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April 2007

## Science-Technology Division

Ann Koopman

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## Science-Technology Division      Ann Koopman, Chair

The objectives of the Science-Technology Division shall be to draw together those members of the Special Libraries Association having an interest in the role of library and information science as applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all areas of science and technology, and to promote and improve the communication, dissemination and use of such knowledge for the benefit of libraries and their users.



As I write this we've just enjoyed our first warm days of spring in Philadelphia, and the season of growth and renewal is upon us. The energy potential is tremendous – very much like I see our Division at this point. I'd like to thank all of you who have stepped forward to volunteer for Division committees and activities this year – we've been able to staff all of our positions and build some new depth and breadth into our committees. You'll find the updated board and committee list in this issue. And of course, if something looks interesting to you, please inquire at any time.

This is also the time of year when our intrepid program planners head into the final stretch of preparations for Annual Conference.

- Dale Riordan has organized two outstanding CE courses for us, addressing the use of new technologies for bibliographic instruction (a hands-on class in a local computer lab) and special aspects of data repositories.
- Roger Beckman and his committee have assembled another Contributed Papers session in partnership with our friends in the Engineering Division, addressing new challenges in our field.
- Michelle Wilde, our overall program planner, has explored all over Denver to find wonderful venues for our All Sciences & Engineering Reception and our Happy Hour. Look over the topic list featured in this issue – it was built from feedback you provided over the last couple of years, so we hope these sessions will be well received. Programs this year emphasize roundtables and audience discussion – more opportunities for sharing and fewer talking heads.
- Our vendor friends have come forward with another record year of donations in support of our programming.

There are still opportunities to help with the program in Denver. SciTech News (STN) will need session reporters to write about the programs they attend for the August issue. Please let Susan Fingerma know if you are

interested in being a reporter. If you'd like to work as a greeter or ticket taker at a program, contact Michelle Wilde.

Other games are afoot: the Membership Committee is working on a set of new promotional materials; the International Relations Committee is working with some of our Association board members on ways to recruit and retain international members; the Nominating Committee is interviewing potential candidates; the Communications Committee is comparing our discussion list practices with those of other divisions; the Strategic Planning Committee is doing a comprehensive review of our strategic plan for discussion at Annual Conference; our SciTech News team is looking at options for electronic publication; and last but not least, the Awards Committee is preparing this year's round of celebrations of our members. We're showing some energy!

The Board will meet twice at Annual Conference, and will devote the second session to discussion of our strategic plan, and marketing and outreach efforts as we look for ways to build up the Division. Given the fact that our Division membership has declined by about 50% over the last dozen years, we need to be stepping up to the challenge of recruitment.

At the Leadership Summit in Reno we were able to hold an executive board meeting where we adopted the 2007 budget and new recommended practices, making three key structural changes in board roles at the same time.

1) We recognized the importance of having all the executive board attend the Leadership Summit now that we're on January-December terms, and made that an expectation of all the positions. We will provide travel funding to those positions that didn't already receive it.

2) Recognizing that the roles of Chair and Chair-Elect regarding conference were also affected by the new organizational year, we created a new Vendor Relations Committee to take over the tasks of raising sponsorships.

3) Freeing the Chair-Elect of fundraising makes it possible for him or her to lead the program

planning, supported by a large committee.

I'm particularly pleased with the strengthening of our committees. We need people serving on committees, learning about the Division and developing working networks within the Division in order to develop a strong pool of future Division leaders.

This weather is infectious - I'm recalling e.e. cummings - In Just Spring the world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful.

Looking forward to seeing you in Denver! ❖

Ann Koopman  
Chair, Sci-Tech Division  
Ann.Koopman@jefferson.edu

**Update your SLA record today!**

SLA is on the move to a new Association Management System (AMS). Data integrity is one of the key aspects for a successful AMS implementation. Now is the time to check your record in the online membership directory to make sure everything is correct and up to date.

