

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Kim Gregory*

Time has certainly flown by quickly and what I thought was going to be a long year (?) hasn't turned out that way at all, and that panicky feeling is starting to creep in.....! Much is happening on the Association level and in the Pittsburgh Chapter, and I will attempt to highlight the most important and most interesting.

The Midwinter SLA Conference in Chicago brought much discussion on the proposed Association Bylaws changes that you may have been reading about. The discussions continue, and the Board seeks and invites input from the membership on the changes they are suggesting. I encourage all of you to visit SLA's homepage ([www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)) where detailed information can be garnered in order to provide your thoughts and feelings on how this will impact SLA as an organization and you as an individual member.

Many initiatives were presented to you at the beginning of this year and have been going along quite smoothly (again, that panicky feeling!) But, to bring you up to speed, here is where we are!

**Membership**

I hope everyone has taken the time to complete and return the member survey from the Membership Committee. This information is critical in assessing the wants and needs of the membership and I hope to use it to encourage more participation in our monthly programs and more participation from those who normally remain behind the scenes. Suggestions and ideas are welcomed, as well as any involvement and support members wish to provide. This survey will enable us to evaluate and monitor trends in our profession specific to our Chapter and region. Hopefully we can continue to survey our membership on a regular basis in order to keep abreast of any changes and keep us flexible enough to meet those needs.

**Professional Development**

Adele Barsh has successfully arranged two very awesome programs in the Pittsburgh Professional Development Series that was initiated during Denise Callihan's presidential year. The first program was in October with Intraware presenting on Content Management and the second was held in January and was presented by Dorothy Kabakeris, Business Librarian and Pittsburgh Chapter member. You missed out on some fun and quality programming if you didn't make either of these programs. Adele is also beginning work on a Membership Directory that will be offered to Chapter members in a designated Members Only section of our website, which we are planning to implement in the coming months. This leads me into the next item.....

**Webmaster**

A web committee was previously formed for purposes of incorporating a Web Mission Statement for our website. The proposed Web Mission Statement was voted on and approved at our first Board Meeting in August 2001. This committee is also seeking ways to repurpose our current site to reflect our professional image and to communicate to those viewing our page that our chapter is "technologically" inclined! Some thoughts we have are providing a menu bar, some graphics on the menu bar and perhaps a logo reflecting who we are and what we're all about. Again, we are investigating a Members Only section that will require some sort of password/login.

### **Bulletin Editor/Business Manager**

There are certain times during the course of the year when things really liven up with the Chapter, and we have decided to publish The Confluence in conjunction with these time periods. Instead of four publications, we are scaling back to three and adding more content. One initiative I proposed during the May Business Meeting last year was to encourage our student members to get involved by offering them some incentive to either submit an article on an interesting topic or provide a school paper or project they worked on for our publication. Perhaps even provide a link to the Student Chapter website from the Chapter's homepage, if they have one. Students offer a fresh perspective on issues, and we can surmise from their topics what is important to them. Perhaps we can then build on these areas and incorporate them into some of our programs, especially our Annual Student Pizza Party. And, on that note, news coming from the.....

### **Student Liaison**

What I am pleased to report is the increase in the number of students who have become SLA student members and now attend our regular monthly programs, both from the University of Pittsburgh and from Clarion University. SIS held an open house in September that Tim Gaus, Denise Callihan and I attended where numerous handouts were available for the students, and more importantly, where we were available to talk about SLA and to answer any questions. I believe it was a direct result of this effort and the effort of Chryssoula Kinna (the former Student Chapter President) that student membership increased and a higher visibility of our presence at the Open House and at the School in general was achieved. I was also invited to sit on a panel discussion that the Student Chapter President, Sarah Aerni, arranged in November 2001 as part of a series of discussions with librarians working in different areas and specialties. There was a great student turnout, and they asked many insightful questions as they work their way towards their degrees.

