

The Confluence

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Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Special Libraries Association

Spring-Summer 2005

President's Message

Reflections on the Pittsburgh Chapter's 2004/2005 year thus far...

...and what a good year it's been!!

We started the year with the August Board Meeting. Do I say it enough? I would be lost without our wonderful Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. We could not have had such a great year without — in no particular order—Earl, Amy, Mandy, Mary, Denise, Kim, Ange, Brian, Steve, Adele, Linda, Scott, Judy, Deb, and Sheila. Thank you to you all for all of your hard work throughout the year!

The Chapter's programming started off 'with a bang' in September with a dinner meeting featuring Dr. Amanda Spink—a new professor at the University of Pittsburgh/School of Information Sciences. Dr. Spink is the author of *Web Search: Public Searching of the Web*. She spoke about web retrieval at Duranti's Restaurant in Oakland. The meeting was generously sponsored by Thomson Scientific *Web of Science*.

Wow!! *The Confluence* re-launch. How great it is to see our Chapter Newsletter online in full color with wonderful graphics and even better text and information. Thank you to Amy and Bhuva and all of you committed contributors. Please...let's keep that participation and quality going.

SLA-Pittsburgh Chapter's first Professional Development Meeting of the year was in October. So many thanks to Mary Arnold—Professional Development

Chair—for putting together a *Round Table Discussion* featuring our Chapter's very own Barb Spiegelman, Earl Mounts, and Denise Callihan. These talented individuals shared their expertise with us about *Dealing with Subscription Agents* and *How to Negotiate License Agreements* at the Spaghetti Warehouse in The Strip. The food was very good, but the discussion and information were even better!

What fun the Student "Meet & Greet" - planned by Adele turned out to be! It was held at the Captain Loomis House in Clarion, PA for Clarion and Pitt students. There was informal talk and camaraderie over tasty hors-d'oeuvres and some of the best cookies around! We'll be doing this event again...and again...and again!

On to our Annual Fall Student Event at Pitt - Special Libraries: Career Paths and Job Hunting. Held at the University of Pittsburgh, this well-attended and popular event featured a *Round Table of Advice* to students on career strategies, job searching, and the interviewing process. Pizza, soft drinks, and a light dessert were served. As always, so many thanks to our dedicated chapter members who participated in the concurrent 'break-out' sessions — it could not be done without you. This event is always a lot of fun; this year did not disappoint!

Who didn't have fun at the Pittsburgh Chapter's Annual Holiday Party? If you didn't, you had only yourself to blame. The networking and location at Café Amante in Fifth Avenue Place were wonderful for a



crisp winter evening in Pittsburgh. The food was delicious and it's always fun to win door prizes!

Our January Meeting—a Professional Development Program, featured Dr. Toni Carbo, Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences and world-renowned expert on information ethics. As information professionals, Dr. Carbo said, we are faced with many ethical dilemmas in our day-to-day lives and in our larger profession as a whole. We work with many different kinds of people from across the world that have different cultural norms, manners, and mores, and it is important for us to go beyond the apparent differences to the heart of the person or situation. Dr. Carbo's presentation was very special indeed and a real treat for the SLA-Pittsburgh Chapter.

I've got to say something about SLA's Leadership Summit in Tampa, FL in January. What an honor it was to represent our Chapter at this fabulous conference. If you ever get the chance to go, please do. As it said in the conference brochure, "This

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unique leadership development program offers both substantive content AND time for individual reflection." Attendees were given the opportunity to "engage in group learning and skill-building" that "pushed our thinking and advanced our leadership and management skills." It was great fun and a wonderful way to meet lots of other information professionals. I just can't say enough about how invaluable it was.

The February Board Meeting afforded the Board the opportunity to recap what had gone on throughout the Pittsburgh Chapter so far in the year. Plans and goals for the remainder of the 2004/2005 year were outlined and revised.

The Chapter's February Meeting Event featured Emily E. Schultheiss, Executive Coach at www.thrivingsystems.com Emily presented *Thriving Skills for Leaders*. She was fantastic. Emily pointed out that adjusting to changes does not involve humor, attitude, or resilience, but requires instead the art of thriving, not simply surviving. The meeting was held at The Chadwick in Wexford; the meal was delicious.

Also in February, the Chapter was invited by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences to attend and participate in a breakfast for the University of

Pittsburgh's students at the School of Information Sciences. It was well-attended by the students as well as by our Pittsburgh Chapter members.

Mandy, Earl, and Jan met to discuss the Chapter Budget in March. As Treasurer, Mandy wanted to make sure that we were securing as many sponsorships as possible and that we do not deplete the Chapter's funds without rebuilding them as well. It was an informative meeting as we went through the last several years' expenditures and receipts. We also discussed future fundraising ideas and opportunities.

As a follow-up to the February meeting on thriving, our March meeting featured Christine Hennrich, Manager of the Alcoa Technical Library. Chris related the experiences of her staff in dealing with staff reductions and her own debilitating illness and highly successful recovery. Chris detailed the process analogous to the various stages of grief that was required in order to arrive at the current stable condition of her organization. Chris was really great and the meeting, held at the Chelsea Grille in Oakmont, was a huge success.

Chapter members also participated in the LIS Professional Days, a two-day event at the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, April 1-2nd. Members helped students interested in special

libraries by providing mock job interviews, resume help, and talked about networking opportunities.

In April, we held our annual Member Recognition Banquet. This meeting was generously sponsored by Knovel. Awards Chair, Ange Pollis, put together a wonderful evening of recognition and fun for all. Ange presented several awards to members who excelled in Leadership, Technology, Writing, and Initiative. It was a super evening at Jimmie G's Restaurant in Sharpsburg.