Access your record at <http://www.sla.org/cfcode/profile.cfm>. If you have questions, please e-mail Linda Jackson, SLA's Database Associate (+1.703.647.4918).



**The Science and Technology Division Welcomes Our New Members**

Delfina C Greene  
San Diego, CA (student)

Lisa R Johnston  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN

Bob Kackley  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD

David Nydam  
BCC Research  
Needham, MA

Catherine Rossignol  
Montreal, QC (student)

Jaime Scibelli  
Cleveland, OH (student)

Andrew Tadman  
Baton Rouge, LA (student)

Heather M Yager  
Pittsburgh, PA (student)

Chelsea A Bryson  
Honolulu, HI (student)

Susan Isaacs-Bright  
Savannah River Site  
Aiken, SC

James E Bettinger  
Cleveland Public Library

Judy M Oberg  
Natl Renewable Energy Lab  
Golden, CO

Christine C Caldwell  
UC Santa Cruz S&E Library  
Santa Cruz, CA

Thea S. Allen  
Chapel Hill, NC (student)

Bettina R Ong-Halleron  
Buckman Laboratories  
Memphis, TN

**From the Science Technology Section of ALA:**

**<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/sts.htm>**

1. The Winter 2007 Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship is now available.  
<http://www.istl.org/07-winter/index.html>

2. ACRL-STS Brochure - "Science Majors Needed: great careers await at a science library near you!"  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/ACRL-STS\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/ACRL-STS_Brochure.pdf)

3. STS Program and Poster session materials from Annual 2006 in New Orleans are now available.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsconferences/program06.htm>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsconferences/posters06.htm>

STS Assessment Committee Preconference materials are also online. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsconferences/assessmentpreconf06.htm>

4. Results from the 2005 Continuing Education Survey are now available.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/stscontinuing/continuingedsurvey2005/index.htm>

5. STS Sci/Tech Library Mentors. Connecting new and experienced librarians. Find a mentor, or volunteer your experience.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsmentors/stsmentors.htm>

Forwarded by  
Charles Wenger  
Science-Technology Division Liaison to the  
ALA/ACRL Science & Technology Section

**SLA on the Web: SciTech News Division Websites**

**Chemistry Division**

Home Page: <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/index.htm>

Newsletter: <http://www.sla.org/division/dche/newsletters/index.html>

Discussion List Instructions:

Send an e-mail to: [Lyris@lists.sla.org](mailto:Lyris@lists.sla.org). In the body of the message: Subscribe sla-dche <your e-mail address> <FirstName> <LastName>

**Chemistry Division - MRM Section**

Discussion List Instructions:

Send an e-mail to: [Lyris@lists.sla.org](mailto:Lyris@lists.sla.org). In the body of the message write only: Subscribe SLA-DMRM <your e-mail address> <FirstName> <LastName>

**Engineering Division**

Home Page: <http://www.sla.org/division/deng/index.html>

Discussion List Instructions:

Send an e-mail to: [Majordomo@iee.org.uk](mailto:Majordomo@iee.org.uk). Leave the subject line empty. In the body of the message write only: Subscribe sla-eng

**Engineering Division - Aerospace Section**

Home Page: <http://www.sla.org/division/deng/Aerospace.html>

Discussion List Instructions:

Send an e-mail to: [Listserv@sti.nasa.gov](mailto:Listserv@sti.nasa.gov). Leave the subject line empty. In the body of the message write only: Subscribe SLA-AERO Your\_Name

**Science-Technology Division**

Home Page: <http://www.sla.org/division/dst/>

Discussion List Instructions:

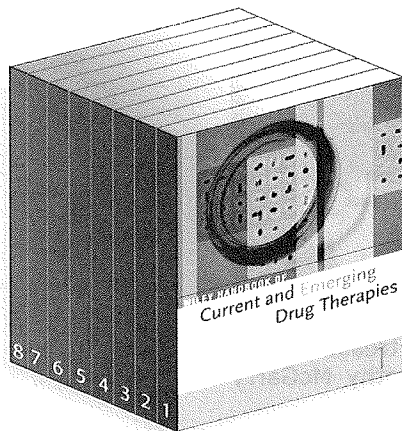
Send an e-mail to: [majordomo@welles.library.northwestern.edu](mailto:majordomo@welles.library.northwestern.edu). Leave the subject line empty. In the body of the message write only: subscribe sla-st

# Essential sci/tech references for professionals and students.

## Wiley Handbook of Current and Emerging Drug Therapies

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

A comprehensive resource for drug discovery and pharmaceutical research, this set consolidates the most current information, encompassing every major therapeutic area and more than sixty diseases and indications.



Available in eight print volumes:

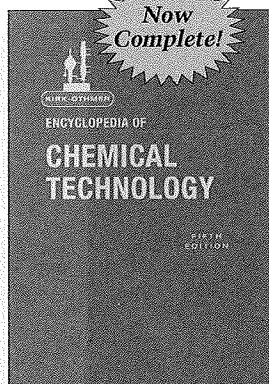
Volumes 1-4

978-0-470-04098-0 • Hardcover • 2,664 pp.  
\$1,500.00 US/\$1,799.99 CAN • 2006

Volumes 5-8

978-0-470-04099-7 • Hardcover • 3,066 pp.  
\$1,275.00 US/\$1,529.99 CAN  
through 6/30/07;  
\$1,500.00 US/\$1,799.99 CAN thereafter  
• May 2007

Now Complete!



## Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Fifth edition

Kirk-Othmer

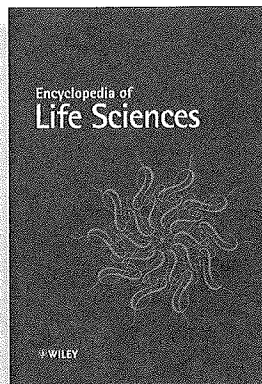
"[This reference] has achieved its reputation as the most indispensable reference . . . on all aspects of chemical technology."

—*Chemical Engineering News*

"Overall, ECT is well written and cleanly edited, and no library claiming to be a useful resource for chemical engineering professionals should be without it."

—NICHOLAS BASTA,  
*Chemical Engineering*

978-0-471-48494-3  
\$8,370.00 US / \$10,881.00 CAN  
22,950 pp. • Hardcover • 2004



## Encyclopedia of Life Sciences

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Six supplementary volumes cover recent advances in dynamic areas with an additional 650 new peer-reviewed articles that update and complement the original set.

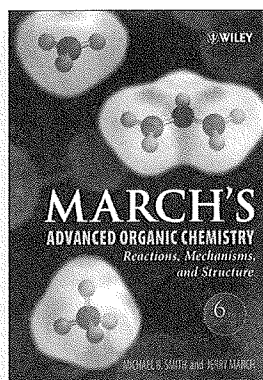
"A superb product . . . one of the greatest scientific publications of the 21st century."

—*Library Journal*

"The most ambitious single-source reference source ever produced in the biological sciences."

—*American Reference Books Annual*

978-0-470-06141-1  
\$1,435.00 US / \$1,865.99 CAN  
4,060 pp. • Hardcover • May 2007



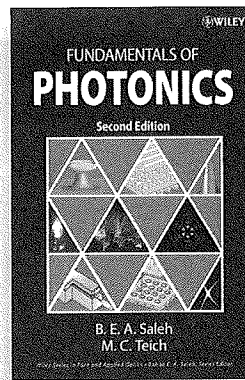
## March's Advanced Organic Chemistry, Sixth Edition

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"The book remains a tremendous value for the money . . . so it will remain a firm favorite as a general organic text and an easy-to-use one-volume reference . . . it will undoubtedly appear in all organic chemistry libraries and probably on many chemists' personal bookshelves too."

