



Social Science
Division
BULLETIN

Fall 2007

Greetings from the Chair

Planning, planning, planning.... It seems that planning for a conference is a continuous, year-long process. Before the June Annual Conference had even ended, we were already sharing and meeting to discuss the 2008 conference. Of course, lots of great programming ideas, so another great year to look forward to. But before I jump ahead too far, let me summarize what happened in Denver. The Social Science Division was the sponsor of many exciting and interesting sessions. Links to some of the presentations are available on the [Social Science Division website](#).



Greta Ober-Beauchesne

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The Social Science Division is published three times per year.

Deadline for articles for the Winter issue is December 15. Send articles to Mette Kruger at mette.kruger@utoronto.ca

A round of applause goes out to our Program Planners (**Jim Gillispie**, and **Tara Murray**) who have done an excellent job of coordinating our programs. Tara, our Program Planner for Seattle, is well underway planning for the 2008 conference! Our Section Chairs certainly deserve to be acknowledged as program planning would not be possible without our Section Chairs so diligently and creatively coming up with ideas and speakers.

- **Ann Sweeney, International Relations Chair** not only planned a wonderful International Section program, but once again organized the well attended and ever popular International Reception.
- **Vanette Schwartz, Geography and Map Section Chair** was involved in organizing two sessions, one of which she also moderated.
- **Elana Broch, Public Policy Section Chair** planned a couple of sessions and once again conducted a very popular program covering statistics (so, No people are not as afraid of statistics as we may think - - or they're just so curious and interested they can't stay away from Elana's presentations!); Elana also moderated one of the sessions.
- **Melanie Sciochetti, Nonprofit Section Chair** wasn't able to attend the conference (she was expecting a baby and has since been blessed with a son - - congratulations to Melanie!!); however Melanie did organize a session which **Nancy Minter** stepped in to moderate at the last minute (*thanks Nancy!*) due to an unexpected cancellation of the program's original moderator.
- **Linda Richer**, our *Past-Chair* has been so gracious to fill in as **interim coordinator** for the **Labor Issues Section** which, since formation of our newest Section, was without a Chair. I can't thank Linda enough for not only planning a Labor Issues program, but for all the guidance and support she has given me this past year.

At this time, I am pleased to announce that the Social Science Division has selected a Labor Issues Chair, and in doing so has also added a new member to our Division. **Larry Guthrie**, a longtime SLA member has held leadership roles with the Legal Division. Larry who happens to have a great interest in labor issues has since joined the Social Science Division and is now our Labor Issues Section Chair. Join me in welcoming Larry as one of the Social Science Division Officers!

A couple of other members of the Social Science Division have joined as Officers: please also welcome **Mette Kruger** as our new *Bulletin Editor*, and **Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes** as our *Discussion List Manager*.

I know that all of our Officers have been involved in planning and organizing conference programs, so I don't want to leave anyone out. Of course members of our Board are also serving as moderators and even speakers. So this is a thanks to everyone for both fulfilling your role as an Officer and so actively participating at the Annual Conference!

I would like to recognize **Nancy Minter** who is not only our **Public Relations Committee Chair**, but also as a Past-Chair served on the Nominating Committee. Well if that isn't enough, Nancy is the winner of the **Thomson Gale – Murray Wortzel Award**. This award is presented biennially at the SLA Conference to a member of the Social Science Division who has shown dedication and commitment to the Division.

I've already mentioned **Linda Richer**, but once again she deserves thanks and appreciation for Fundraising efforts. As **Vendor Relations Committee Chair**, she has been responsible for raising funds to support the annual conference programs. As we all know, without funding, these programs cannot take place. Linda has also been very creative in ways to continue receiving support from vendors even after the conference has ended.

Well it's not just the Division Officers that are shining! Many of our members are active and involved in different areas. In Denver, SLA recognized **Jane Kinney Myers** as the recipient of the **Dow Jones Leadership Award**, and **Debal Kar** as winner of the **Diversity Leadership Program**. So let's not forget about our fellow Social Science Division members – when SLA is soliciting nominations for awards, be sure to submit one of our members!

This is my last column as Chair, so to all Social Science Division members - - keep up the great work! I'd like to encourage everyone to get more involved in whatever way you can. The rewards are certainly gratifying!!