That brings us to the current month of May during which it was the Chapter's great pleasure to be able to give Annual Conference Travel Awards to three deserving graduate students. Awards went to Bhuvu Narayan, Karen Liljequist, and Molly Krichten. They submitted papers saying what they hope to accomplish by attending the SLA Annual Conference in Toronto, projected cost itemizations, and a promise of publishing Conference Recap articles in *The Confluence*. We are very proud of our Chapter students.

On to Toronto where I'm hoping to see many of you!

—Jan



Nick Kotow and Christine Hennrich at our March meeting where Christine was our invited speaker.



Lynn Labun, Adele Barsh, and Denise Callihan at our March dinner meeting.



Scott Trask and Andy Hartman at our March dinner meeting.



SLA members having a good old time together at our March dinner meeting.

A note to all chapter members attending the SLA Annual Conference
Please join fellow members and guests for an informal gathering in Toronto.
When: Sunday, June 5th, around 9 PM
Where: Diamonds Bar in the Renaissance Toronto Downtown Hotel



From a *Special Library Log Book*... Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh on the Move...

New Director Appointed at Carnegie Public Library

Dr. Barbara K. Mistick will succeed recently-retired Herb Elish as Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Dr. Mistick is the first woman director of the Carnegie Library—and the second non-librarian. She was Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University and Director of the Girls' Math and Science Initiative, a collaboration between Fred Rogers' Family Communications, Inc., and Carnegie Mellon University. She previously directed Seton Hill University's National Education Center for Women in Business. She has a doctorate in management and an MBA. She will start on June 1.

Squirrel Hill

Dr. Mistick's appointment was announced on April 19, the day of the grand opening of the renovated Squirrel Hill branch, the fourth in a series of branch renovations that have already included Main,

Brookline, and Home-wood. (Woods Run begins this summer.) Oakland's Main Library renovation includes reorganization of the first floor space, an outdoor reading deck surrounded by a bamboo garden, new multimedia information displays, and a Café Mocha counter(!)

Squirrel Hill's grand opening on April 19th attracted almost 4000 people. Architectural firm Arthur Lubetz Associates created an open and lofty space where many bookshelves are on wheels, allowing for great flexibility, but more conventional book stacks are grouped along some of the walls for privacy and quiet. The terrace has been enclosed, adding 7,000 more feet to the floor space. There is an elevator and a book drop in the parking garage below. Another new feature is the Namm Business Area, the result of a \$727,000 bequest by podiatrist Allen Namm for a business center. Its resources serve investors and small business operators. Dorothy

Kabakeris, formerly a member of the Downtown and Business staff, is in charge of this area. She has started a business lecture series on Tuesdays.

Downtown and Business

Of particular interest to SLA members is the Downtown and Business branch which relocated from Wood Street (after only seven years) to 612 Smithfield Street, across from Barnes and Noble. There has been a Downtown and Business branch since 1924, but it has been many years since its location has been so *visible*. Even though the space is smaller than that on Wood Street, the branch provides substantially the same services as before in an eye-catching setting. (Architect: Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates) In the Business area on the lower level, there is a wealth of information on investing, companies, and demographics. In addition to resources on business plans and financing options for start-up businesses, a representative from the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is available on Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00

Call for articles

The Confluence invites all SLA-CPIT members to contribute articles and content to every issue:

☺ Send in something for our section **From a Special Library Log Book**

☺ Offer to be interviewed for our **Interview** section

☺ Offer to write about your area of specialty for our section **What can Special Librarians offer...**

☺ Send in a question to include for our **Quiz**

p.m. to assist aspiring entrepreneurs. The Thursday lunchtime business lecture series (at 12:15 p.m.) has resumed. The Foundation Center offers resources for grant seekers. And don't forget to check out the Best Sellers display as you enter the building!

—Esther Nathanson

Of interest to SLA members

- The Tuesday lunch-hour program at the Downtown Business branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Check out their schedule at <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/downtown/programs.cfm>
- The Wednesday lunch-hour program of the Namm Business center at the Squirrel Hill branch of the Carnegie Public Library. Check out their schedule at <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/dontmiss/programs/NammBusiness.html>
- The Foundation Center at the Downtown and Business branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh offers many courses for help with grants-related issues and help. Check out their programs at <http://www.clpgh.org/locations/foundationcenter/programs.cfm>
- Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center offers many free programs for technical learning and business development. Find out more at <http://srv02a.sbdc.business.duq.edu/sbdc/default.cfm>
- Find out more about other Pittsburgh area business programs and see up-to-date listings at <http://businesscalendar.org/>
- The Census Bureau has begun releasing geographic area data from the 2002 economic census. Book mark their site: http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/guide/02EC_PA.HTM
- Last but not the least, check out the *Current Business-Related Publications about the Pittsburgh Region*, and Internet Scout Award-winning set of wonderful resources put together by our very own Adele Barsh and Diane Gerber at <http://www.library.cmu.edu/Research/Business/LRP/PghReg.html>

—Bhuva Narayan



An Interview with Nancy Flury Carlson: Librarian turned Analyst at Westinghouse Electric Company

Westinghouse Electric Company has many locations across the world, but the international headquarters are located in Monroeville. Is there a reason why that location was chosen?

This location became the world headquarters because the Monroeville Energy Center, formerly known as Westinghouse's Nuclear Center, was the main location for the nuclear energy systems business of the old Westinghouse Electric Corporation which was headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh. In 1995 Westinghouse bought CBS, setting off a chain of events that would culminate in the company becoming CBS and then VIACOM, and selling off the industrial assets of the former Westinghouse Electric Corporation. In 1999 the nuclear energy assets of Westinghouse Electric Corporation were sold to BNFL, Inc. At that time the company was renamed Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC and its world headquarters became the Energy Center in Monroeville. There is a lot more information about our company at

“Searching and reference interviewing techniques are two library skills that I use every day.”

www.westinghousenuclear.com.