### **Public Relations/Consultations**

I am covering these two areas simultaneously since the efforts involved overlap quite a bit! As many of you may or may not know, membership in SLA has been decreasing and efforts at all levels have been initiated to try and stop this ugly trend. We've heard mention of rebranding; of marketing ourselves and our departments to our employers, to our communities, to other businesses in the area; to get involved with other information organizations within our regions to show value and exchange ideas, make contacts; to get involved in our community; market, market, market! Of course, some of this is accomplished easily and without much expense. We continue to do as much as we can by having joint meetings with the other information organizations and by notifying all the local papers of all of our programs. We received some mention in the Pittsburgh Business Times last fall, and we continue to try and get someone to publish an article about our profession, and especially to cover our events in April when International Special Librarians Day nears!

Another angle we are looking towards is beefing up the publicity of our Chapter Consultations services available to businesses in the area. This can lead to more visibility and exposure to companies that do not employ information professionals.

The marketing campaign as presented requires some expenditure of Chapter funds. This year has been unprecedented in the amount of vendor contributions and we are very appreciative of their support. The Chapter is financially sound. These generous contributions have allowed us to provide members with many extra benefits, such as quality programming, keeping dinner costs low while maintaining food and facility quality, gift certificates and giveaways, campaign support to our two members receiving nominations to the International, formation of a student travel stipend to the Annual Conference, to name but a few! We have also earmarked some of

these funds towards advertising as a way to continue to get the word out and attempt to be more aggressive and confident of who we are and what we can do. We've tossed some ideas around, but haven't totally committed to any one thing while still evaluating the best route. Some of them include membership in the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, placing an advertisement in the Pittsburgh Business Times, and creating some marketing materials we can use to send out to local companies. But any time large amounts of funds are needed, a careful thoughtful approach should be taken, but not one that will continue to be discussed a year from now!

In these times of decreasing membership, layoffs due to downsizing and the general impression of our profession as merely administrative, I believe we need to be as aggressive as possible and not take a back seat to watch it unfold around us!

It has been quite a hectic year, but we are rolling along. We still have some great events planned! Hopefully this momentum will continue on into the future and those of you who haven't participated in the fun will come out sometime and get involved, even if it means serving on a committee! The Pittsburgh Chapter is a great group of individuals who genuinely care about their profession and the future of this organization. Taking a leadership role has been fulfilling and has offered me a chance to fill in a gap on my resume! Do you have any gaps to fill? If so, please consider volunteering your time. It is challenging and fun to be a part of the achievement of goals on the Chapter level, and ultimately on the Association level. I hope to hear from you, and look forward to seeing everyone at the next event!

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

***By Earl Mounts***

Spring has arrived (at least the calendar says so!) with its promise of renewal and optimism. This issue is likewise filled with enthusiastic outlooks from Kim Gregory and Denise Callihan. In her President's message, Kim reminds us of the great strides the Chapter has made so far in professional development programs, student programs, public relations, and marketing. For those of you who have not participated in Chapter activities, you are missing some golden opportunities. Don't just think about supporting your fellow colleagues-just do it!

Denise has been surfing the Net again and come up with a great site for searching old websites. Did I say old? Well, I guess four years is ancient in Net terms! She has also provided us with invaluable information on a new product, Knovel, for those of us who want to provide our customers with the latest developments in Web-based products. And Lynn Labun has found a site that evaluates search engines, always useful information.

Of course, the big news is that Barb Spiegelman was elected Director of the SLA Board-not surprising since Barb has always been a major participant in professional leadership. When I heard that Lynn Berard had not won the race for President, I was reminded of Shakespeare's "neither more fair nor foul a day have I yet seen". I called Lynn and told her I was happy that the Chapter would now have her all to ourselves, but she reminded me that she will definitely be participating in some capacity at the top level. Our Chapter is indeed fortunate to have two such capable leaders to help us in these turbulent times that may reshape the organization in a totally new mold.

## WEB RESOURCES

*By Denise Callihan & Lynn Labun*

### **THE WAYBACK MACHINE - <http://www.archive.org>**

I have found a website very valuable for locating "old" information....this is via the WAYBACK Machine archive. Surf the web as it was...it's pretty neat...put your company URL in and hit "Take Me Back"...you'll be surprised the kind of info you can find. Taken from the Wayback machine website:

#### Wayback Machine Overview

The Wayback Machine, a service from the Internet Archive and Alexa Internet, allows people to access and use archived versions of stored websites. Visitors to the Wayback Machine can type in a URL, select a date, and then begin surfing on an archived version of the web. The Wayback Machine is built so that it can be used and referenced by anybody and everybody.