—*Organic Process Research & Development*

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\$99.95 US / \$129.99 CAN  
2,357 pp. • Hardcover • February 2007



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—*Physics Today*

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\$140.00 US / \$181.99 CAN  
1,177 pp. • Hardcover • March 2007

Available through your library wholesaler.



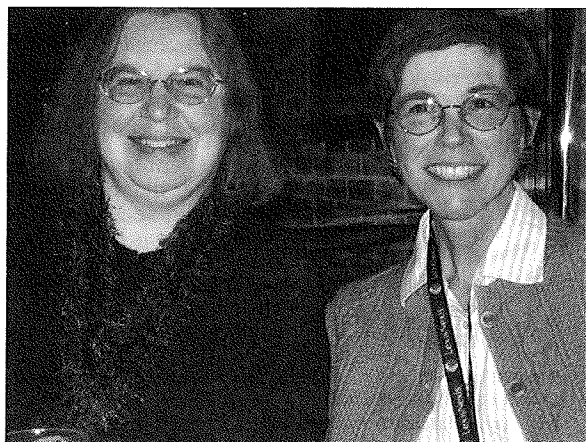
## ***Sci-Tech Division at the January Leadership Summit in Reno, Nevada***



Cheryl Hansen, Valerie Perry (former treasurer and current committee member) and Dorothy McGarry (advisory board member)



Susan Smith (committee member) and Cheryl Hansen (Treasurer)



Christine Whitaker (Chair-Elect) and Ann Koopman (Chair)

## **2007 SLA Denver Science-Technology Division Programs**

### **Saturday, June 2**

**8:00am – noon**

#### **CE Course: Exploring New Technologies Through Instruction**

(Ticket # 150, \$199/member)

A survey of some of the best current uses of technology for instructional purposes. You'll look at how all these can be used to supplement or provide instruction in a library environment, including examples in the sciences and considering IM, social networking, RSS, blogs, wikis, online courseware, online tutorial creation, and games used for instruction. Includes discussion of the planning and evaluation necessary for effective use of technology in an instruction program. Attendees also explore emerging technologies and determine their individual realm of instructional possibilities. This course will include lots of opportunities for hands-on work; it will be held in a computer lab on a nearby University campus.

Instructors: Ms. Anna Burke, Library Instructional Technology Management Liaison, Babson College, Horn Library; Ms. Stephanie White, Reference Librarian, Formerly of Olin College

**Ticketed Event**

**1:00pm – 5:00 pm**

#### **CE Course: Creating and Managing Institutional Data Repositories**

(Ticket # 200, \$199/member)

This session explores the issues surrounding the creating of a repository structure for institutional research data, so you can decide whether it is appropriate for you to pursue a data repository in your organization, and how to begin work on one. Document repositories are becoming commonplace at universities, corporations and government agencies. However, as libraries seek to remain relevant to their organizations, they need to move farther upstream in the research cycle. One component of this is curating and archiving research data.

Instructor: Michael Witt, Senior Research Systems Administrator, Purdue University  
Information Partner: ProQuest

**Ticketed Event**

### **Sunday, June 3**

**10:00am – noon**

#### **Science-Technology Division Opening Board Meeting**

All Sci-Tech members are welcome to attend the

board meeting. Find out what makes us tick!

**Noon – 2:00pm**

#### **Science Divisions Newcomers Luncheon**

New to conference? Get started with your networking at this welcoming session for new members of Sci-Tech and other science divisions. Meet board members, hear about opportunities to get involved with your division, and get tips on how to get the most out of your conference experience. Reservations required -- contact Membership Chair Janet Hughes (jah19@psu.edu) to reserve your seat.

Information Partner: ACS

### **Monday, June 4**

**7:00am – 8:30am**

#### **Science Technology Division Annual Business Meeting & Awards Breakfast**

(Ticket #550, \$10)

Join your colleagues to celebrate division awards, network, and catch up on the latest division activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other science librarians, and talk to our sponsors.