Greta D. Ober
Chair, Social Science
Division

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ANDERSON ASSUMES POSITION OF DIVISION CHAIR-ELECT

At the June 5, 2007 Annual Business Meeting of the Social Science Division, **Iris W. Anderson** was chosen as the next Chair-Elect of the Division. Iris comes with a wealth of experience in special libraries and in association work. Currently living in Silver Springs, Maryland, she is newly retired (May 2007) from her position at the World Bank-IMF Joint Library where she spent the majority of her professional career (22 years). She held several positions, first as a reference librarian and later as manager of information delivery and research. More recently she was involved in document delivery, serials management, and electronic alerting services. Her most recent position was as Group Leader for the Research and Information Delivery area.

She has been a member of SLA and the Social Science Division since 1992. From 1997 through 2002 she led the Round Table on Peace and Conflict Management and the International Relations Section. From 2004-2005 she shared her creative program-planning skills with the Division. More recently she served on the Public Relations Committee and the Awards Committee for the Division.

Her track record of service to the Division, to the profession, and to the workplace make her an idea leader for this Division. Iris is thorough, organized, and analytical in her approach to projects and program development. Her creativity and energy serve her well when she tackles new challenges. And finally, she is articulate and communicates skillfully; she coordinates the efforts of others and mentors new officers with ease.



L to R: Chair Greta Ober, Chair-Elect Heidi Yacker, and 2008 Chair-Elect Iris Anderson

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Linda Richer and Nancy Minter, selected Anderson as the nominee for the position of Chair-Elect in 2008 and Chair in 2009. Thanks to Iris for her willingness to provide leadership. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Iris Anderson.

Linda Richer
Past-Chair & Labor Issues Section Interim Coordinator

Denver 2007 - - - How did we do?

In addition to the Open House (which we co-sponsor with the Museum and Education Divisions), our annual Breakfast with the Chair, Business Meeting, and ever so successful and enjoyable International Reception, the Social Science Division had organized 9 sessions.

It's difficult to really determine how successful our programs will be, so I had devised a Session Feedback Survey with sections for rating the session, providing suggestions for future topics/speakers, including additional comments, and noting whether a member of the Social Science Division (actually I believe we may even have recruited a few new members as a result). It was optional to include name and contact information.

Of course not everyone will be inclined to fill out such an evaluation, but I was very pleased with the results. The trend I noticed is the smaller the number of attendees at a session, the majority (almost all) of the evaluations were filled out. The larger sessions had a about half the evaluations being returned (still a good response rate for surveys). Of course (also as expected), very few attendees were willing (or brave enough) to include their name!

In addition to the ratings section, the main intention/purpose of this was to hopefully receive ideas for future programs. Though most respondents only filled in the ratings section, I was surprised at the number of excellent suggestions for future topics. Though we can't satisfy everyone, we will try to accommodate some of the suggestions received.

Remember when receiving a survey, please fill it out!
Responses received are read and comments/suggestions both appreciated and acted upon.

Greta Ober
Chair

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

What a wonderful venue for the 2007 SLA Annual Conference! Denver is a terrific city – beautiful with the Rockies nearby, fun with lots of things to do, and hospitable with great accommodations for our conference, especially the enormous Convention Center with its big blue bear staring in. The view of the capitol dome was inspiring. And the weather was magnificent.



Denver's Convention
Center's Big Blue Bear

There were over 5,000 attendees at the conference who took advantage of the networking opportunities, information to be learned from the exhibitors, and especially the informative programming. DSOC's programs were especially great this year. Program Chair Jim Gillispie did a fabulous job in putting the programs together. Nancy Minter presented him with a huge bottle of home-town brew to express the Division's thanks.

The **Opening Keynote Address** was given by former Vice President Al Gore and it was interesting, inspirational, and funny. He talked about the importance of information and the difficulty of finding *relevant* information. Information professionals, in his view, are more important than ever. Librarianship is an up and coming profession. For instance, he said, the FBI should have gotten the right information professionals to identify relevant September 11 info and make it quickly available. Although technology is changing, the basic skills needed are still the same. As a young reporter at the Nashville *Tennessean*, Mr. Gore used data-gathering tools for investigative purposes.



