



EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Late Spring 1998

President's Letter By Sylvia James

Since the last newsletter most of my time on SLA matters has been devoted to the events at Annual Conference in Indianapolis, especially those we are responsible for in the Chapter. A great deal of work goes into planning these events and I would like to thank everyone on the Board that has been involved in the detail.

This year has been extra busy because of the whole afternoon on Monday June 8th on Europe with Ambassador Paeman. The European Chapter will be holding a reception at the end of the afternoon, sponsored by Information Access Company (IAC), which will be attended by the Ambassador and Allen Paschal, CEO of IAC, where the award will be presented to the European Special Librarian of the Year, Lise-Lotte Lindskog of Celsius Tech in Sweden.

The other event that the European Chapter has organised is the regular Tuesday afternoon slot, this year on June 9th between 4:30-6pm which is a sci-tech session arranged by Janet Tomlinson. The speakers will be Peter Hoey from the Royal Society of Chemistry, Jim Ashling from INSPEC and Lise-Lotte Lindskog. The session will be followed by the usual reception. I hope that all European Chapter members that are attending conference will make time to attend both events. There will be reports on the 2 sessions in the next newsletter and at the Summer Soiree event in London in July.

At the annual conference I hope to get more news about the progress for the 2000 conference in Brighton as well as several other events that HQ are planning in Europe. There are definite plans for a southern European event to be held in Barcelona in November 1998, especially for academic special librarians from Spain, Portugal, France and Italy.

This will be my last president's letter and I would like to thank all the Board for all the work they have done during the year and hand over to Michelle Darraugh, who will be President for 1998/99.

European Special Librarian of the Year for 1998 By David Mort

The winner of the Special Libraries Association's European Special Librarian of the Year Award for 1998 is Liselotte Lindskog, Head of Information Services at Celsius Tech Electronics AB in Sweden. The award, sponsored by Information Access Company (IAC), seeks to recognise outstanding achievement in special librarianship in Europe.

A leading figure in the international electronics information sector, Liselotte is Chair of the TLS - the Association of Scientific and Technical Libraries in Sweden - and she has worked hard to keep the membership and profile of the organisation high. She is an active member of other leading international library and information associations and a regular contributor to many conferences, training, and professional development courses. Alongside these external activities, Liselotte has maintained a high profile for the information service within Celsius Tech Electronics AB and has recently been involved in the development of the company's intranet.

Heather Taylor,
Marketing and
Communications
Manger at Information



Lise-Lotte Lindskog ESLY 1998

Access Company (IAC) said "The International Division at IAC is very pleased to be associated with this prestigious award. The challenges facing the corporate information professional in today's pressurized environment mean that it is increasingly difficult to maintain a high international profile. Liselotte has succeeded admirably both in this and in promoting the importance of international database resources."

Sylvia James, Chair of the European Chapter said "The SLA strongly supports global networking for information professionals. Liselotte will be an excellent ambassador for Europe, and with backing from IAC and its international product range, we know we are progressing with this important objective."

The short-list of candidates for the award covered a wide spread of European information specialists playing a leading role in the profession. Elisabeth Mangold Manager, Commercial and Technical Information Services at Dow Europe was nominated for raising the profile of information within her own organisation and demonstrating what can be done to meet the changing needs of business in a world where cost efficiency is key. Elisabeth has been working for Dow Europe for ten years but has radically changed the way information is provided within the company over the past two years. She was able to persuade Dow by market testing and building cases to retain important core services. Staff are now a highly motivated team, with increased skills, focused upon the information needs of the organisation, with the more administrative tasks which often fall into the information centre, being carried out externally to reduce costs but without loss to the company.

Carl Wiper is an experienced information professional with previous positions at the London Business School Information Service and the Boston Consulting Group. A few years ago he took the unusual step of leaving the dynamic London business information scene to manage the newly established European Information Centre in Liverpool. In the last few years, he has not only developed the Liverpool centre into one of the most thriving EICs in the UK but he also has been active in developing the European network of EICs. Carl has also been at the forefront of developments to make EICs more relevant to the needs of EU businesses and he was involved in the setting up of the EIC Market Information Group, a group of 21 EICs around Europe which concentrate on the provision of market information to companies.

Marcus Speh was nominated for his efforts in demystifying knowledge management. He is a regular speaker on the subject and has been at the forefront of promoting and explaining what can be an intimidating subject. Although not coming from a traditional information background Marcus stresses the importance of information and the skills of information professionals in developing knowledge management.