Information Partners: IET/INSPEC, ACS, Knovel

**Ticketed Event**

**11:30am – 1:00pm**

#### **Standards Update**

The annual standards update will provide information on what is happening in the standards world and the latest vendor news. Participants will have an opportunity to give feedback to standards developing organizations. There will be a question and answer session.

Information Partner: IEEE

**1:30pm – 3:00pm**

#### **Feeding the Fledgling Repository**

If we build it, will they come? Whether intended for faculty papers, original journals, dissertations, or special collections, one of the challenges of building an institutional repository is recruiting appropriate content. A presentation about the experiences at Thomas Jefferson University will be followed by an opportunity to discuss pointers and strategies for successfully populating an institutional repository in a round table environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring samples of promotional literature or campaigns.

Information Partner: Elsevier

**4:00 pm – 5:30pm****The Science of Beer**

We love to drink it, but did you know that your frosty pint of beer is actually the product of an incredibly complex scientific process? Come learn how microbiology, agriculture, and chemistry converge to produce one of the world's oldest and most popular beverages.

Guest speaker: Charlie Bamforth, Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Brewing Science, University of California, Davis  
Information Partners: Annual Reviews, ACS, CAS

**9:00pm – midnight****Science Fiction Open House**

Once again we've joined forces with ITE Division for the popular science fiction event. Meet local sci-fi authors, network with colleagues and party the night away.

Information Partner: Thomson Scientific

**Tuesday, June 5****7:00am – 8:30am****Annual Diversity Breakfast**

(Ticket #605, \$25)

Join the Diversity Development Leadership Program Committee to hear a dynamic presentation from Dr. Camila Alire, enjoy breakfast, and celebrate the 2007 award winners.

Information Partner: Thomson Scientific

**Ticketed Event****9:00am – 10:30am****Federated Searching, Part 1: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

Federated searching is trendy, practical, and increasingly popular, but how well does it work in practice? Librarians speak frankly about their experiences implementing and utilizing federated searching, followed by an open discussion with attendees about the perks and pitfalls of this new technology.

Information Partners: Open Text, EBSCO

**11:00am – 12:30 pm****Federated Searching, Part 2: Vendor Update**

Join a panel of federated searching vendors to discuss new developments and technologies in federated searching products. Companies represented include CSA, EBSCO, Ex Libris, and Serials Solutions.

Information Partner: Open Text

**11:00pm – 12:30pm****Computer Science Literature Roundtable**

This session provides an opportunity for librarians who work in the broad computing community (computer science, computer engineering, information technology, etc.) to discuss current issues.

**2:30pm – 4:00 pm****Science & Engineering Resources 101**

This year in 101, get an overview of resources for atmospheric sciences, geology and geography resources. Our experts will introduce the best resources that help in discovering, obtaining, and working with these types of resources.

Information Partner: ASTM

**7:00 pm – 9:00pm****All Sciences & Engineering Reception**

(Ticket #720, \$15)

Network with your peers over beer, wine, and tasty appetizers at the Denver Firefighters Museum. Built in 1909 by famed Denver architect Glen W. Huntington, this arts and crafts style structure houses Denver's firefighting history. The museum will be open exclusively to the All Sciences Reception. From the Convention Center, go 2 blocks southeast on 14th St. to Tremont. Right on Tremont 100 yards to museum. Visit <http://www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org/> for more museum information. Information Partners: ASME, ASTM, Knovel

**Ticketed Event****Wednesday, June 6****7:00am – 8:30am****E-Books on Steroids**

Many forward-looking vendors of electronic books provide dynamic and interactive access to the contents of their resources. Representatives from ebrary, Knovel, Safari and Springer will discuss their e-book platforms. The moderator will begin the Q&A portion of the session with a set of specific questions. We would like to thank ebrary, CrossRef and Safari/Proquest for their support. Free continental breakfast for the first 100 attendees.

