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Engineering Division

Daureen Nesdill

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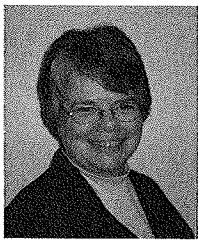
Engineering Division

Daureen Nesdill, Chair



The objectives of the Engineering Division are to provide an association for those having an interest in library and information science as they apply to engineering and the physical sciences and to promote the use of materials and knowledge for the benefit of libraries and other educational organizations.

It must have been a great conference. I arrived back in Salt Lake City late Thursday evening and slept for three days. At the 40th anniversary celebration Sunday evening I kept the business meeting to such a minimum that George Plosker of IEEE was having trouble taking pictures. We had a great crowd of about 90 people celebrating, but still half the birthday cake was left! And a big thank you to Sara Davis for leading us in the time honored tradition of singing *Happy Birthday To Us.*

I must reveal a little story about the 40th anniversary. SLA headquarters told Bob Tolliver, Past Chair, that the Division would be celebrating its 40th in 2008. That is why Kathryn Breininger, Aerospace Section Chair, and I have spent the past year planning the anniversary party. Sometime this past spring Cheryl Hansen, Membership Chair, and Bonnie Osif, Archivist, had a little discussion about the actual number of years the Engineering Division existed.

Dee Magnoni, Chair-Elect, presents Chair Daureen Nesdill with a gift of appreciation for her service.

Seems we broke off from the Science-Technology Division sometime in the '60s. They could not determine the exact date from the records of either Division. After a little investigation on the part of SLA headquarters, they apologized for providing us with misinformation. The Engineering Division is actually 42 years old, so we will be celebrating our 50th at the conference in 2016. Y'all are invited to the party and maybe we will order a smaller cake.

We had some great sessions at the conference this year. Lee Pharis moderated a lively discussion during the Standards Update. The Division was well represented at the SciTech and Engineering Contributed Papers. Lee Pederson presented a paper on "Librarian in the Lobby - Connecting in Their Space" and Scott Curtis along with his colleague from Linda Hall Library, presented a paper "If The Library Brand is 'Books,' Why Not Read a Few? Bringing Narrative Nonfiction Book Discussion to the Special Library." Good work. You can read the papers by going to the SciTech website, http://units.sla.org/division/dst/. You can read all the contributed papers presented during the conference at http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2008/index.cfm. The handouts from the conference should be in ClickU! by the time you receive this *SciTech News*.

The All Sciences Poster Session and Reception on Tuesday afternoon was very well attended. We planned for 160 attendees and ran out of drink tickets before I arrived about 15 minutes into the reception. The food was great and the posters were both interesting and informative. Patricia Kirkwood and Eric Resnis did a great job coordinating the posters submitted to the session on behalf of the Engineering Division. If you weren't able to attend or missed a poster, you will have a chance to view them all in the Fall when they will be up on the Web.

At the board meeting, it was decided that the Division needed to update its procedural document. The SLA headquarters change in the fiscal year from July-June to the calendar year has been problematic for those of us planning the conference programs. With Bob Tolliver, I'll be heading a group to rewrite the document by the Leadership Summit in January, 2009. Our goal is to have the final document completed for a vote by the annual conference in June, 2009. One result of the revisions will be that both the Awards and Vendor Relations Committees will be formed in June rather than January, since the work of these two important committees revolves around the June conference. If you are interested in assisting with the rewrite drop me a line.

Bob Tolliver, Kathryn Breininger and I are in the process of accepting nominations for the positions of Chair Elect of both the Engineering Division and the Aerospace Section and also for Secretary of the Division. The election will be

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held in Fall 2008 and the new Board members will take their positions January 1, 2009. Hopefully they will be able to join us in warm and sunny Savannah, Georgia for the SLA Leadership Summit that same month.

These positions each provide funding for travel to the two conferences and you will be planning for the 2010 conference in the biggest party town, New Orleans. The revision of the Division's procedural document should make program planning a lot easier for the 2010 conference. The position of Secretary is a great way to learn the ropes of the Division and then move up. If you have any questions about the positions or if you want to run, please drop me a line.

