Aerospace Section News

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Aerospace Section

Hema Ramachandran,

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.

When this issue is published, we will be putting the final touches to the program in New Orleans. So far so good, we have not had any major glitches! Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have all been busy working on all the details that it takes to put together an annual conference. The Engineering Division’s Vendor Relations Chair, Sara Davis and her team have probably worked the hardest in securing sponsorship for our programs. It is very gratifying, given the economy, that so many companies are supporting our programs. You will see their names in the program and at the various events. My first priority in New Orleans is to thank them in person. Personally, it has been a positive learning experience for me and I appreciate even more the amount of dedication and attention to details it takes to put on a major conference!

As mentioned in the last issue, Monday June 14th is Aerospace Day! Start the day with the Aerospace Section Business and Breakfast meeting from 8:00 to 9:30 am at the New Orleans Marriott, St. Charles (41st floor). This is a ticketed event (#410) so if you haven’t already, please remember to purchase a ticket for $20.00. Network with friends and colleagues and help us to celebrate the recipient of this year’s George Mandel Memorial Award – Diane Brenes.

Diane Brenes has worked in Boeing’s Library Services since 1988 and currently works in the Huntington Beach location. Her areas of expertise include business and engineering information research, vocabulary management, and collection development of which Diane leads the team. She has over 20 years of experience working in corporate libraries and holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Simmons College. Diane has been a member of SLA for over 20 years and wrote the Web Reviews section of SciTech News from 2006 to 2007.

In 2009, Diane Brenes and her 12 person Boeing team included librarians from Huntington Beach, CA and the Seattle offices of the Boeing Company. One of the key initiatives of the team was to connect the various communities and departments at Boeing through shared content. This was accomplished through the use of departmental collections within Boeing’s Millennium catalog that are linked to Gateway web pages which gather and filter content for particular groups or departments. The Boeing team successfully combined off-the-shelf and home-grown technologies to develop a cutting-edge, cross-connected, customized enterprise library service giving all Boeing employees a gateway to the full complement of information resources including access to a wealth of filtered internal resources. In addition to the traditional resources this includes podcasts and special collections of papers by the company’s top technical experts. Of particular note, is the Boeing team’s project to capture the work and institutional knowledge of retiring engineers.

Diane is also an active and contributing member of numerous other teams including the Electronic Subscription Team, the virtual reference team and a host of web redesign and enhancement efforts resulting in easier resource access for library users. She is a regular participant in Boeing’s Technical Excellence Conferences and enthusiastically markets Library Services to her site. She is highly respected by her peers, has repeatedly received appreciation and acknowledgement awards from her customers for the quality of her research.

Later the same day we will have two back-to-back Aerospace-sponsored sessions centered around “Workplace Information Literacy.” The newly formed Academic Division is also a sponsor. Part 1 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm will be a panel of national experts presenting their research on the topic. Part 2 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm (in the same room) will be a panel of corporate and academic librarians in engineering making brief presentations followed by a discussion and exchange on the challenges of teaching information literacy and research skills to their respective constituencies. We
want to acknowledge the generous support of H.W. Wilson, ACM and Knovel for these two sessions.

Catch me on Monday evening at the West Coast Reception and other receptions as I unwind (with a pina colada and then some...) after a busy and hectic day of programming.

Hema Ramachandran