How did you choose the Pittsburgh area? Can you tell me where you attended graduate school and if you specialized in any particular area of librarianship?

I received my master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science in 1981. Although I was born in Pittsburgh, we moved away when I was a baby. I lived in many other states growing up, and visited Pittsburgh occasionally to see family and friends. For a long time I was a *Pirates* fan, especially when we lived in Erie from 1966 to 1971, and then we moved and I had to suffer the sorrow of watching both the 1971 and 1979 World Series wins from St. Louis, Missouri. I came to Pittsburgh in 1980 with the intention of staying for one year and then moving to wherever I could find the most interesting job. At that time I was interested in rare book or art librarianship, but I also loved the online searching class that I took. By the time I finished my degree, I had too many friends and enjoyed the unique and friendly Pittsburgh culture too much to want to leave. Also, I made a vow that since I had missed the 1971 and 1979 series, I wasn't going to leave Pittsburgh until they won again. So maybe I am to blame for their record since 1979!

You mentioned that your location closed its library in 2000 and you moved to the Strategic Management department. Can you describe why the company chose to move in this direction?

The decision to close the library was a company-wide business decision driven by the need to reduce overall administrative costs. Many other service and administrative functions were reduced, eliminated or outsourced at that time. Our library had been downsized several times prior to 2000 and we had continually adapted to providing the most critical services in the most cost-effective ways. One of the areas that had been

suffering for many years was the library's collection growth, due to decreases in the budget for acquisitions. When the decision was made to close the library, management ensured that several key resources remained available. Three of the four remaining staff of the library were reassigned to other departments to continue providing competitive intelligence, industry and company research, administration of the proprietary information function, and support for knowledge management initiatives. I moved to the Strategic Management group at that time.

Can you detail what you do in your position as an analyst for strategic management?

Some of my work involves taking information from the rest of the world and getting it to the right person at Westinghouse. For example, we aggressively follow industry news and developments, and write a brief internal monthly newsletter to present a snapshot of market, customer and competitor news. We also do ad hoc reference, company research and literature searches to support internal projects. And we maintain tools to locate basic information about competitors, customers, and organizations of interest to our industry.

Other work involves maximizing access to the information, expertise and knowledge that resides inside our company. In this area, I've created and maintained an expertise directory of our engineering organization to help locate the right expertise for a



given problem. I facilitate a community of practice in one of our technical areas. As part of that function I've administered a portal community, created tools to locate internal reports along with the calc notes they are based on, and led reviews of external information resources for purchase decisions.

What library related skills are most useful to you as an analyst?

Searching and reference interviewing techniques are two library skills that I use every day. We kept our library accounts for the major online database services in our field, and I use these resources daily in addition to searching on the web. The reference interview comes into play frequently, as I remain the intermediary between my customers and the information they need.

Since we can't do research and analysis without resources, another library skill that I still use is the management of accounts for external resources such as commercial online databases, electronic industry data and publications, and subscriptions to internet resources.

Even cataloging comes into play in my knowledge management initiatives. Although I am not doing cataloging close to the level



we employed in our library catalog, my background and knowledge in this area is very helpful in working with portal document properties, taxonomies, and even in creating useful spreadsheets as finding tools for internal information.

You have said that the area of knowledge management is “where new things are starting to happen.” In your own words, would you give a brief definition of knowledge management and how it can benefit an organization?

To me, knowledge management is simply “management” in an organization of knowledge workers. KM encompasses all of the same areas of focus that general management does: human resources, training and development, technology, performance management, process management, information systems, facilities, communications, etc. Since computing and information techniques change so quickly, new opportunities arise all the time to recalibrate how an organization can manage its work. Calling it “Knowledge Management” encourages us to re-evaluate general management practices in view of the current age of information with its new technologies and ways of communicating. I think that any organization will benefit from a clean-sheet assessment of its own practices in light of the many questions that KM presents: How do we know what we know? How can we communicate and get projects done more efficiently? How can we access the information and expertise we need in the most effective way? Many of our chapter members are already involved with a dynamic new local organization called the Pittsburgh Regional Knowledge Management Consortium.

(PRKMC). PRKMC delves into the questions of KM on a regular basis with lively meetings, discussions and presentations. For those who aren't already familiar with PRKMC, find out more at www.pittsburghkmc.org.

The March 2005 edition of Information Outlook features an article (Ken Nordan, page 17) about starting knowledge management projects. Can you comment on some of the challenges you have faced when trying to get knowledge management projects off the ground?

My number one challenge in getting KM projects off the ground has been that the people I need to work with are terrifically busy with their technical and customer-related projects. This is less of an issue when the KM project is an integral part of a customer deliverable. For example, last year I provided some of the information content for a portal community that our company would be sharing with one of our customers. This project was completed quickly because for us, customers come first.

Some of my KM projects involve surveying internal managers or engineers to obtain the information that I intend to organize and make available to them. Examples of this include the expertise directory, and various lists of internally-owned information resources. Everyone agrees that a current expertise directory is valuable, but the fact is that not everyone can take the time to respond to my request for information to meet the same deadline. I understand this, and so my expertise list is always a “work in progress”. It helps to face the reality that it will never be completely up-to-date at one time.

What are your favorite benefits of being a member of SLA?