Information Partner: CrossRef

**11:00am – 12:30pm****New Technologies in Instruction & Training: Poster Session**

A lively session of poster presentations. Blogs, wikis, podcasts, webinars, RSS feeds, and personal response systems (clickers) are just



some of the technologies everyone is talking about. Learn how your colleagues are actually using new technology to communicate with and educate their patrons.

Information Partner: ACM

**11:00am – 12:30pm**

**Future Shock! Libraries for Next-Generation Science & Scientists: the Academic Science Librarians' Roundtable**

(Ticket #840, \$10)

Facilitated discussions will focus on academic libraries and their roles in leading-edge science and the new generation of scientists. A boxed lunch will be provided.

Information Partners: IEEE, Thomson Scientific  
**Ticketed Event**

**1:00pm – 2:30pm**

**Responding to the New in Sci-Tech and Engineering Libraries: Contributed Papers**

Hear from your peers about how they have addressed new technologies and changing user expectations with innovative ideas:

- 1) "Making It Theirs: Online Information Literacy Tutorials Designed Specifically to Introductory Science Courses"
- 2) "Electronic Books: Search and Download in the Life Sciences?"
- 3) "Tracking Climate Change in the 21st Century: Supporting Research with Historic Photographs and Google Earth"

Information Partners: Nature Publishing Group

**2:30pm-4:00pm**

**Science-Technology Division Final Board Meeting**

All Sci-Tech members are welcome to attend the Board meeting. We'll be working on our strategic plan and Division marketing ideas.

**4:30pm – 6:30pm**

**Happy Hour!**

Sci-Tech & Engineering members, you're done! Let's adjourn to a local establishment for some final networking before we say farewell to another great conference. The venue will be announced on the Division listserv, at Sci-Tech or Engineering meetings, and on signage at the convention message center. Stay Tuned!

**Thursday, June 7**

**9:00am -4:00pm**

**Tour: National Center for Atmospheric Research and Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics**

(Tour registration required; \$37)

Join your colleagues from the Engineering Division again for tours of the facilities, a special lecture at LASP, and some time for some hiking on nearby trails. Lunch is on your own at the NCAR cafeteria.

**Ticketed Event❖**

### ***Honor roll of Sci Tech Sponsors***

We are grateful to all of our information partners for their financial support in bringing you our ambitious program.

Please take a moment to stop by their booths in the exhibit hall to thank them for their support.

ACM

ACS, The American Chemical Society

Annual Reviews

ASME

ASTM International

CAS

CrossRef

EBSCO

Elsevier

IEEE

The IET/INSPEC

Knovel

Nature Publishing Group

Open Text

ProQuest

Thomson Scientific

## **Digitization of Pre-1975 Government Technical Reports**

As was announced in a mid-November, 2006 "call for interest", the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA - [www.gwla.org](http://www.gwla.org)) and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL - [www.crl.edu](http://www.crl.edu)) have been collaborating on a pilot project to ascertain both the practicality of and impediments to digitizing and making openly available selected (primarily) pre-1975 U.S. government agency technical reports. At this point we wanted to offer this progress report and a sneak peek at the pilot project phase of the database to any who might be interested.

In response to the November call for interest, we heard from 47 CRL-member libraries, 16 GWLA-member libraries, 12 non-GWLA, non-CRL colleges and universities, and from 16 special libraries and/or government libraries/agencies. In responding to a question about which agency's reports respondents would most like to see digitized and added to the database, the top 10 agencies that received votes, in order of preference, were DOE, EPA, NASA, USDA (which included seven Forest Service requests), NBS, USGS, AEC, NACA, US Army research, technology, and engineering reports, and the US Bureau of Mines. Beyond those 10 was a long tail of responses, including a number that requested reports in particular topical areas rather than from specific agencies.

