

## ✶ Newsletter from the Chair

Heidi Yacker

Hi Everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

During our “communication hiatus,” I wanted to give you all an update on things that are happening with the Division. First and foremost, let’s offer our warmest congratulations to *Ann Sweeney* who was elected the **2009 Division Cabinet Chair-Elect**! In DSOC, Ann has served as Chair, PR Chair, and is currently the International Relations Section Chair. She has organized the fabulously popular International Reception at the SLA annual conference for a decade. As DSOC Chair, she oversaw the creation of division sections and our merger with the Geography & Map Division. She received the 2006 SLA Member Achievement Award. We know she’ll do a great job representing the interests of SLA Divisions in her new position.



2009 is the year we’ll be presenting the biannual **Thomson Gale Murray Wortzel Award**. This award is presented to a DSOC member in recognition of outstanding contributions and service to the profession and to the Division. The award, sponsored by Thomson Gale, features a cash gift of \$1,000. Our past recipients have been Division luminaries Roger Haley, Mike Kolakowski, Terry Dean, and Nancy Minter. If you have someone you think deserves recognition for the contributions s/he’s made, please send a nomination for this very prestigious award to me. E-mail me at [hyacker@crs.loc.gov](mailto:hyacker@crs.loc.gov)



About the Bulletin... We had planned to have our most recent Bulletin be our last and to replace it with a blog. The effort requires some more time, and I had hoped to have another “last Bulletin,” but our editor, Mette Kruger, recently took a new position and left SLA. *Brandy King* designed a wonderful prototype for the blog and we have a great team working on it now. The team, led by *Elaine Bergman*, includes Chair-Elect *Iris Anderson*, DSOC listserv owner *Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes*, *Melanie Sciochetti*, and *Brandy*. We hope to have it up and running shortly!



Earlier this year, in May, I asked you to participate in a survey to find out a little about our members, to learn what you’d like from the Division, and to learn what you’d be willing to participate in. In the 2-week period of the survey, we got about a 15% response rate. Here’s what the respondents said:

## Survey Results Report

- ☀ Length of membership in SLA – one third had been members for longer than 15 years; one quarter from 0-5 years
- ☀ Are you active in your local Chapter? 58% responded “no”
- ☀ What do you see as the benefits of membership:
  - ◆ Networking
  - ◆ Professional development
  - ◆ Programs
- ☀ Length of membership in DSOC: 43% had been members for 0-5 years
  - ◆ Section membership:
    - ◆ Pub Policy (1/3);
    - ◆ Non-Profit (almost 1/3);
    - ◆ Intl Affairs (26%);
    - ◆ None (26%);
    - ◆ Labor (13%);
    - ◆ G/M (11%)
- ☀ What can DSOC do for you:
  - ◆ Programs (75%)
  - ◆ Prof development opportunities (67%)
  - ◆ Access to Webinars
  - ◆ Virtual networking opportunities
  - ◆ Job postings
  - ◆ Division wiki
  - ◆ Mentoring
  - ◆ Division chat
  - ◆ Members-only access on website (9%)
- ☀ What activities would you participate in:
  - ◆ Suggest programs and Plan programs – almost half said each of these
  - ◆ Serve on committee and Act as moderator
  - ◆ Provide input for blog/website
  - ◆ Program planning and Chair/Co-chair Section and Mentoring
  - ◆ Webmaster
- ☀ 30 of respondents were planning to come to the annual conference

### Comments:

One person wanted opportunities to give presentations at the conference and suggested that we solicit program suggestions from our whole membership.

Another said information sharing, especially about technology, is important.

Thanks to all of you who participated! This was really helpful.





We had a wonderful conference in Seattle! Our programs were terrific, well-attended, and well-received.



In honor of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Division, we sponsored an author luncheon. After a great meal, Seattle author Jack Hamann discussed his award-winning book *On American Soil*. It told the story of the Army's largest and longest court-martial of World War II. Forty-three soldiers, all of them African American, were accused of rioting and three of the soldiers were on trial for their lives, charged with the murder of an Italian prisoner of war. It was a

fascinating book and a great discussion. For more info:

[www.jackhamann.com](http://www.jackhamann.com)



We began what will be a great new tradition of hosting Poster Sessions. This year's theme was "Building Bridges with Collaboration Tools" and entries from around the country displayed how libraries are using Web 2.0 applications to share information internally and externally. All the entries were great! The winning poster was presented by Jacalyn Spoon of the Adelson Library at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It was entitled "Flying Solo at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology: Developing the Gallery of Bird and Wildlife Art."