I value my connections with local colleagues, relationships that have been formed over many years of attending local chapter meetings and events. It's great to have a group of friends who speak the same language. You just can't talk about databases, vendors, and information issues with many of your other friends. The people in our chapter are also great resources for help with questions and quandaries that arise from time to time.

SLA also offers lots of opportunities for leadership

“Be open to new possibilities and opportunities.”

development and for contributing to the profession. I've held a number of positions in our local chapter, including the three-year president rotation. The constant refreshing of chapter leadership is great for the chapter and also good experience for those who serve in office.

Do you have any ‘pearls of wisdom’ you like to share with librarians who are just beginning their professional career?

Be open to new possibilities and opportunities. I landed in a job at Westinghouse in 1983 by chance—because the job was available and I needed a job. At that time I saw myself as a potential fine arts or rare books librarian, but now I can't imagine another job that I would prefer, an industry that would be more interesting to work in, or a greater group of colleagues and internal customers to work with.

—Emily Forwood
VP, Membership
Student Chapter
University of Pittsburgh

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We're going to the dogs (and cats)!

SLA-Pittsburgh Chapter forming partnership with Animal Friends!

Animal Friends is an organization that works to "...guarantee loving, responsible homes for all of Pittsburgh's dogs and cats." They are also Pittsburgh's only no-kill shelter. (<http://www.animal-friends.org>) *Animal Friends* is building a new facility in Ohio Township, expected to open in 2006, and intends to establish a "library" within the new facility in order to serve students, educators and the general pet-loving public. Joanne Moore, outreach director for *Animal Friends*, has been charged with establishing the library, and having heard about our chapter's consultation program from a friend, the opportunity for a wonderful partnership was born.

I was contacted last year, as the chapter's consultation chair, for advice and information on starting-up/establishing the library, and the more we communicated via email, the more it seemed there was potential for making an even greater impact for both our chapter, and *Animal Friends*. As our president and president-elect were also in support of exploring further options with this project, I contacted John Latham at SLA HQ. Drawing directly from our chapter's strategic plan, and with hopes of expanding this into a community outreach project, John and

I discussed the positive PR potential for the chapter, the opportunity to increase our community role and further the visibility of our Association and its importance. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Latham agreed this would be a project worthy of our efforts, and granted the necessary approval to move forward.

Since gaining approval, Jan Deitch, Joanne Moore, others and myself, have met to discuss future plans. We have some great ideas involving students from the University of Pittsburgh and Clarion University, though we are seeking and interested in any additional opportunities and support our members might have. While we work towards growing this partnership, we are currently helping to frame *Animal Friends'* needs and functioning as an advisor. We are excited to be involved in helping our community, and I hope our members agree this will be rewarding on many levels. You will hear more about this project, and hope that our members also recognize the importance of our assistance with this project. If you are interested in helping or brainstorming, please contact Jan Deitch or myself. We look forward to hearing from you!

—Denise Callihan
Consultations, Pittsburgh Chapter
PPG Industries

Six on Six

A Toronto Mastermind Quiz in honor of our annual conference!

- Which one of the following is not one of Toronto's islands?
 - Ward Island
 - Muggs Island
 - Centre Island
 - Enrique Laguerre
- Toronto is on one end of the longest road in the world. Which one?
 - York Street
 - Yonge Street
 - Dundas Street
 - Loyalist Street
- Which one of the following celebrities was NOT born in Toronto?
 - Keanu Reeves
 - Jim Carrey
 - Mike Myers
 - Neil Young
- What Toronto subway stations' mosaic tiles' pattern represents the digits of the value of π (Pi), which is 3.1415...
 - Downsview
 - Eglinton West
 - Kipling
 - Osgoode
- What ethnicity in Toronto is the largest one outside of its original country?
 - German
 - English
 - Italian
 - Greek
- What is the name of the longest-running play in North America that has been playing for more years in one location than in any other ?
Clue: You don't have to be a Hercule Poirot to figure this one out!

Send your answers to: Bhuva_Narayan@yahoo.com
All correct entries will be acknowledged by E-mail on the SLA-ListServ and a prize will be drawn at the next dinner meeting from all the correct responses received. The winner's name and the answers will be published in the next issue of *The Confluence*.

Here are the answers for the Winter Library Quiz:

- Julia Alvarez
- Green Day
- Giacomo Girolamo Casanova
- Elvis offering his services as a drug enforcement agent to Nixon
- Russia
- Goodnight Moon

The winners are:

- Nancy Carlson
- Mary Arnold
- Denise Callihan
- Suzan Dolfi

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Yes, Dogs and Libraries Do Mix!

More and more libraries across the country are taking advantage of the many organizations that offer therapy dogs to help children who struggle with reading. The dogs love the interaction with the children, and the children love to read to the dogs, who listen to them with rapt attention and make no judgments about the children's reading abilities. This reduces the child's stress level and gives them a better chance to succeed and learn to enjoy reading. Pittsburgh's own *Animal Friends* offers programs in Pet Assisted Therapy through *Visiting PAT Partners* and *Reading with Rover*. Chapter members interested in volunteering their services or their pooch's services to this and other pet therapy programs can find more information at the website below:

<http://www.animal-friends.org/site/petassist.jsp>

—Bhuva Narayan



Have projects you need help with? Host an MLIS student for a field placement!

When I speak with Chapter members about hosting students for field placements, the most common responses I hear are questions about what kind of time and effort it would involve, what kind of return it would provide for the host, and where to recruit students. Having been a host for more than eight such field placements, I want to provide more information in the hopes that it will benefit both the potential hosts and students.