Michelle Darraugh was employed by Pitman as a publisher of a number of print directories in education fields. However she saw a gap in the market in a different sector from her own field of work and conceived the idea of the 'Directory of Financial Sites on the Internet'. This directory is innovative with extensive coverage of the subject. It has been published in print, CD-rom and Internet versions, and has been well received by the market and has proved to be of particular value to special librarians.. Michelle's commitment to the development of this work was against considerable management resistance but her perseverance was rewarded and she produced the Directory from scratch in six months.

Nordic Conference at Turku by Sylvia James

The Nordic Conference on Information and Documentation 'Facing Information World 2000' Turku, Finland September 2 - 4 1998. The Chapter hopes to host a sponsored lunch on September 3rd for all Scand-inavian and other chapter members attending this conference.

We are hoping to have the President of SLA, Suzi Hayes at this event and would also like to invite any other interested professionals who might want to join SLA. Please could anyone who would like an invitation contact Sylvia James by the beginning of August.

Anyone who would like details of the conference should also contact Sylvia James.

SLA Honours Contributions Made to Information Profession By Jennifer L. Stowe

Twelve individuals have been selected by the Special Libraries Association to be honoured for their contributions to the Association and the profession.

The awards are:

John Cotton Dana Award, given to Joanne Marshall, professor, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. Marshall is recognized for her exceptional service to special librarianship - most notably her important research of the value of special libraries and leadership in the development of the Association's Competencies for Special Librarians for the 21st Century .

President's Award, presented to Susan A. Merry, director, business information & records management, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto. Awarded to an individual for having furthered the goals and objectives of the association, this award was given to Merry for her valued service to the association

concerning Canadian copyright issues.

Hall of Fame Award, bestowed upon Winifred Sewell, as a member of the association at the end of an active professional career for an extended and sustained period of distinguished service to the Association. A recently retired pharmaceutical librarian, university instructor, and consultant, Sewell served as SLA President (1960-61). She has also provided service for the Drug Information Association, American Library Association, and the International Federation of Pharmacy. She is a Fellow of the both the Medical Library Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Honorary Member, to be conferred upon Vartan Gregorian, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York, at SLA's Annual Meeting. Gregorian served as president, Brown University, Providence, RI, (1989-97), and New York Public Library (1981-89). He is being honoured for his contribution to libraries and commitment to the learning environment, research, and education.

Dow Jones 21st Century Competencies Award, presented to Eugenie E. Prime, manager, corporate libraries, Hewlett-Packard Company, Palo Alto, CA. The inaugural recipient of this award, Prime is recognized as an SLA member who exemplifies leadership as a special librarian through examples of personal and professional competencies. In her twenty years in the information industry, she is known for consistently transforming information services into strategic advantage. She is a noted author, speaker, and leader in the information community.

Innovations in Technology Award, granted to Andrew Breeding, manager, desktop services, Corporate Library Group, Digital Equipment Corporation, Acton, MA. Breeding is recognized for his innovative use and application of technology in a special library setting, specifically for his leadership and innovation in designing, implementing, and managing a very successful information solution - WebLibrary, for DEC worldwide.

Fellows of the Special Libraries Association, are called upon and expected to advise the Association's Board of Directors, alert the membership to issues and trends warranting action, and are recognized as active SLA members with future leadership potential of the Association.

1998 Fellows are: Bill Fisher, associate professor, library and information science, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA; Doris S. Helfer, librarian, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA; Eleanor A. MacLean, head of libraries, Blacker-Wood Library of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, QB; Donna W. Scheeder, coordinator, Congressional

Information Services, Congressional Reference Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Rose L. Vormelker Award, given to Larry L. Wright, MSLS, Ph.D., as an SLA member recognized for exceptional services to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and/or practising professionals in the field. Wright is head of public services, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC. As the former chairperson of SLA's Student and Academic Relations Committee, he is noted for his impact on student relations and the nurturing of SLA student groups.

Public Relations Media Award, recognizes Roland Wilkerson, The Grand Rapids Press, an individual journalist who published an outstanding feature on the profession of special librarianship: 'Excellent References - Information Age companies need fast, accurate, research. More and more they're getting it from in-house professionals called librarians.'