**Brandy King** offered a Continuing Education course at the very start of the conference, entitled *Ontologies: What Should Librarians Know?* The very last session was presented by Brandy's mother, Ilda Carreiro King. To a packed room, she presented *To Teach So They Can Learn*, providing valuable information on successful methods for improving learning and information retention among adults. Our session *WTO, Seattle, & Global Trade/Labor Issues*, hosted by our Labor Issues and International Sections, also played to a full house. The panel, some of whom had very strong opinions which led to a lively discussion, discussed the protests that surrounded the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999. The Geography and Map Section sponsored their annual *Government Mapping and Information Update* which provided innovations in mapping from the Defense Technical Information Center, the Census Bureau, and the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, they sponsored a field trip to the University of Washington's Map Library. The always-popular **Elana Broch** provided another of her excellent seminars on statistics, this time focusing on *Introduction to Research*

*Design.* Betsy Wilson, Dean of Libraries at the University of Washington, described winning ways to encourage libraries and librarians to collaborate in her session, *The Lone Ranger is Dead: Successful Collaboration in Libraries*. To another standing-room-only crowd, author William Jones of the University of Washington presented *Keeping Found Things Found*, an animated discussion of successful information management techniques.

And of course, no conference would be complete without the wonderful International Reception! *Ann Sweeney*, along with SLA Europe, KIIE, and SLA's Washington DC Chapter, put on another marvelous event. At the top of the Sheraton Seattle, overlooking a breathtaking view, attendees from around the world sipped champagne, dipped into delicious sorbet, and saw the presentation of the SLA Europe Information Professional 2008 Award. As usual, this was one of the highlights of the entire conference.

For more on our sessions, including great pictures, visit our website:

<http://sla.dsoc.googlepages.com/2008slaconference>



We have another terrific set of programs for the Centennial Celebration annual conference in Washington, DC, in June. Here's just a brief taste of the program. More information will follow.

On Sunday, June 14, we will offer a full day CE course called **Global IQ: Cross-Cultural Skills for Information Professionals**. To turn challenges of globalization into opportunities, librarians need to raise their global IQ. The course simplifies and demystifies the topic of globalization, breaking it down into practical concepts, key cross-cultural skills and best practices easily adoptable in any type of library setting.

On Sunday evening, we will again co-sponsor an **Open House and Poster Session**. This year the Education Division joins us and the Museum, Arts, & Humanities Division. Watch for a call for poster proposals very soon!

And you won't want to miss the always-popular **International Reception** on Monday evening. Luxuriate in "Inside-the-Beltway Washington" glitterati cachet; meet & greet globe-wide SLA attendees; see the SLA Europe Information Professional 2009 Award & the Thomson Gale Murray Wortzel Award presented; refresh!

During the conference, we have programs on a wide variety of topics, including:

**Think Tanks' Contribution to Government Information** (with speakers from RAND Corporation, National Academy of Sciences, and Institute for Defense Analysis describing their respective institutions' work and how they contribute to government information and government research)

**Be the CEO of Your Life: Finding Balance in the Flexible Job Age** (with Dr. Ellen Ernst Kossek, a recognized national expert in work-life balance issues)

**Census 2010: Not Your Grandmother's Census** (find out what's new with the Census and the American Community Survey)

**All About Succession Planning in Libraries.** In this back-to-back double session sponsored by DSOC, Government Information Division and Military Librarians learn how libraries are transitioning and reorganizing as more Baby Boomers retire. Part One is a case study from the Department of Justice Library and Part Two is a panel discussion on the how to manage succession planning successfully.

**Globalization: Emerging Opportunities for the Library Profession** (three global thought-leaders discuss key globalization trends & amplify rising opportunities for information professionals)

**Have you Federated your Databases Yet? We Have!** (come hear how two libraries have launched a federated search product, and what users think about it)

**Interdisciplinary Nature of Science and Impact on Information Professionals** (hear from an expert researcher and practicing librarians about how the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of science impact information users and information professionals)

**Field Trip to the National Geographic Society** (join us for a behind-the-scenes tour of one of the premier providers of maps and cartographic information)

**Working Smarter: Creating a Virtual Assistant** (hear how one creative solo in a nonprofit organization used Windows SharePoint to create a Virtual Assistant)

**Institutional Repositories Roundtable** (a roundtable for practitioners to share best practices and discuss repository issues independent of specific vendors)

**Cyberinfrastructure and the New Construction of Knowledge: Will the University Survive?** (explore the basics of what librarians working with social scientists need to know about cyberinfrastructure and discuss possibilities for integrating products and services into this new model, with CLIR president Charles Henry)

After the official conference closing, stay for our Thursday tour of the **United States Holocaust Museum**, America's national institution for the documentation, study and interpretation of Holocaust history, and memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust. We will be given a tour of their library (which houses more than 72,000 items in 55 languages) and a presentation by one of the librarians. We then will take the self-guided tour of the permanent exhibit of the museum, moving through the exhibition's three floors.