We have great resources in this area, in that both the University of Pittsburgh's department of Library and Information Science and Clarion University's Library Science program support a field placement or internship program. These programs allow students to get some "real life" experience in library settings and earn academic course credit.

The basics of hosting a field placement are typically that you host a student for 150 hours during a semester (10 hours per week). The seeking student contacts you, discusses the possibilities, then puts together a proposal which you review and sign. Each field placement student also has a faculty member who is the contact, so if there are any problems or questions, s/he can be consulted. The student and host set up a schedule of on-site or off-site work, or a combination of both. Built-in should be the opportunity to meet regularly so that the host can monitor and guide the project. At the end of the semester, the host writes a one-page assessment of the work and submits it to the faculty contact and recommends a grade.

One of the students' biggest hurdles, when looking for that first job, is to prove they can do something practical "out of the gate" for their prospective employer. Although it is nice to talk about transferable skills like time management or verbal and writing talents, the recent graduates are more likely to earn second looks and job offers when they have a realistic understanding of the work environment and experience in professional-level tasks. Then, they immediately can contribute to their new institution, not causing a "train drain" on their co-workers while they get up to speed.

The field placement program benefits hosts, not just students. How many of you say something to the effect, "Gee, if I had time to work on that project, I could really produce something great for (my company, my organization, my industry, etc.)? A student placement is the chance for a manpower boost, and the costs are not a line item that shows up in your budget.

For example, when I adopt a student for the semester, I usually offer a mix of tasks that advance or complete some project(s) that I otherwise would not have time to complete myself. I have completed two collection development projects benchmarking our business databases with other institutions, developed numerous specialized guides to our collections, and created two online resources that help not only the librarians here in my organization, but regionally. In one case, a student participated in internal library meetings to set up the website for our Qatar library, and contributed valuable input to interface design. I certainly could not have set my daily tasks aside to do all this on my own, but I did have time to meet with students once a week

for about an hour and follow up by email, and, presto!, they did the bulk of the work... because they were interested in it intellectually, as well as getting academic credit and gaining practical experience and end-products they could talk about in their resumes and interviews.

I am not saying field placement hosting is for everyone; it will depend on your particular situation. In the interest of having more hosts benefit like I have and for opening more student opportunities, here are some guidelines to give you more information to consider hosting.

How to know if you want to host:

All year, I keep a folder marked Student Projects, where I collect the handful of notes I've jotted on napkins, post-its, torn half-sheets of notepads. Good ideas come at the oddest times. I constantly think about whether and how I could package some of the tasks or projects I do for a student. If you are unsure whether you would like to host, keep a folder like that as a test for yourself before you make inquiries about recruiting a student. Or, just remember, if a project suddenly lands in your lap that screams "get help to complete this!" consider whether a field placement student might be a viable alternative.

When a student calls me inquiring about field placement, I have a list of possibilities that I can present. The bonus of having a few ideas to hand is that it gives me flexibility to match the project with student interest or talents. I have had students who had no prior experience with

business resources, and they still did a fine job on resource guides for me, because their skills at analysis and writing were what were important. Non-business students have said to me, "I didn't realize I could do that, and I didn't believe it when you said I could apply what I learn in school to any subject." I love that: it is the birth of their realizing that their library school experience is paying off, and they really *have* acquired some professional skills, almost without realizing it, which have surfaced in their placement project.

How do you get students to find you? How do you find students when you need them?

You can contact the Chapter's Student Liaison (me, presently). It is that simple. The liaison is in constant contact with students and faculty at both Pitt's and Clarion's schools. You may also directly contact the departments. For example, if you know specific faculty, just email them and ask them to announce the opportunity to their classes. There are internal student email lists for the entire department at both schools, as well as local student SLA chapters to disseminate information. Or you can post it to our Chapter's online discussion list, where both student members and the Student Liaison will see it.

However you do it, just get the information out there, and remember: the more people who know you may have opportunities, the quicker you are likely to get some inquiries.

The down sides:

You must put in some time planning an experience that benefits both you and the student. This is important so that the student does not just do "grunt work" and that you are not in the position similar to training a new employee.



There is time involved in working with the student throughout the semester. Most field placements are for 150 hours (10 hours per week). Sometimes, the fact that field placement is packaged in a semester time frame, it may seem a bit artificial or imposed (for lack of better words). The projects are usually not the everyday ones you handle, because often it takes time to find a student match. Sometimes there are organizational details to work out—in my case it is usually about figuring out how to get the student legitimate access to a computer and workspace, and to make sure that the work I have the student do does not duplicate what we pay our other students to

do, such as work as trainees at the reference desk. In other organizations, it might be related to issues of security, intellectual property, privacy, etc.

I have found that the down sides usually can be mitigated, and fairly easily, with some creative thinking.

Tips:

Let everyone know you have a field placement possibility, when you have one. When formulating your ideas, ask questions and bounce your ideas off on others who have done it.

Remember that you can host a student occasionally, or more frequently, depending on your needs.

Do not take just any student who offers to do a field placement. Up

front I ask students about their time management and self-directedness—they have to be good at working on their own and making decisions, yet checking in. I have to feel like the work is really going to accomplish something besides hand-holding. Although I want students to have the experience of being exposed to the environment of working in an academic library on a special collection, I expect them to contribute to rather than drain the resources of myself or my colleagues. I require the students to self-monitor their hours, to work most of the hours on site and to check in with me frequently with quick updates.

Final thoughts:

Several current chapter members have done field placements with me, and not only have survived to tell about it, but have turned out to be strong special librarians. I see hosting field placements as not only helping the career development of individuals, but providing a recruiting tool for the profession. Altruistically, it feels great to participate! Please give it some thought within your setting.