So what's a picture of a rat doing in my column? I included it for two reasons; (1) to grab your attention and (2) to tell you about SLA's new Innovation **Lab**o**rat**ory,

http://www.sla.org/innovate/. Do yourself a favor and take some time to investigate the tools there. See which ones you can implement in your day-to-day activities at work. Eventually we will all be required to use these social software or Web 2.0 tools in our work and even in our personal lives. Need some prodding to learn? Then check out *23 Things!*. By signing up for this free program you will learn 23 tech tools in nine weeks to earn a certificate and maybe even a prize. Dee Magnoni, Division Chair Elect, already has a blog posted - and thanks to SLA for helping members to keep current with new technology.❖

See you in cyberspace,
Daureen Nesdill
University of Utah
daureen.nesdill@utah.edu

◆◆◆◆

Board Members Cheryl Hansen, Kathryn Breininger, Kathy Nordhaus, Daureen Nesdill, Bonnie Osif, Gale Harris, Patricia Kirkwood, Joan Dubis, Lee Pharis, Susan Smith, Dee Magnoni, Andrew Shimp and Sara Davis.

SLA Engineering Division – 2008 Stipend/Award Recipients

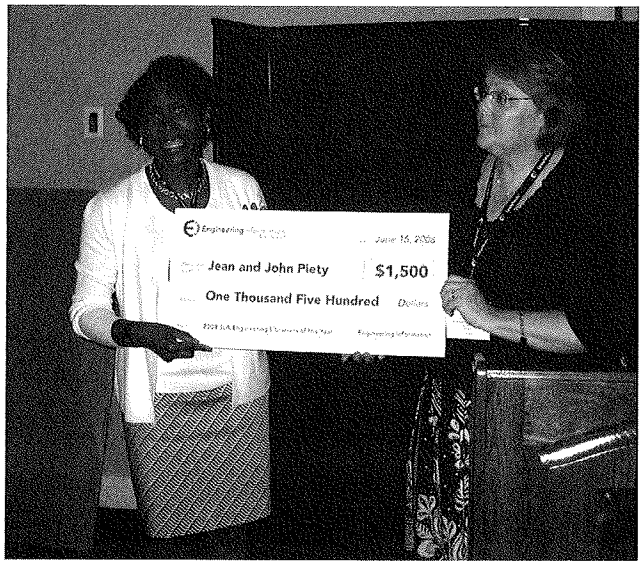
The Engineering Division is proud to announce the winners of this year's stipends and awards, presented at SLA Seattle this past June.

Jean and John Piety – Elsevier Engineering Librarians of the Year

The award to Jean and John Piety for Engineering Librarians of the Year is presented for their exceptionally long service to SLA, and especially to the Engineering Division. They have been steady fixtures at Division meetings and both have quietly mentored individual Division members as well as numerous Division Boards over the years. In addition, they have always been ready to serve the Division whenever needed.

Jean has been a member of SLA since 1958, celebrating her 50th anniversary this year, while John has been a member since 1975. Together their service to the Engineering Division, the Cleveland Chapter and SLA was well worth honoring.

SLA lists Jean as having held Cleveland Chapter positions as Networking Chair, President-Elect and President. In addition, she's been Treasurer and Director for the Sci-Tech Division. She's been a stalwart for the Engineering Division in the area of industry standards and helped develop our Division governing document. At the Association level, she has served on the Technical Standards Committee.

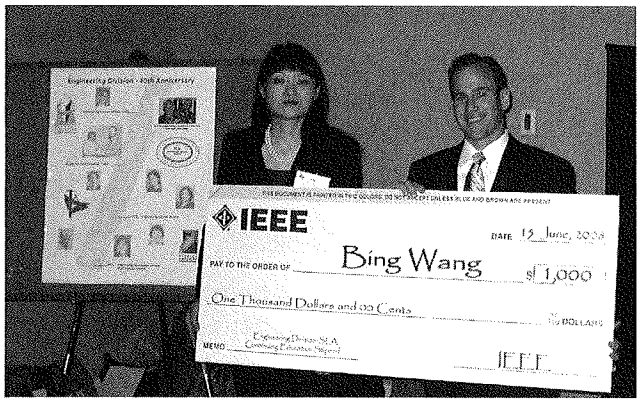


Cheryl Hansen, Engineering Division Membership Chair, accepts the Elsevier Engineering Librarians of the Year award on behalf of Jean and John Piety from Deborah Jordan of Elsevier Engineering Information.

SLA indicates that John has also served as Bulletin Editor, President-Elect and President of the Cleveland Chapter; Membership Chair, Chair-Elect and Chair of the IT Division of SLA; and on the Bylaws Committee for the Association.

