

The Driver's Seat by Linda Hartman, Pittsburgh Chapter President

Greetings everyone!

As most of you know, the theme for the 89th Annual Conference in Indianapolis was "Leadership, Performance, Excellence: Information Professionals in the Driver's Seat". I believe we, as information professionals, are in the driver's seat as we head into the new millennium. As the Internet and Web grow, we may feel as though we are on the autobahn where there is no speed limit and each vehicle races ahead of the other. Many days we feel the same way sitting in our offices trying to keep up with the demands of our customers, our supervisors and the other aspects of our lives.

Not long ago, at a presentation given in my department, the speaker recited this quote: "If you're in control you're not going fast enough". While these words are attributed to Mario Andretti, they sum up perfectly how I have felt this past summer as I transition into the Chapter's driver's seat.

This year I have two goals I would like to work toward. The first deals with membership which has many streets intersecting with each other. Some members take detours around rough patches and others go to towns far away. For those chapter members outside the Pittsburgh area I realize the distance can make it difficult to attend many of our events. What types of programs would you attend? The second goal deals with professional development. Here, too, numerous avenues are taken to lead us where we need to be. While the majority of our events can be considered professional development some chapters have half or full day programs geared specifically toward this goal. Over the next couple of years I would like to see Pittsburgh do this as well.

I see membership and professional development as being intertwined. The more we assist you, the information specialist with professional growth and development, the more likely you are to become a member or to retain your membership. Every member is a driver for the Chapter, going at a different pace and down different roads. How can we assist you as you speed along the information highway?

Sometimes the race can get long and tiring so a driver will draft behind another in order to rest and get ready for the next curve ahead. Sometimes drivers switch positions. This has happened with a few positions within the Pittsburgh Chapter. As you see from the roster in the front of this issue, we need a few drivers on the following tracks: consultations, government relations, and public relations. Please see "*Drivers Wanted*" in this issue.

Any of our committees would be happy to have more members for their pit crew. Some of the drivers are taking their last lap this year before they take a well deserved rest so please think about helping out with a committee you find interesting. The more members in the team the less time it takes to get ready for the next race.

The checkered flag will be here before we know it, signaling the end of another year. I hope your road has few potholes and nothing but green lights. Membership in the Special Libraries Association makes us all winners. Being a member of the Pittsburgh team is like winning the Indianapolis 500!

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Are We Going This Way? by Nancy Flury Carlson, Strategic Planning Committee Chair
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My son is famous in our family for asking questions about the obvious. Recently he asked me, "Mom, what's a long-sleeved T-shirt?" Now how do you answer a question like that? However, the classic example is from when he was about three years old. We were all riding in the car and he earnestly piped up from his car seat, "Are we going this way?" I still don't remember how we answered his question, but I thought that this would be a fitting title for my topic today.

It's certainly not as obvious to answer this question for a library association chapter as it is for a car going down the road. That's why we have a strategic plan. If you are willing to work on an answer for the "Are we going this way?" question for our chapter, please contact me and join the 1998-1999 Strategic Planning Committee. We'll be evaluating the chapter's 1993 strategic plan and determining whether it still describes our direction. We'll also be checking our chapter's plan against the association's newly revised strategic plan to ensure that we are appropriately aligned. Finally, we'll draft a revised version of our chapter strategic plan. The Committee will probably need to meet two or three times during the year. Please contact me at 412-374-4861 or carlsonf@westinghouse.com if you're interested in the effort.

Sight Bites by Earl Mounts

"E-mail is just not a safe means of communicating because there is a copy of it in every computer the message passes through, not just the computers where it originated and was sent. Unless there are corporate policies governing the use of e-mail, you have just taken a bulletin board in the cafeteria and made it an electronic medium with no parameters on its use."--Electronic Evidence in Industry Week, June 22, 1998, p.13 www.industryweek.com

"Many scientific publishers have endorsed 'PubRef', an electronic linking proposal under which NLM will create a new database to link electronic citations

across all scientific and engineering fields. For anyone reading an article in, say, Science, a referenced paper or its abstract would be just a click away. More than 40 scientific societies and publishers have signed onto the plan."--Journals Endorse Electronic Linking Plan in Science, August 7, 1998.

www.sciencemag.org

Read about Murray the Microbe's identity crisis at [New Scientist's Website](#)

News from Headquarters

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) announces that nominations are being accepted for the 1999 SLA Awards and Honors, and the Public Relations Awards and Honors Programs. Nominations must be received by December 4, 1998; April 23, 1999 for the Public Relations Award for International Special Librarians Day (April 15, 1999).

Award recipients will be determined by two committees and approved by SLA's Board of Directors at the January 1999 Winter Meeting in San Francisco, CA. The awards will be presented at various events held in conjunction with the 90th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, June 5-10, 1999.