—*Adele Barsh*
Student Liaison, Pittsburgh Chapter
Business & Economics Librarian
Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Can't wait for our Fall issue? Here's an exciting preview!

- Lynn Berard interviews Barbara Mistick, the new director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.
- An article about institutional repositories by Denise Troll Covey.
- A round-up of our chapter members' work with the Animal Friends of Pittsburgh.
- "So you want to be an indexer? How I learnt indexing on the fly" by Frances Alvarado-Albertorio.
- An update of the University of Pittsburgh's student chapter activities by Karen Liljequist
- An annual conference report on the Toronto Conference by the students awarded the chapter's student travel award.
- A surprise new feature from Angela Pollis.
- Amy Watson will return with some more exciting news about the world of weblogs.
- Journal reviews by Earl Mounts.
- Book reviews by Bhuva Narayan.
- And of course, our quiz contest!

Not enough reading for you? Why don't you contribute a suggestion or an article!



What do Special Librarians Offer? We make excellent investment librarians!

So you want to be an investment librarian?

I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do with my Library Science degree upon graduation, but I did know that I wanted to work in a corporate environment! So a few months after my graduation in August 1998, when an opening in a mutual fund company was posted on the School of Information Sciences website for an Investment Librarian, and I promptly applied. Perhaps I was in the right place at the right time; or maybe it was the fact that I had been on many other interviews allowing me to sharpen those skills; or maybe I just clicked with the interviewer. Whatever the reason, and maybe because of all these reasons, I was extended a job offer which I graciously accepted. After a few days of "thinking about it", of course.

So, what exactly *IS* a mutual fund anyway? I had a general idea; I had some money invested in them and had heard about them in commercials and in certain social circles..... Little did I know that during the very first two days of my employment, I would first be trained in the corporate history of Federated Investors, Inc. (complete with a quiz, yes, a quiz on the very first day – what DID I get myself into?), but I would also be inundated with everything I ever wanted to know about a mutual fund, in a class entitled nothing other than, *Mutual Fundamentals!* Get it? Wink wink!

I am not sure how it works with other companies, but Federated is smart in realizing that not everyone they hire is intimately familiar with the financial industry (I

mean, other than the actual investment professionals) and all the industry jargon. So, moral of the story is, don't be afraid that you lack knowledge about a certain industry where an opportunity appears. Remember that when you graduate with a library science degree, it provides you with a foundation not everyone has. You are already trained in information retrieval, and you can learn and develop as you go along, especially with the assistance of a supportive employer. Do not underestimate your ability to learn the mechanics of something new.

Now that we've gotten the industry in the back pocket, next up are the vendors and the specialized databases that go along with them. There are the usual suspects that Federated subscribes to such as Lexis Nexis, Factiva, Wall Street Journal. But there is also Strategic Insight's *Simfund Database*, Morningstar's *Principia database*, Lipper's *LANA database*, among many others that are specialized in the financial world. I had never heard of any of these prior to my employment, let alone how to use them.

Why are flows important? What significance do fees and expenses have on fund returns, and who really cares? These specialized databases contain this type of information on Federated, as well as for its competitors. Learning the databases was the first of many challenges, but since I came in with a foundation of search skills, learning the different databases came easily. It is a matter of being open minded and experimenting with the data. Do not feel intimidated

by them; you are capable of learning and mastering them. Plus, many vendors are just a phone call away, and are more than willing to answer a question, assist with a search, provide additional training or tell you that what you are looking for cannot be found in the database and you should stop looking! Unbeknownst to you, during the learning process, you are absorbing more and more about the industry in which you work, and you will eventually become intelligent about things you never dreamed of! And what a feeling it is when you are actually asked a question on how to conduct a search by someone who has

“Unbeknownst to you, during the learning process, you are absorbing more and more about the industry in which you work, and you will eventually become intelligent about things you never dreamed of!”

been working there a lot longer than you.

Let's not forget about learning the trade industry organizations and the services they provide, such as access to research papers, conferences, web casts, extensive in-depth reports on an industry topic, or just plain old networking. Depending on the vendor, they could have a very narrow focus, or they

can cast a wide net and focus on the industry in general. Trade organizations are beneficial in that they are on the pulse of what is hot, or not, in the industry. They act as a depository for concerns, issues, research, forums and dialog. Memberships to these trade organizations can be expensive in some cases, but critical. It is good to maintain a regular dialog with your representative at these places and to take advantage of any and all services that go along with a membership. Also leveraging all memberships within the company is important to get the most bang for the buck. Contacting the procurement department or centralized contract department within your company is a good place to start in determining what relationships exist and if there is any potential to take advantage of in leveraging for your department. You will be seen as resourceful, frugal and conscious of the bottom line!

There are also a host of freebies available out there on the internet covering topics of interest as well (have you ever perused the AARP website?) As you conduct more and more research, bookmark the ones that you feel are authoritative for future reference. You never know when they will be needed again, and recreating the wheel at any time is a waste. Authoritative sites also may provide links to other resources, and you will soon develop your own library, which can be used for your own personal use, or can be expanded into a



resource for your department, and perhaps, even the company. Possibilities are endless when it comes to information and a librarian's imagination.

These points I mention span across all industries, not just financial. I think these are probably what concerned me the most when I began my librarian career in the financial industry. But

having the background and training as an information professional, and being able to demonstrate my abilities, everything else just fell into place. Remember there is always a learning curve with everything, and you can do it.