While the database of reports is still relatively small (many more are in the process of being digitized and will be loaded when received), the pilot project database has been named TRAIL - Technical Report Archive and Image Library, and is available for your perusal at <http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/techreports/index.php>. Keep in mind that this is the database set up for the pilot project and to help demonstrate proof of concept - a larger scale production version of the database might be designed somewhat differently.

So where do things go from here? Our next steps are to prepare a report on the pilot project for submission to both GWLA and CRL. That report will also include suggested next steps, possible timelines, cost estimates, possible support/funding models, etc. The members and leadership of those two organizations will largely determine where the project goes from here.

Assuming that there is support from GWLA and CRL to continue the project and that a support and participation model can be readily agreed to, we will then be contacting those institutions that expressed interest in participating in the project with options on the form that participation might take.

If your institution did not respond to the call in November but are interested in being kept in the loop about this project, please contact Alice Trussell ([alitrus@ksu.edu](mailto:alitrus@ksu.edu)) with your contact information. ❖

Regards,  
The GWLA Federal Technical Reports Task Force  
Maliaca Oxnam, Chair (University of Arizona)  
Tim Byrne (University of Colorado)  
Mel DeSart (University of Washington)  
Patricia Kirkwood (University of Arkansas)  
Daureen Nesdill (University of Utah)  
John Saylor (Cornell University)  
Bob Schwarzwalder (University of Hawaii)  
Donna Swischer (Linda Hall Library)  
Melissa Trevvett, liaison (Center for Research Libraries)  
Alice Trussell (Kansas State University)



## **SES Annual Conference – Standards: The Bridge to Global Markets**

Miami, April 4, 2007 – The 2007 Standards Engineering Society (SES) annual conference will be held August 20-21 at the Hyatt at Fishermans' Wharf in San Francisco, California. The theme of this year's conference is Standards: The Bridge to Global Markets. Dr. Torsten Bahke, Director of the German Institute for Standardization (DIN), will be the keynote speaker.

This year's conference is being held in conjunction with the 12th International conference of the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN). IFAN is the recognized international voice of standards users and provides its' members direct input into international and regional standards associations.

SES has invited a variety of speakers from private industry, government agencies, and standards development organizations representing U.S., foreign, and international interests to share their experiences in the following topic areas:

- Access to World Markets: Tales from the New Frontier
- Partnerships for Developing Global Standards
- Building a Bridge to the Future Through Education
- Technology: Connecting the Standards World
- Climbing the Hill to Successful Standards Participation
- Lifting the Fog Surrounding Access to Standards
- Sunrise on the Bay – What's New on the Horizon

Two professional development courses – A Guide to Standards and Strategic Standardization Management will be presented in conjunction with the conference on Wednesday, August 22nd and Thursday, August 23rd, respectively.

For the first time, registration to the conference can be made online at the SES website. For further information, contact H. Glenn Ziegenfuss, Executive Director, SES, 13340 SW 96th Avenue, Miami, FL 33176; telephone +1 305 971 4798; fax: +1 305 971 799; e-mail: hgziggy@worldnett.att.net or visit the SES web site at [www.ses-standards.org](http://www.ses-standards.org).

Established in 1947, the Standards Engineering Society is a not-for-profit professional membership society whose mission is to provide opportunities for professional development through quality programs and services for standards users and professionals and to promote the awareness, use and value of standards and standardization to the private and public sectors.

It is the member body for the United States and Canada in the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) and accredited by the American National Standards Institute. SES members are primarily involved in the application and use of company, government, national, regional and international standards.

### NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: H. Glenn Ziegenfuss, Executive Director❖

The image shows the cover of a document titled "Competencies for Information Professionals of the 21st Century". The cover features a black and white photograph of a person sitting at a desk in a library or office, looking at a computer screen. The text on the cover includes the title, "Professional Competencies", "Personal Competencies", and "Core Competencies". At the bottom, there is a logo for SLA (Society for Learning Activities) and the website address [www.sla.org/competencies](http://www.sla.org/competencies) with the text "Visit www.sla.org/competencies for the complete document."