SLA and the Division is honored to have had such a dedicated pair of individuals, and their $1500 Elsevier award is truly well-deserved.

Bing Wang – IEEE Continuing Education Stipend Winner



Bing Wang receives the Continuing Education Stipend Award from Fran Staples of IEEE.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Continuing Education Stipend is given to the SLA Engineering Division member who submits the best essay on how the applicant will benefit professionally from a continuing education course. The stipend of up to $1,000 covers expenses incurred while attending any CE course offered at the annual Special Libraries Association conference.

Ms. Bing Wang is the winner of the 2008 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend, administered by the SLA Engineering Division. Ms. Wang is currently at the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center, where she is subject librarian in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering.

Ms. Wang attended the "Diving into Patents: A Primer for Librarians" pre-conference class, the content of which she will use to redesign the bibliographic session for the School of Chemistry's senior organic synthesis class, to be taught in August, 2008. Her knowledge will also be applied to developing instructional

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classes and training materials for both her assigned schools and the general public. Bing will submit an article for a future issue of *SciTech News* which will describe the benefits of having attended the class.

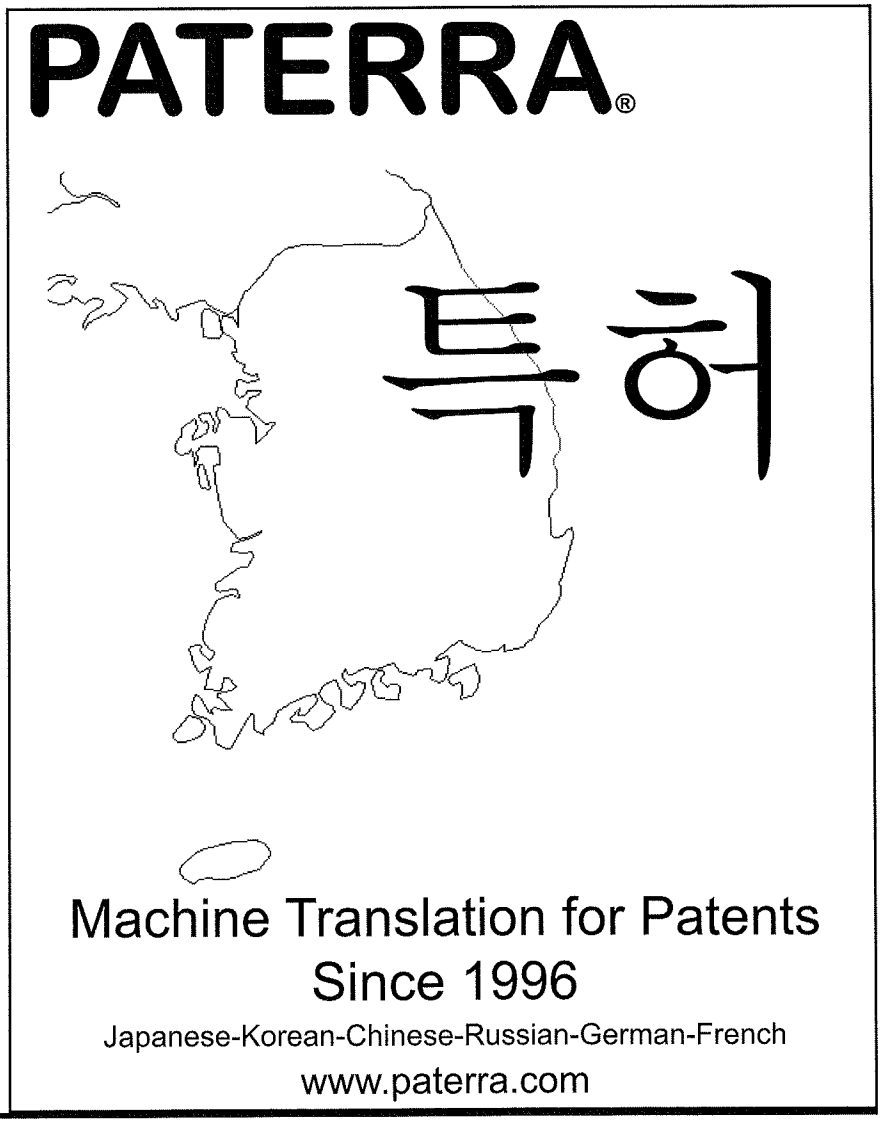
Ekaterina Elgayeva - Inspec Travel Stipend Award