But there is work required on your part. The best exercise you can do in preparation for an interview is an honest, thorough self-assessment

about the type of person you are, giving thought to the kind of environment you have worked in and wish to work in, and to have a high level of knowledge about your skills. I'm not talking just about technical skills or research skills relative to the information field, but organizational skills, communication skills (written and verbal), analytical skills (more important than ever in our field) and the willingness to be honest

about the skills you lack, but are always willing and able to learn. Also be prepared with some knowledge about the company to which you are applying. Be professional at all times, but above all, be honest and genuine, these go a long way! Good luck!

—Kim Gregory
Federated Investments Inc.
Chapter webmaster

★ THE ANNUAL CHAPTER AWARDS AND MEMBER RECOGNITION BANQUET ★

On April 26, 2005, members gathered to celebrate our own Pittsburgh Chapter information stars, and Knovel was kind enough to sponsor the dinner at Jimmy G's in Sharpsburg. **Monica Nogueira** of Knovel, who has recently relocated to Pittsburgh, was present and participated in the festivities. Several members were recognized for their contributions to the Chapter throughout the year.

The **OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD** was presented to **Adele Barsh** of Carnegie Mellon University for the strong links that she has forged between the Chapter and the student



Adele Barsh with her award chapters. Her technology expertise has helped to create the *Online Directory of Special Libraries* in the Pittsburgh area as well as keeping us all connected by maintaining the discussion list.

The **OUTSTANDING**

STUDENT MEMBER AWARD was given to **Bhuva Narayan**, University of Pittsburgh, for her editorial and publishing skills in the production of our newsletter,



Bhuva Narayan, Adele Barsh and Angela Pollis.

the *Confluence*.

Dr. Sue Alman of the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh was honored for her role in reviving the student chapter over the past several years.

Denise Callihan of PPG Industries was recognized for her contributions to the SIS Alumni Society where she served as President and



Denise Callihan & Angela Pollis

also as a board member of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association.

A new award, the **CATALYST AWARD**, was given to **Amy Watson**, PPG Industries for being the "agent to make things happen" such as the re-birth of the newsletter.

Christina Heil, Medrad Corp, received the **HOSPITALITY AWARD** for sharing her facilities with the Chapter members as her guests to participate in SLA web seminars.



Earl Mounts & Angela Pollis

A **SPECIAL AUTHORSHIP AWARD** was presented to **Earl Mounts**, Alcoa Center, for his recent article that was published in the January issue of Online magazine entitled, "Heavy Metal: a Survey of Online Sources for Metals and Materials."

Acknowledgements for **NEARLY PERFECT**

ATTENDANCE at chapter meetings were presented to **Lynn Labun, Bob Sullivan, Nancy Alstadt, and Ed Hahn.**

It was a great first annual awards and recognition night. To quote one of the



Kim and Denise!

members: "It was a great celebration of what we do. Everything from the decorations to the gifts was well done and people enjoyed themselves".

Hope to see you next year at the second annual event.

—**Angela Pollis**
Awards Chair,
Pittsburgh Chapter



Monica Nogueira of Knovel



A Review of New Journals

Engineering in Life Sciences. 1618-0240. Editors: A. Abeliovich et al. Wiley-VCH. v.4, 2004. 6/year. \$694.00.
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jhome/85007410>

Biotechnology is one of the most breathtaking sciences of the last decade and the journal *Engineering in Life Sciences* reflects its fast moving nature, serving as a worldwide forum for the exchange of scientific information in this field, its interdisciplinary character supporting the transfer of scientific results in environmental, industrial and agricultural biotechnology and health care into technological processes.

Concentrating on technology rather than biological fundamentals, *Engineering in Life Sciences* provides useful insight into engineering applications with all papers on microbiology, genetics, biochemistry, and chemistry being technologically relevant. Papers include original research articles, leading articles, and reviews. In addition, there are abstracts from key meetings, correspondence and book reviews.

Environmental Chemistry Letters. 1610-3653. Editors: S. Dudd et al. Springer. v.1, 2003. 4/year. \$225.00.
<http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,10735,3-198-0-0-0,00.html>

Environmental Chemistry Letters is located at the interfaces of geology, chemistry, physics, and biology. Articles are of high importance to the study of natural and engineered environments in the following fields: characterization of natural and affected environments; behavior, prevention, treatment, and control of mineral, organic, and radioactive pollutants; interfacial studies involving media such as soil, sediment, water, air, organism, and food; green chemistry, environmentally friendly synthetic pathways, and alternative fuels; ecotoxicology and risk assessment; and environmental analytical chemistry, biomolecular tools and tracers e.g. stable isotopes.

IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters. v.1, 2004. 4/year. \$430.00
<http://shop.ieee.org/store/product.asp?prodno=029-196>.

This publication emphasizes rapid turnaround for shorter, high-impact papers on the theory, concepts, and techniques of science and engineering as they apply to the sensing of the earth, oceans, atmosphere, and space; and the processing, interpretation, and dissemination of this information. Special efforts will be made to accommodate papers containing "extended objects" such as image animations.

Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries. 1542-4065. Editor: M.S. Wood. Haworth Press. v.1, 2004. 4/year. \$240.00. <http://www.haworthpress.com>

The *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries* is a peer-reviewed professional journal devoted to the access, evaluation, and management of electronic resources in the medical library environment. The material in the journal will complement articles published in *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* (also edited by M. Sandra Wood), which highlights the reference and bibliographic instruction aspects of electronic resources. Topics addressed by

this new journal include collection development and selection of electronic resources, electronic document delivery in medicine and health care, enhancing electronic resource user services, site licensing, merging serial and book formats in the electronic library, coping with electronic misinformation, fraudulence, and shams on the Internet, the library's role in medical informatics, the role of medical libraries with PDAs, archiving issues for electronic formats, and cost analyses of digital resources.