The original idea for the Wayback Machine began in 1996, when the Internet Archive first began archiving the web. Now, six years later, with over 100 terabytes and a dozen web crawls completed, the Internet Archive has made the Wayback Machine available to the public.

The Wayback Machine, which currently contains over 100 terabytes of data and is growing at a rate of 12 terabytes per month, is the largest known database in the world, containing multiple copies of the entire publicly available web. This eclipses the amount of data contained in the world's largest libraries, including the Library of Congress.

### **KNOVEL: A NOVEL CONCEPT: <http://www.knovel.com>**

In the Fall 2000 Confluence, I provided a brief overview of PPG's campaign towards e-books. This article is Part 2 in our ongoing e-book focus.

The PPG R&D Libraries have delved into a new arena in information accessibility: Technical e-books from Knovel!

#### What is Knovel?

Knovel (pronounced "novel") is one of the newest vendors offering access not just to content of over 200 handbooks and databases (this number is growing everyday), but also the ability to manipulate and search across this information for data. PPG's current e-books through NetLibrary (<http://www.netlibrary.com>) are business-oriented and offer great access for all to leverage. However, we received many inquiries about the availability of technical e-books. We listened and have found Knovel to meet those needs.

Knovel includes many of the classic references such as Perry's Chemical Engineer's Handbook, CRC's Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, Lange's Handbook of Chemistry, and Chemical Properties Handbook, not to mention other subject handbooks in areas such as adhesives, sealants, coatings and inks, ceramics, general engineering references, plastics and rubbers, and semiconductors and electronics. The collection should cover most engineering needs.

#### What's novel about Knovel?

Knovel's technology is unique because it aggregates text together with databases in an indexing structure that allows an unlimited number of products to work together. All content is interactive and cross-searchable. Users have the flexibility of navigating through e-references page by page or searching and manipulating live tables, live graphs, and other structured information, and multiple file types to extract information. Interactive graphs are more than just static line drawings in a book. No more measuring or guesswork is required. The interactivity allows a user

to capture specific data points or entire curves by clicking directly on the graph. Edit, print or export your captured points or curves into your favorite spreadsheet or calculation program including Excel and Lotus 123.

In a recent usability study it was estimated that these interactive features increased research efficiency by reducing the length of time it took to conduct a task by 50% to 75%.

### How to Find Information in Knovel?

Using Knovel, users have a number of different ways to actually find what they need. The 3 main ways to find information is by viewing the Table of Contents, searching by keyword across all books or specific collections of books, and performing a site data search.

Access to a reference book on Knovel starts with the table of contents. The table of contents provides a familiar, common access point for information stored within a book. Access to the table of contents is not restricted. Anyone can browse the content listing of any book hosted on this service, although users need to subscribe to the data to see full access.

### Site Keyword Search

All text is simultaneously searched for listed terms, and the results are displayed in pdf or html format for easy access and readability. Search results are returned with blue highlights so that a user can quickly find the section needed. Search results are indexed by context in case the result does not fully answer a question. The tables, graphs and other figures within the text are also fully searched and will be returned within the search results.

### Site Data Search

For more complex tasks, it often is necessary to search a large number of reference materials to find the information required. The advanced search within Knovel simplifies this task by providing a single searching point that can reference one or two references, or the entire database.

Not just a simple Boolean search, a site data search provides built in intelligence that understands the information. Its unique structure allows you to search all content simultaneously, specifying three criteria, each with four parameters. Search for substances, their properties or classifications, numerical ranges, file types and more.

### Knovel Support

Knovel provides monthly statistics on usage of the products that are purchased. This enables better decision-making in the future to purchase only those areas that are used. The report gives explicit information on the type of information searched, and how often it is searched and represents valuable information to select and justify products.

Interested?