Inspec was pleased to award their $1200 stipend to a qualified student who's essay is judged to be the best submission addressing a topic of interest/concern in Library Science. This year's topic, selected by the Engineering Division Awards Committee, was:

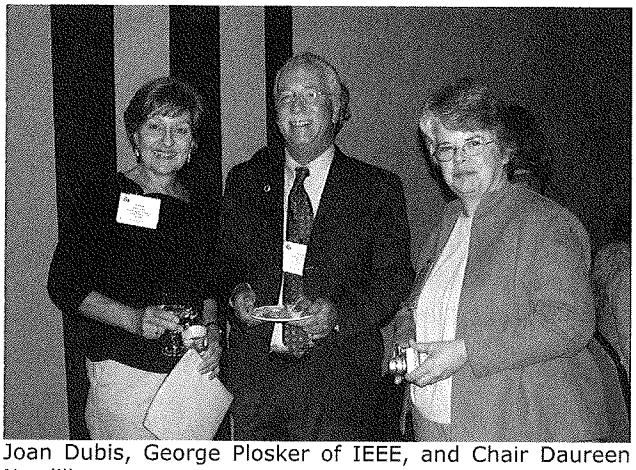
> Because of all the electronic resources licensed by your Library, you've been mandated to drastically reduce your physical collection over the next three years. Describe your strategy for accomplishing this challenge, how you would address it with your loyal walk-in clientele, and a methodology for marketing your "new" (basically virtual) library.

Ekaterina Elgayeva, a student of Library/ Information Science at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, submitted the winning essay entitled "Strategic Methodology for Transitioning into the Virtual Realm." The entire essay can be found in this issue of *SciTech News.*❖

Joan C. Dubis, The Boeing Company
Awards Chair

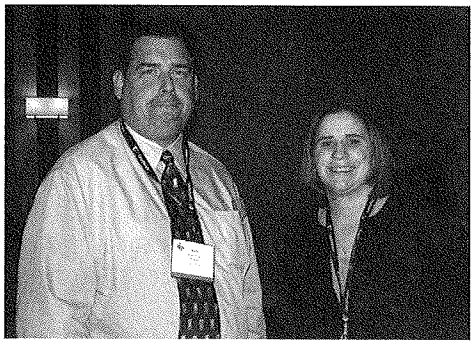


Celebrating with the Engineering Division



Joan Dubis, George Plosker of IEEE, and Chair Daureen Nesdill

The delicious birthday cake.



Keith Ross of Elsevier and Rebecca Cerame of Northrup Grumman

Three cheerful party-goers.

Inspec sponsors Karen Berryman, John Lloyd and Dawn Hicks.

Division Sponsors Keith Ross, John Ziegler and Deborah Jordan from Elsevier, Fran Staples from IEEE and Ron Rodrigues from Dialog.

Bing Wang, Fran Staples of IEEE, and Randy Reichardt

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Inspec Travel Award Winner - Ekaterina Elgayeva - Winning Essay
Strategic Methodology for Transitioning into the Virtual Realm

An effective strategy to reduce physical collections over the span of three years is three-fold. The first step is to complete a comprehensive print collection evaluation, assessing condition and frequency of material use. The second step is to actively engage in digital collection development and, thereafter, management, in order to assure a compatible level of electronic content available for patron access. The final, and most critical, step is to achieve a level of awareness of electronic resources accessible to clientele and encourage their use.

Although the resultant availability of remote access undermines the notion of 'library as place' to a great extent, such changes must be embraced to position the library in the vast world of Web 2.0 and sustain its relevance. Despite existing disadvantages associated with electronic resources, in the long run, digital collections will increase material accessibility and function as a viable preservation technique for print originals.

Ekaterina Elgayeva receives the Inspec Travel Award from Dawn Hicks of Inspec.

A thorough evaluation of physical collections encompasses accurate assessment of materials' physical condition as well circulation rates. If the latter cannot be determined electronically, a user-based survey will be conducted to establish which collections can be transferred to offsite storage or, if necessary, sold, and which need to be kept on the shelves. If at all possible, print materials with high circulation rates should be retained, while those with lower circulation rates should be transferred or sold.

Because the gradual restructuring of collections will largely affect the library's loyal walk-in clientele, they will comprise the bulk of survey respondents. A concise questionnaire regarding frequency of specific collection as well as individual item use will be available at several access points within the library, in both print and digital formats (i.e. at the circulation desk but also on the library home page).