Landslides. 1612-510X. Editor: K. Sassa. Springer. v.1, 2004. 4/year. \$314.00.
<http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,10735,3-40109-70-18981265-0,00.html>

Landslides are gravitational mass movements of rock, debris, or earth. They may occur in conjunction with other major natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Expanding urbanization and changing land-use practices have increased the incidence of landslide disasters. Landslides as catastrophic events include human injury, loss of life, and economic devastation and are studied as part of the fields of earth, water, and engineering sciences. The aim of the journal *Landslides* is to become the common platform for the publication of integrated research on landslide processes, hazards, risk analysis, mitigation, and the protection of our cultural heritage and the environment. The journal publishes research papers, news of recent landslide events and information on the activities of the International Consortium on Landslides.

Mediterranean Journal of Mathematics. 1660-5446. Birkhäuser. v.1, 2004. 4/year. \$260.00.
http://www.birkhauser.ch/journals/9000/9000_tit.htm.

Mediterranean Journal of Mathematics (MedJM) is a new publication issued by the Department of Mathematics of the University of Bari. It succeeds the journal "Conferenze del Seminario Matematico dell' Università di Bari" that was published from 1954 until 2003. The journal publishes original peer-reviewed research papers containing significant results in all fields of mathematics. Furthermore, it offers mathematicians from the Mediterranean countries a particular opportunity to circulate results of their research in a common journal.

Nanotech Briefs. v.1, 2003. Editor: L.L. Bell. Associated Business Publications. 6/year. \$24.00.
<http://www.nanotechbriefs.com/>

Nanotech Briefs magazine is the first small-tech publication that focuses on the "technology" of nanotechnology by highlighting the best of government- and industry-developed nanotech and MEMS innovations for the commercial market. Included will be articles on cutting-edge breakthroughs in this rapidly growing field in six digital (PDF) issues in 2004, targeting design engineers and engineering managers who are developing tomorrow's small-tech products today.

Paddy and Water Environment. 1611-2490. Editor: Y. Sato. Springer. v.1, 2003. 4/year. \$220.00.
<http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,10735,3-10006-70-1180114-0,00.html?changeHeader=true>

The aim of the journal *Paddy and Water Environment* is to



Current Officers', Board's, and Committee Chairs' Terms Extended by Vote

SLA Headquarters is changing their Fiscal Year beginning with 2008 to a January – December FY. Chapters and Divisions were asked to vote on the change within their respective Chapters or Divisions. To make the transition easier, many Chapters and Divisions decided to extend their current Officers', Board's, and Committee Chairs' terms six additional months now – to the end of December 2005 (if their Officers, Boards, and Committee Chairs agreed) to position their future years in line with the January – December Fiscal Year. A vote concerning this issue was taken at the April '05 Pittsburgh Chapter Award Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of extending the current Officers', Board's, and Committee Chairs' terms to the end of 2005. —*Jan Deitch*

advance the science and technology of water and environment related disciplines in paddy farming. The scope includes paddy-farming related scientific and technological aspects in agricultural engineering such as irrigation and drainage, soil and water conservation, land and water resources management, paddy multi-functionality, agricultural policy, regional planning, bioenvironmental systems, and ecological conservation and restoration in paddy farming regions.

Poesis & Praxis. 1615-6609. Editor-in-Chief: C.F. Gethmann. Springer. v.1, 2001.4/year. \$225.00.
<http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,10735,3-10006-70-1151372-0,00.html?changeHeader=true>

Awareness of the ambivalence of scientific and technological developments has grown considerably over the last few decades. This is due to the increasing speed of technological advancements and the complexity of technology, advances in biomedicine, and the new options for action which have resulted from these. Additionally, we are becoming conscious of the limits of growth and are discovering long-term global risks related to technological progress. Problems associated with scientific and technological advance and their consequences are accordingly - and to an increasing extent - the subject of political and public debate. *Poesis & Praxis* is an interdisciplinary forum for reflection and deliberation on the scientific and technological future of our civilization.

Transformation Groups. 1083-4362. Editor-in-Chief: E. Vinberg. Birkhäuser. v.1, 2002. 4/year. \$279.00.
<http://www.birkhauser.com/journals/tg/index.htm>
 Transformation Groups accepts research articles containing

new results complete proofs. Topics include: Lie groups and Lie algebras; Lie transformation groups and holomorphic transformation groups; algebraic groups; invariant theory; geometry and topology of homogeneous spaces; discrete subgroups of Lie groups; quantum groups and enveloping algebras; group aspects of conformal field theory; Kac-Moody groups and algebras; and Lie supergroups and superalgebras.

Zebrafish. 1545-8547. Editor: P. Collodi. Mary Ann Liebert Inc. v.1, 2004. 6/year. \$424.00.
<http://www.liebertpub.com/ZEB/default1.asp>

The only peer-reviewed journal to focus on the zebrafish that has many valuable features as a model organism for study of vertebrate development. Due to its prolific reproduction and the external development of the transparent embryo, the zebrafish is a prime model for genetic and developmental studies, as well as research in toxicology and genomics. While genetically more distant from humans, the vertebrate zebrafish nevertheless has comparable organs and tissues, such as heart, kidney, pancreas, bones, and cartilage. Demand for zebrafish at National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been fast growing as word spreads that the tiny, black-striped creature makes an excellent supplement and, in some cases, alternative to lab mice for research. The NIH will break ground for a new facility to breed and house zebrafish for intramural research. Zebrafish will also include research with other aquarium species such as medaka, fugu, and xiphophorus.

—Earl Mounts
 Alcoa Technologies
 President Elect, Pittsburgh Chapter

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