You are able to purchase only those areas that you need. For large companies, access to this product is available globally through IP authentication. The sales reps from Knovel were very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their product and are librarian-friendly. Bob Brand, Knovel sales rep, would be able to provide more detailed information, or perhaps set up a trial so that you can experience Knovel. Knovel is planning on attending the SLA annual conference in LA, so stop by their booth to say hello! (Some of this material was taken with permission from the Knovel website.) - Denise Callihan

I found this interesting article about Web search engines in the SEARCHER vol 9 #9 Oct 2001: <http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/oct01/price.htm>. The article is a good overview and includes

a cool comparison chart: "View Search Engines FAQ chart" that will help aspiring librarians as well as the experts! - Lynn Labun

## **CARBO RECEIVES ALISE AWARD**

Toni Carbo, dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences (SIS), has been honored for her professional contributions to the field of library and information science education by the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).

The 2002 ALISE Professional Contribution Award was presented to Carbo at the Jan. 17 ALISE Conference in New Orleans. The criteria used to determine awardees include evidence of regular and sustained service that promotes and strengthens the broad areas of library/information science education through the holding of appropriate offices and positions within the profession; contributions that promote and enhance the status of library/information science education; and evidence of leadership and initiative in dealing with issues related to library/information science education.

Carbo, dean of SIS since 1986, will step aside as dean this summer. She intends to return to research and teaching as a professor in SIS and Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

During Carbo's tenure as dean, enrollment in SIS has increased dramatically, and the School has gained particular recognition for its Master of Science in Telecommunications program, its telecommunications track in its Ph.D. program in information science, and its Master of Library and Information Science program, which ranks among the top three in the nation. During Carbo's deanship, SIS obtained its first endowed chair, the Doreen E. Boyce Chair of Library and Information Science, with funding from the Buhl Foundation; developed the first university Information Ethics program in the world; and built one of the strongest faculties and research programs in the nation.

In the citation for the award, ALISE praised Carbo "as both a practitioner and an ambassador ... (and for) the dedication to her students and her contributions to the discipline. Her reputation within the field spans the globe."

Carbo is past president of both ALISE and the American Society for Information Science and Technology. She was a member of the U.S. Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure and served as a U.S. representative to the G-7 Round Table of Business Leaders to the 1995 G-7 Information Society Conference in Brussels. Carbo also served as executive director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, which advises the President and Congress on policy and planning in the information field. Her work in information science includes extensive experience with information service producers and users (both libraries and database producers) and in research in the areas of information policy and use.

Carbo has extensive experience in the international arena. She chaired the last U.S. delegation to an intergovernmental council meeting of UNESCO [that of the General Information Programme (PGI)] in 1984, after having served as a member of the 1982 delegation. She also was a member of the planning committee for the first UNESCO Infoethics Conference in Monaco in 1997. She was cochair of the U.S. National Committee for the International

Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and chaired FID's Infostructures and Policies Committee, which oversaw FID's role in the Global Information Alliance (GIA).

Carbo is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Information Scientists, the National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, and the Special Libraries Association. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Library Association in 1995 and was named to the Fiftieth Anniversary Honor Roll of Legislative and Grassroots Library Champions of the American Library Association (ALA). Carbo has a bachelor's degree in English, American, and French literature from Brown University and a master's degree in information science and a Ph.D. degree in management of information resources from the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University. She was selected by Drexel as one of the 100 most distinguished of its 60,000 alumni and was awarded its Centennial Medal. She also was a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council for five years.

ALISE was founded as the Association of American Library Schools. The original association grew out of a series of informal meetings of library school faculty at ALA conferences, which was known as the Round Table of Library School Instructors. The Round Table voted in 1915 to form a permanent organization and to be identified as the Association of American Library Schools. The Association has provided a forum for library educators to share ideas, to discuss issues, and to seek solutions to common problems. In 1983, the Association changed its name to its present form to reflect more accurately the mission, goals, and membership of the Association. (University of Pittsburgh press release)

## **YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!**

Elections for Chapter officers are just around the corner so we're soliciting nominations from the SLA-Pittsburgh membership. Please consider sharing your time and experience. New officers will assume their duties at the end of the annual SLA Conference in June. Please feel free to communicate a nomination to any of the members of the nominating committee.

The offices up for election are:

- \* President-elect: 1 Year; followed by 1 year as President & 1 year as Past President
- \* Secretary: 2 Years
- \* Director: 2 Years

The duties and responsibilities of these offices can be found at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cpit/bylaws.htm>

Respectfully,  
The SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Nominating Committee

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