December 2005

Aerospace Section
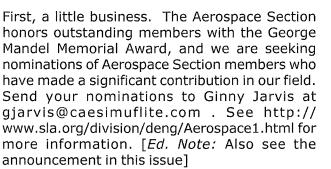
Marcia Rodney

Recommended Citation

Rodney, Marcia (2005) "Aerospace Section," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 59: Iss. 4, Article 8.
Available at: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol59/iss4/8

Aerospace Section

Marcia Rodney, Chair

The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information professionals concerned with aerospace, aeronautical and related technologies. In addition, it fosters dialog with entities such as NASA, the AIAA and other important sources of technical data and bibliographical services.

First, a little business. The Aerospace Section honors outstanding members with the George Mandel Memorial Award, and we are seeking nominations of Aerospace Section members who have made a significant contribution in our field. Send your nominations to Ginny Jarvis at gjarvis@caesimuflite.com . See http://www.sla.org/division/deng/Aerospace1.html for more information. [*Ed. Note:* Also see the announcement in this issue]

So just who is the Aerospace Section? Not what, but who? I'm a newbie to this industry, but I'm told that before the major industry changes of the 1980s we used to be a division unto ourselves. A few acts of Congress and Wall Street and fast forward a few years. So now we're a small but mighty section. Mighty, you say? And just how mighty can a 99 member group be? I thought I'd take a look.

Grabbing a snapshot in time of the Aerospace Section from SLA's Online Membership Directory – a moving target as memberships expire and renew and lapse – shows we're a pretty diverse group with some serious punch. On this one sunny fall afternoon we have

63 members who work for corporations
10 members with the military, NASA, or the Canadian Space Agency
9 members from academia
8 members with information vendors

And 9 members whose employment affiliations are unknown, at least from the online directory.

Of this group, 7 are from Canada, and 1 from Scotland, which squeaks us into the international category.

And those 63 corporate librarians? We represent 36 different companies, with 8 companies having more than 1 information professional representing them.

So why all the numbers? Well, many of us are in the throes of budget planning for 2006, and it's never too soon to marshal your arguments for funding to go to SLA Annual in Baltimore. While continuing education is always an excellent and important reason to attend, don't forget the industry networking clout of SLA. Where else will you meet, mingle, and have drinks with your peers from your customers? Your clients? Your suppliers? The providers of your company's future interns and employees? Your vendors? After all, we are all buying from or selling to or partnering or working with each other, no matter which category we fall into. Forget six degrees of separation! We're looking at no more than 1.5 here. And librarians provide a value-added link to our companies that vice presidents, business development specialists, engineers, and program managers can't. Take that argument along with your budget plans as you think of Baltimore in June. And while you're at it, take a look at our membership on the SLA Online Membership Directory. Is a colleague missing? Get them to join! Once you're a member of the Engineering Division, it's free to add the Aerospace Section.

Oh, and while you're planning for next year, don't forget to mark June 11-14, Baltimore on your new calendar.❖

Marcia Rodney
Chair, Aerospace Section