Al Gore

Then, as a member of the House of Representatives and later as a Senator, he continued to use those tools for investigating such issues as the information superhighway and global warming. There is tons of information out there, but finding it in obscure places, characterizing it, and making it available to colleagues is the important role of the information professional. Technology is important, but *humans* are needed to take in countless facts, sift through them, and discern what is important. He urged the overflowing crowd to be deeply involved in decisions affecting the

availability of information and to work to keep the internet free. During the conference, Mr. Gore autographed his new book *The Assault on Reason* for over 200 convention-goers.

The **Closing Keynote Address** was given by cartoonist and worklife-observer Scott Adams, creator of Dilbert. This hilarious talk was also delivered before a "sell-out" crowd. We enjoyed his amusing and enlightening speech. He told of how he went to work with the goal of achieving greatness, but was told on a couple of occasions that, although he was doing a stellar job, others would be promoted over him for political reasons. He said, "The day you realize your efforts and your rewards are



Scott Adams

not related, it really frees up your time!" He began drawing comics about the conditions in his office where (1) the assignments were impossible to do and (2) even if you could do them, they didn't need to be done. Dilbert was first published in 1989 and is now circulated in 65 countries and 19 languages. Mr. Adams told one uproarious story after another, often about the people who objected to a particular strip. One example: he had a series that depicted an ant farm. The largest producers of ant farms objected to the strip and had their attorney demand an apology from Mr. Adams. When that was not forthcoming, the attorney continued to write and threaten. So Mr. Adams took the matter to heart. In his next strip, he had the characters talk about how this producer objected to the use of the term "ant farm." "What else do you call a habitat for disgusting little creatures?" asked one of the characters. "Law school," replied another. Everyone left with a smile on their lips and an amusing way to look at the office.

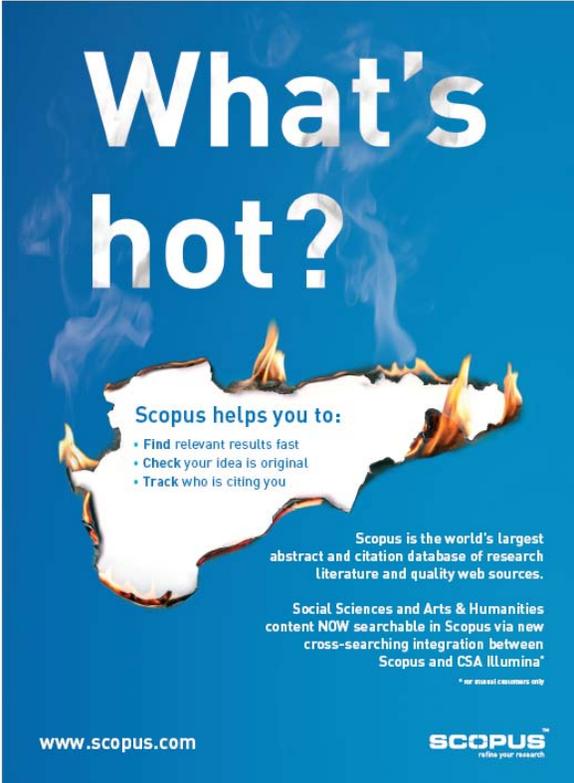
Heidi Yacker
Chair-Elect

GEOGRAPHY AND MAP SECTION PROGRAMS

The Geography and Map Section sponsored two successful programs at the SLA 2007 annual conference in Denver.

The Mary Murphy Papers session concentrated on the theme of Mapping Business. Angela Lee from ESRI Inc. and Jim Gillispie, Head of Access Services and the Government Publications/Maps/Law Library at Johns Hopkins University, were the speakers. Angela Lee's presentation covered uses of the many products related to business that are available from ESRI. Demographics statistics at multiple levels of detail form the basis for many business mapping operations. Angela demonstrated the use of selected variables to create models and map estimates and forecasts. She also discussed consumer spending data, often used for site selection by businesses, and lifestyle segmentation data which groups neighborhoods and households by products or services used. Her presentation also included mapping the volume of traffic in specific areas, as well as retail sales, sales potential, and business summary data by industry.

Jim Gillespie's presentation, "Acquiring Consumer Spending and Demographic Projection Data for Library Users," compared sources of data from major suppliers. In determining the best source for data, he analyzed the functions, access, output and accuracy of the data provided. He also included useful tips for librarians in selecting and working with data sources.



