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From the Editor

Susan Fingerman

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From the Editor

Susan Fingerman



Enthusiasm, excitement, entertainment, and excellence – and what an EXPO! Sums up my impression of SLA 2008 in Seattle, Washington, USA.

There were a gratifyingly significant number of younger faces at this conference. Was it the West Coast venue, or the fact that Web 2.0 is finally showing the importance and significance of information management? It was also nice that the scary economy did not seem to affect the attendance, as it definitely has in the past. One thought, since there is such an emphasis on being an international organization, when will we go overseas? We've already been to Brighton, England.

Though our Division boards are frustrated by the reduced programming opportunities, I for one appreciate the no-compete EXPO times, both as a former exhibitor and as an attendee. If I don't go to the exhibits, it still gives me a lot more time for catching up with colleagues, since I'm not much of a night owl.

As always in the August STN issue, you will find much more about the content of the conference sessions. I certainly second Marydee Ojala's comment in the Infotoday blog about how smoothly SLA 2008 was run. A very welcome change from some past years, when I wondered if this was the first SLA conference ever organized. Kudos to SLA HQ for that, and for attracting such a large group of vendors, with many new ones exhibiting.

Speaking of blogs, they certainly gave real-time accounts of the festivities and activities. We've included a list of some that might be of interest in this issue. It's also very exciting to have so many session podcasts available. A great way to counteract the impossibility of the session conflict situation.

I also had the opportunity to attend both the annual IFLA conference in Quebec City and an IFLA satellite meeting in Boston. What a thrill to meet colleagues from around the world. There were many countries represented from I think just about all continents. Having lived abroad during the 70s, I already know how enriching this can be to one's perspective about the world. Now I have a new perspective on librarians and libraries from a world view. And a new appreciation of how rich I and most US librarians are in technology and access. For more information about both meetings, you can go to the www.ifla.org site and the section site links from that page.

In this issue you will find a "help wanted" notice for a new *SciTech News* editor. I have enjoyed my 5 year stint tremendously, but it is time for me to pass the reins. Well, there were some hectic and frustrating times, I'll admit, but the Division leaders and content providers are amazing both in their support and their ability to meet deadlines. The Science-Technology Division has formed a task force for future directions – online, print, a combination of the two, other types of communication etc. If you'd like to contribute to the discussion, please contact Sci-Tech Chair Christine Whitaker. It will be an exciting and creative time for the next editor. I encourage you to apply if you fit the qualifications. I will be available to advise as long as needed.

Be sure to vote for your Division officers. Those ballots should be coming to your email boxes shortly.

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