Accordingly, requests to keep specific collections and items will be accommodated by the library as best able. Provided necessary funding and equipment, monographs sought by loyal walk-in clientele and those in need of conservation will be prioritized for on-site digitization. A possible avenue to gain financial support for digitization is to look into collaborative action, including mass digitization initiatives. Donor assistance, fundraising and grant funding are also viable options.

Availability of remote access to materials as a result of the library's transition into the virtual realm will most likely not affect the loyal walk-in clientele, for, arguably, that specific user group will maintain its preference for the library facility, even if it is to access electronic collections. In effect, ample financial and human resources must be allocated to comprehensive training of library staff in order to effectively help walk-in clientele navigate electronic materials.

Effective digital collection development must follow the assessment process of print resources, whereby a network of trustworthy electronic content providers is established and a sufficient amount of content is purchased. Additionally, a content management system, such as *Sanderson CMI*, *Content Manager* from Inktomi, or *Solid8 Content Management Module*, will be implemented to address the changing nature of management of library resources. The necessity to increase server space, institute simple content pathways to assure ease of collection navigation, and conform to DRM standards for materials digitized on-site, are all integral to the successful upkeep of electronic resources.

As open access content management assumes greater prominence, new methods of content management will be considered, including the gradual embrace of search engine methodology by expanding metadata to encompass a search engine hit. Partnerships between Google and OCLC, University of Michigan and Columbia

University, to name a few, have already achieved greater content accessibility, and, similarly, the move forward for special libraries will require progressive abandonment of traditional methods.

According to findings of OCLC's *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Centers* (2005), users are largely unaware of electronic resources available to them, so an aggressive marketing approach to maximize that level of awareness is absolutely dire. Interactive seminars and workshops on digital resources will be held within the library to encourage electronic collection use. Fliers and leaflets containing information about existent and forthcoming collections will be available at main access points within the library. Moreover, this information would be distributed to patrons electronically (i.e. via e-mail and library home page) on a monthly or quarterly basis, provided there are significant changes to available content.

Emphasis will also be placed on the level of convenience associated with electronic resources in the context of remote access for clientele that prefers that option. A focus on delivering a service compatible to that of a search engine, but ultimately superior in its level of authority and accuracy will also be part of the marketing methodology. The process of contextualization of a given topic, as opposed to a mere provision of content, is simplified via availability of electronic resources, and the library will capitalize on making clientele mindful of this advantage.

Although many challenges are inherent in carrying out this strategy, the on-going challenge will be unremitting change. In order to remain relevant, the library will need a continual focus on user-centered demands, thus, a satisfaction survey will be distributed quite frequently. Evaluation of utilized technologies, investment into newly emerging ones, including the content management system, as well as scheduled software and hardware updates, is a must in a virtual library environment. Thus, financial resources to preserve digital collections will need to be allocated, while research about, investment into and incorporation of new technologies will assure the library's auspicious progression into the future.❖

Ekaterina Elgayeva, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois

Boeing Museum of Flight Restoration Center

Pam Enrici, Daureen Nesdill, and Susan Fingerman join our tour guide Greg Coe and Sheree Van Berg, Aircraft Maintenance Technician at the Center.

A vintage United Air Lines plane almost ready to take off.

Under reconstruction.

Pam Enrici emerges from the first commercial jet airliner, the De Havilland "Comet" from the early 1950's, built in the UK before the Boeing 707 and operated by BOAC.

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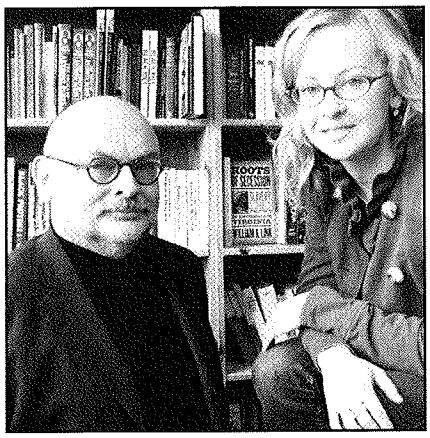
LET US HELP YOUR LIBRARY

Libraries of every type have two common problems:

SPACE There's never enough space to keep every book.

There's never enough money to enhance the collection. **MONEY**



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–Michael Powell, Owner,
with daughter Emily Powell

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