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The Geography and Map section in partnership with the Government Information Division and Transportation Division sponsored the Government Mapping and Information Update. This session featured three speakers, Ted Priebe from the U.S. Government Printing Office, John Carpenter from ExCensus, and Susan Maroney from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ted Priebe provided an update on GPO's [Future Digital System \(FDsys\)](#). The aim of FDsys is to automate the collection and dissemination of electronic information from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government. His presentation covered the issues of version control, document authentication and digitization. John Carpenter, president of ExCensus, a demographic services company, demonstrated the ["On The Map" product](#) of the U.S. Census Bureau. This product focuses on local employment dynamics

(LED) and provides maps of where people work and where workers live. The LED project is a partnership of the Census Bureau and 42 individual states with data drawn from the payroll tax system. "On The Map" includes workforce profiles with age of workers, wages paid and industries employing workers. Susan Maroney discussed the issues in tracking animal health problems. She demonstrated the data available from the [Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service](#). The AHPIS provides surveillance of animal health, emergency preparation and response, monitoring systems and animal health reports. The three speakers provided valuable information on the latest developments and systems available to librarians and their users from these areas of the federal government.

To celebrate the conclusion of a successful conference, G & M members and friends gathered for dinner on Wednesday evening at one of Denver's oldest restaurants, The Buckhorn Exchange. Amid an array of hunting trophies, photos and memorabilia of the Wild West, G & Mer's dined on rattlesnake, buffalo, elk and quail and toasted another great SLA conference.

Vanette Schwartz
Geography & Map Section Chair

GLOBAL LIBRARIANSHIP

An SRO crowd listened raptly to three field practitioners of global librarianship on Tuesday, June 5, from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Librarians Without Borders (LWB) founder Melanie Sellar described the stunning experience of bringing this organization to life, as well as LWB's ambitious project in Angola. *See Melanie's presentation [here](#).*

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Kevin Cullen, now Assistant Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Colorado (Denver)/Health Sciences Center's Denison Memorial Library, presented a lively and candid view of his service in Botswana from 1995 to 1997. Kevin further outlined concrete contributions that librarians can make to assist the US Peace Corps in its work. *Read more about Kevin [here](#).*

2007 SLA Dow Jones Leadership Award recipient Jane Kinney Meyers—president and founder of the Lubuto Library Project (LLP)—spoke compellingly about building and stocking libraries for orphaned, vulnerable, and street children in sub-Saharan Africa. The first Lubuto Library opens in Lusaka, Zambia, on September 25. *See Jane's presentation [here](#).*

With such a content-rich session, there was no time left for a Q&A. However, all three speakers were buttonholed afterwards by audience members wishing to learn more and to volunteer.

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Ann Sweeney
International Relations Chair

2007 INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

SLA glitterati joined Annual Conference attendees from around the world, chock-a-block in the Hyatt Regency Denver's Mineral Hall, for the 2007 International Reception on Monday, June 4, from 6 to 7:30 pm. This wildly popular yearly event is sponsored by DSOC, SLA Europe, KIIE, and DCSLA.

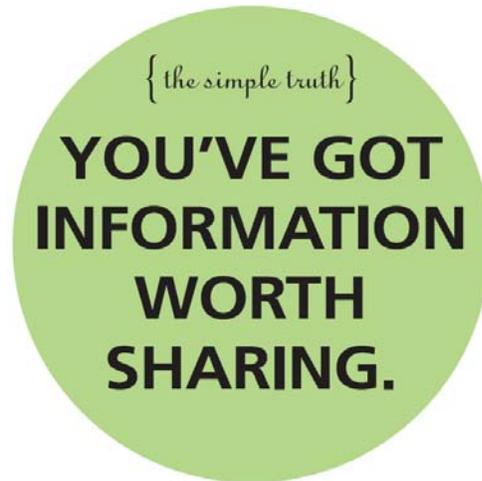
Sipping bubbly while nibbling humongous white-and-dark-chocolate-covered strawberries and glacial sorbet scoops, folks networked prodigiously. Warm words of welcome from SLA CEO Janice Lachance, SLA President Rebecca Vargha, and DCSLA Chapter President Susan Fournier began the festivities. Social Science Division member Jane Kinney Meyers was congratulated on her 2007 SLA Dow Jones Leadership Award for her stellar work as president and founder of the [Lubuto Library Project \(LLP\)](#), building and stocking libraries for street children in sub-Saharan Africa. Jane received a standing ovation at the Conference awards ceremony, following a stirring video outlining the important work of LLP.