SLA chapters, divisions, caucuses and individual members or colleagues are encouraged to submit nominations. Only SLA members in good standing may be nominated for an award -- exception: the Public Relations Media Award. Award descriptions and nomination forms can be found on the SLA Web site at <http://www.sla.org/pr/index.html>, and via fax from SLA's toll-free fax-on-demand system at 1.888.411.2856.

My Two Bits by Mary Grace Desiderio, Bulletin Editor

From the new edition of *The Guide to Internet Job Searching* by Margaret Riley Dike, Frances Roehm and Steve Oserman (NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, 1998), here are some of the library job sites mentioned (along with SLA's site, of course):

[American Association of Law Libraries Job Placement Hotline](#)

[ALA Library Education and Employment Menu Page](#)

[Ann's Places--Library Job Hunting](#)

[BUBL Employment Bulletin Board](#)

[C. Berger and Company: Library Consultants](#)

[College and Research Libraries News Classified Advertising Archives](#)

[Library Job Postings on the Internet](#)

From the book *Power Networking: Using the Contacts You Don't Even Know You Have to Succeed in the Job You Want* by Marc Kramer, the author gives the following advice for job interviewing (p. 45):

- Talk about your accomplishments.
- Tell what you liked about your current and past jobs.
- Tell where you see your industry going.
- Ask informed questions about the company.
- Ask what is expected of you.
- If you talk about mistakes you have made, mention what you have learned.

His last bit of advice is "Don't be negative."

Joe Hadowanes in an article from the *National Business Employment Weekly* (v. 11, n. 40, p. 4--October 4-10, 1998) gives advice he garnered from Business Week on how to cope with downsizing. He counsels workers to:

- Live frugally and prepare for lean times.
- Rely on families for emotional support and perhaps financial support
- Rethink your values and don't link a high-paying job with success in life.
- Reach out and network with people in other industries where there may be work for you.
- Get new skills (while you're still working).
- Go it alone and think about becoming a consultant or entrepreneur.
- Do grunt work--it pays the bills while you search for a better job.

Take a look at a great new book entitled, *Writing Resumes That Work--A How To-Do-It Manual for Librarians* by Robert R. Newlen (Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 1998). This publication is a compendium of instructions for writing job-winning resumes and gives many concrete examples of resumes for jobs in every facet of library work, including Special Librarian. Consider revamping your resume along the lines suggested by this author. Compose a functional resume that emphasizes the skills you have developed in areas such as communications, training, or automation.

Another must-see book for everyone in our field is the title, *What Else you Can Do with A Library Degree: Career Options for the 90s and Beyond* (Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1997). Editor Betty Carol Sellen includes over sixty personal essays by Librarians turned publishers, writers, reviewers, product developers, association managers, art dealer, trainer, etc. This is truly an idea-generating book for those of us thinking about using our degrees in other settings besides libraries.

Ange Pollis, Manager of the Knowledge Resource Center, retired from the U.S. Steel Technical Center as of September 1, 1998. Ange's future plans include travel, teaching and having fun!! Congratulations to Ange on her successful career in special librarianship and best wishes for a long, healthy and happy life as a "former" librarian.

The new **Librarian/Information Resources Specialist at the Steel Structures Painting Council is Marge Sroka**, who has contributed member profile articles in this issue of the Pointer and in the last issue. Congratulations and thanks are due to Marge!

Lynn Tinsley, who has served the Chapter in many capacities, is running for International Office. She is vying for a position as Director of SLA. We wish Lynn well in her endeavor!

The **September 23, 1998 Dinner Meeting** held at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield presented for thought along with a delicious meal. **Dr. Fred Kohun, Head of the Department of Computer and Information Science at Robert Morris College**, along with **Carolyn Dearnaley, Director of Operations at PALINET**, discussed the Y2K problem and its impact on information systems in general and libraries in particular. Backup systems on stand-alone computers might be a worthwhile investment for all of us! Thanks to Dave for putting together such an interesting program!

The next meeting will be the **SLA Distance Learning Videoconference "Harnessing Intranet Potential."** It will take place on October 8, 1998, at Robert Morris College from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Upcoming Events

October 23-25

Conference on the History and Heritage of Science Information Systems, Sponsored by ASIS, the International Federation for Documentation, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences. For more information go to <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/bob/confprog/confprog.htm>.

November 5-8

SLA's 1998 State-of-the Art Institute, Content Management: Putting Knowledge to Work, Washington, DC. Call 1-202-234-4700, x 649 for more information.

