled from his personal files.

Mitzi Rinehart recommended a directory of Aerospace Division member libraries be compiled. The motion carried and she will head the project.

Sandy Moltz recommended a Union List of Periodicals be compiled. She also suggested the name of the Aerospace Division be modified to include Defense and Aerospace Librarians. No motion was made on either suggestion.

Dawn Villere turned over the Chair to Lynn Ecklund for 1989-1990.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Betty Tyson for Ellie Rieter**

Aerospace Division Officers & Committee Chairs 1989/90

Congratulations to all our new Division officers and chairs who have agreed to support our division for this coming term. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions, ideas, comments, concerns, or even to volunteer YOUR expertise. We want to hear from YOU!

Chair

Lynn Ecklund
Seek Information Services
1800 Victory Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 242-2793
(818) 242-2876 (Fax)

Chair-Elect

(and long range planning chair)
Phyllis Fisher
McDonnell Douglas Corp.
Res Engg Lib
P. O. Box 516
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St. Louis, MO 63156-0516
(314) 232-6136
(314) 232-0790 (Fax)

Secretary

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Past Chair

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Treasurer

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Nominating Committee Chair

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Special Project Chair

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(216) 433-5777 (Fax)

Thank you to all members who voted for these capable people and thank you to all members who took time to fill out our Division's survey. Thus far we have received 47 replies, but there is still time for your input. If some of you have "misplaced" your survey form, duplicates can be sent. Please contact Ellie Reiter or myself and we will see that you get a form. Preliminary results have been compiled and publication of these results are forthcoming.

Freebies

Copies of a 2 volume, 174 page document entitled "Technical Communications in Aeronautics: Results of an Exploratory Study" published February 1989, is available free of charge. The study explores many aspects of technical communications within the aeronautics community. The study offers survey results focusing on five objectives: (1) to solicit opinions of aeronautical engineers and scientists regarding the importance of technical communication to their profession, (2) to determine their use and production of technical communications, (3) to

seek their views on the content of an undergraduate course in technical communications, (4) to determine their use of libraries/technical information centers, (5) to determine the use and importance of computer and information technology to them.

This 2 volume document may be very useful to those of you who are trying to understand just what makes your "users" tick.

There is a limited number of copies available, so it's a "first come — first serve" basis. Please write or call:

Tom Pinelli
Mail Stop 180A
NASA Langley Research Center
Hampton, VA 23665
(804) 864-2491

Profile of an A&P/Information Specialist

After having a conversation with Betty Tyson regarding library job possibilities for an aircraft mechanic with a library background, Betty asked, "How did an A&P get involved in library type work?" At her request I provide the following profile.

Scott Parker, 34 years old. Raised as a mechanic in the family auto garage business. Graduated from A&P and non-destructive testing school in 1975. Acquired an Airframe and Powerplant license and worked in general aviation maintenance three years. Managed family real estate interests for eight years. Have operated an on-line and library research service since 1984. Presently in the junior year of a B.S. Applied Science and Technology program with a concentration in aviation and a minor in information services. Hobbies: Building radio control and ultralight aircraft; co-developing a classification system and database structure for reports of scientific anomalies.

My interest in information science developed this way: After stumbling across the *Whole Earth Catalog* 1980 my head reeled for weeks as I absorbed the wide world of information therein. The Whole Earth publishers are crazy about publications and libraries and love to tell you how powerful they are. After reading one of the "how to use a library to its fullest" books they suggested (*Finding Facts Fast* by Alden Todd), I was hooked and proceeded to read most every

book I could find regarding research techniques and information retrieval.

In 1982 I came across an article on Information Brokers and on-line databases. As I had owned and operated microcomputers since 1979, I saw a chance to combine that interest with my business and research knowledge and start a research company. After subscribing to Dialog and CompuServe, "Research Unlimited" was open for business in 1984. My advertisements read "Information gathered on any subject" and appear in a publications ranging from *Popular Mechanics* to *Inc.* magazine. The questions received touch on every conceivable subject from patents to international business.

After spending much of the last four years in the marketing and business operations aspects of the information industry, I plan to concentrate on the library and research side of things in an institutional or corporate aerospace library setting.

If there are others who have similar backgrounds or are interested in job opportunities for aviation technicians in the information industry, please contact Scott Parker, 1035 Iris, Beaumont, Texas 77706.

Scott Parker

SLA's Continuing Education Program

Competitor Intelligence and the Corporate Librarian

Denver, CO March 31

Milwaukee, WI April 14

Washington, DC April 28

Providence, RI Oct. 13

Philadelphia, PA Nov. 3

Irvine, CA Nov.17

For further information contact SLA's Professional Development Section, 202/234-4700.