Also spotlighted at the Reception were Social Science Division member/Asian Chapter President Debal C. Kar—Diversity Leadership Development Program Award winner—and the Physics/Astronomy/Mathematics Division's International Membership Award recipient, Muhammad Shahid Soroya.

Social Science Division colleagues were particularly pleased to see the biennial **Thomson-Gale Murray Wortzel Award** presented to long-time, super-dedicated DSOCer **Nancy Minter**. Read the press release [here](#).

SLA Europe President Rachel Kolsky introduced Dow Jones Executive Vice President Clare Hart. Clare pronounced this year's Reception "the best ever," and mused about a near-future when SLA would be truly global. She then presented the 2007 **European Information Professional Award** to **Janet Hopkins**, Head of Research at Druker & Co. GmbH & Co. KG. Dow Jones has generously underwritten the International Reception for the past eight years.

Ann Sweeney
International Relations Chair



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LABOR ISSUES SECTION PROGRAM

"Do Fences Make Good Neighbors? Does Immigration Hurt or Help the U.S. Economy"

Local immigration attorney Robert G. Heiserman gave us a "behind the scenes" look into the immigration process into the U.S.

The current turmoil over the immigration issue and the legislative uncertainty has made life quite difficult for immigration attorneys recently. Mr. Heiserman's Power Point presentation provided by his good friend and fellow immigration attorney Roy J. Watson, Jr. gave us an excellent outline on which to add Mr. Heiserman's many pointed and humorous comments which you may be able to acquire since the session was audio taped. See Robert's presentation [here](#).

Of course, this will be a snapshot of conditions in early 2007 but it should be a good starting point for an overview. Also posted on the website will be a list of recommended websites for updated information. I would especially recommend the [American Immigration Lawyers Association website](#). Their "web resources" link is excellent.

In chatting with Mr. Heiserman during our time in Denver I discovered how complex this issue of immigration is becoming. One of his current challenges is "What IS the nationality of this person?" His client was born in country #1 of parents who are citizens of countries #2 and #3. This person has spent significant amounts of time living in countries #4 and #5. From which country should he immigrate?

You will also be happy to know Mr. Heiserman was very impressed with SLA-the breadth of our interests, the speakers, INFO-EXPO where he spent a significant amount of time.

Sue Torelli

Labor Issues Section program planner, SLA 2007



CALL FOR POSTERS

"Building Bridges with Collaboration Tools"

The Social Science Division and the Museum, Arts, & Humanities Division invite proposals for a poster session to be held during the DSOC & MAHD Joint Open House at SLA 2008 in Seattle, Washington. The Open House and Poster Session will be held on Sunday, June 15 from 8:00-10:00 p.m.

In keeping with the SLA 2008 conference theme, "Breaking Rules, Building Bridges," the theme for the poster session is "Building Bridges with Collaboration Tools." Proposals should focus on the use of collaboration tools (blogs, wikis, etc.) in libraries or information work. Posters may include examples of collaboration tools in use, innovative ideas for future uses, comparisons of available tools, or any other idea relevant to the theme.

The poster session will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues. We welcome proposals from any SLA member, new or experienced, and especially from students. In the event we receive more qualified submissions than we can accommodate, members of the two sponsoring divisions and student members will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted by **March 1, 2008** via e-mail to murray@pop.psu.edu or mail to Tara Murray, Population Research Institute, Penn State, 601 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802. Please include a title and description of about 250 words, and your name, institution, e-mail address, and address. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee for relevance to the theme and quality. We will notify applicants of our decision by April 1, 2008.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2007 SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DENVER, COLORADO
JUNE 3-6, 2007



Nancy Minter



Jane Kinney Meyers & Ann Sweeney



Beth Hansen, Ann Sweeney, Jan Watterworth



Jim Gillispie & Vanette Schwartz

Lyle & Nancy Minter, Tara Murray



Linda Richer

THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 SPONSORS!

The Social Science Division was fortunate to secure sponsorship from seventeen companies this year. These companies sponsored programs and receptions at the Denver conference which allowed the Division to plan a wide variety of programs highlighting current topics and resources in the social sciences. Please express your thanks to these vendors.

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