November 10

Spotting the Iceberg: Managing Facilities to Avert Disaster, Sponsored by Oakland Library Consortium Preservation Working Group. The location is Carnegie Lecture Hall, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To register call 412-

268-6622. The program is free to University of Pittsburgh, CMU, and Carnegie Libraries Staff, Faculty and Students. For all others the fee is \$5.00 before October 23 and \$10.00 afterward.

November 8-11

PaLA's Annual Conference in Hershey, PA. Programs include such topics as: Web-based Library Instruction, Remodeling of Library Building and many more. Call 1-800-622-3308 for more information.

Drivers Wanted

The Pittsburgh Chapter seeks members to assist with the committees listed below. You will not need keys or gasoline to zoom along these tracks and the road maps are available from the Association's website:

<http://www.sla.org/membership/guidel/index.html>.

CONSULTATION - Work with organizations such as those in industry, government, and education to solve information related problems and needs. Sometimes the organization has an existing information center and other times the center is in the initial stages. For more information, contact Dave Majka, past Consultation Chair at 412-262-8359 or email: majka@robert-morris.edu.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS - Act as liaison between our Chapter and the Association's government relations staff and the government relations committee. This includes distributing to chapter members information regarding pertinent legislation as well as encouraging members to contact elected officials.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Promote on a local level activities of information professionals. This might include sending information to local newspapers regarding Chapter events or accomplishments of one of our members. For more information, contact Ange Pollis, past Public Relations Chair at 724-325-3736.

Chapter Survey Results

Included with the May meeting notice was a brief survey asking for input concerning meetings times and topics of interest to you as a Special Librarian. Below is a tally of the responses. Please remember that we all welcome your suggestions, ideas, input for programs and topics for discussion.

Meeting Times:	
mornings (8 or 9 a.m. start)	3
afternoon (one vote for late afternoon)	3

evening	15
anytime	5
Meeting Topics:	
copyright	2
competitive intelligence	1
digital libraries	1
alternate careers (related)	1
career planning	1
job searching for unemployed members	1
power politics positioning promotion	1
workplace issues	1
time management	1
benchmarking library best practices	2
internet as reference source	1
Special Libraries and internet	1
new technology	1
educational programs, such as learning new software	1
DVD technology	1
SL and newspapers/newsletter sources	1
SL and conference sources, program listings and & proceedings	1
outside guest speakers, such as museum, business folks	1
non-library topics of current interest	1

SLA Member in the Spotlight by Marge Sroka

Scott Trask is an Information Specialist at the McKenna Information Center at Kennametal, Inc. The McKenna Information Center is part of the Research and Development division, located in the Technology Center on the Latrobe, PA campus. Its four-person staff, two librarians and two technicians, offers information to Kennametal's 14,000 employees around the world, 900 of whom work on site. Most information requests are by telephone or email, and the staff answers them within 24 hours. They use online databases such as Dialog, STN,

Questel, Orbit, Dunn and Bradstreet, Dow Jones, and internal resources. Scott is primarily responsible for retrospective and current awareness of international technical, patent and trademark literature of hard materials, tooling systems and machine tool technologies. He is also in charge of a project to develop an intranet site for the information center. It should be up and running at the time this article is published.

Scott is a graduate of SLIS (now SIS) at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation he worked at Westinghouse for four years on its indexing program for nuclear design documentation. During his final year at Westinghouse he created a historical library of engineering documents and technical reports for a department of the Nuclear Services Division.

Scott has an interesting background. Prior to attending Pennsylvania State University for his undergraduate degree in English, he worked as a Korean linguist for the US Army Military Intelligence. After two years of training in civilian and military Korean in the US, he lived in Korea with a native family, worked as an interpreter for the Army, and taught English to university students. Working as an interpreter, he feels, developed reference interviewing skills that he now applies as a librarian.

While working at Westinghouse Amy Haugh, a past Pittsburgh Chapter SLA president, encouraged him to join SLA. Until early 1997 he was simply another meeting attendee. At that time he volunteered to help with the archives presentation for the 75th Anniversary Celebration, and has become increasingly more involved. Currently he is a member of multiple divisions: the Metals/Materials Division, the Engineering Division, the Solo Division, the Information Technology Division, and the Science Technology Division. He also belongs to the Information Futurist Caucus, and is the employment chair for the Pittsburgh Chapter. He feels participation offers professional development, keeping him abreast of the changes and advancements in the special library world. Scott attended the SLA annual conference this year for the first time, and was impressed with the array of courses and lectures that were very relevant to his job at Kennametal. While attending he was elected as the chair-elect of the Metals and Materials Division. He is responsible for planning the Metals and Materials portion of the SLA conference for the year 2000 in Philadelphia.

Scott lives in Penn Hills with his wife Gigi and his 5-year old son Ben.

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