An Open Letter to the European Special Library Community from David Bender

As a special librarian, you are no doubt aware of the ongoing efforts of the European Union to produce a harmonised copyright directive for all member nations. I am writing to express concerns with the proposed directive, which was officially released 10 December 1997. The Special Libraries Association (SLA) has shared these concerns with the appropriate committees and the permanent representation of the European Union. Now is the time for you to act.

The draft directive makes a modest attempt to spell out the rights of information users in Europe. Unfortunately, it falls far short of permitting existing rights to continue into the digital age. If electronic information is to be properly used, it must be available in the same ways that print and analogue information have been implemented for years.

First and foremost, the directive considers the viewing of a digital work to be a "communication to the public," which requires the permission of the author. Under this proposal, libraries could not allow users to browse or view digital materials, even for private or educational use. Requirement of authorisation or payment for such use takes away a user's fundamental abilities in a library setting. Even if the library is the entity that must obtain permission or provide payment, the directive is instituting a requirement that simply should not exist. Limitations and exceptions under copyright law should cover all forms.

Second, the directive provides an exception for reproduction in public places that is "not for direct or

indirect economic or commercial advantage." SLA believes that this is too restrictive, as it would exclude many academic and special libraries that provide many social and economic benefits to the public.

Third, the exceptions merely provide for copying of printed information in libraries. Since the right of "communication to the public" is flawed, the exceptions are affected by it in ways that libraries cannot accept. The explanatory notes for the directive suggest that licensing between parties should resolve such matters. SLA disagrees with this philosophy, as users' rights will depend on whether a copyright owner is willing to make works available for copying in a library. This would seriously harm the fundamental purpose of libraries and their service to users.

Fourth, no member nation may provide exceptions or limitations beyond what is carved out in the proposed directive. While it is understood that this is done to provide a sense, of uniformity to the member nations laws, only one provision is mandatory; all others are optional. SLA suggests that all acceptable limitations and exceptions that are provided in the final directive should be included in national laws.

Fifth, the limitation concerning teaching and scientific research does not adequately protect users in today's cutting-edge academic and research environments. The reference to "illustration" suggests that a student or

researcher might not be able to make reference to or directly use portions of copyrighted digital works unless authorisation is given. This is clearly too restrictive.

Sixth, and possibly most damaging to Europe's information society and its collective economy, is Article 6 of the directive. This section goes far beyond the provisions of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, which calls for "effective measures" against circumvention of copyright protection systems (passwords, encryption methods, encoding, scrambling). Article 6 proposes to ban any device, technology or service that may allow for circumvention. This provision is seriously flawed for several reasons:

There are certainly devices, technologies, or services that currently exist that could potentially have legitimate purposes. The future will bring more technologies that might violate this provision but have perfectly legal uses. This provision would freeze development of such technologies and limit the ability of the public to take advantage of their legitimate uses.

Given that certain limitations and exceptions should continue to exist, this provision would, in effect, negate certain users' rights. Even if exemptions to this provision were provided, they would be meaningless if the technologies it affects cannot be produced or sold. For this directive to effectively protect copyright owners in the digital age *and* ensure that existing users' rights

SLA PUBLISHING

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continue, the following must occur:

The viewing of a digital work must be considered an acceptable use of a work, rather than a "communication to the public." Distribution of a copyrighted work by a user without the permission of the owner should be illegal. Viewing of digital works, particularly in libraries, is essential if the information society is to develop properly. This will benefit not only individual users in their homes, but also users in libraries.

Copying digital works must be allowed in the same manner as print and analogue works are currently allowed. Failure to do so would take libraries out of the digital age. Any provisions concerning libraries must acknowledge more than just public libraries. To do so would be to ignore a significant portion of the library community that affects the public.

Member nations should be given a set of limitations and exceptions that must be accepted or rejected. Otherwise, there will be no uniformity of laws across borders. Given that the digital world is borderless, inconsistency in domestic laws would be illogical.


The directive should provide limitation for education and research that accords such users substantive protection. The directive should seek to punish conduct under copyright law. Banning technologies in a wholesale manner makes no sense.

I hope that you will seriously consider contacting your nation's representatives with the European Parliament. That body will most certainly take action on the directive in the coming months. To determine the name(s) of the person(s) who represent you, visit the European Parliament's member search page on the Internet at: <http://www.euoparl.eu.int/members/en/default.htm>

For more information, contact John Crosby of my staff by calling 001-202-234-4700, extension 629
e-mail: john-c@sla.org

With kindest regards

David R. Bender

 **GUI standard icon project sponsored by IFLA**
By Wilda B. Newman

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is sponsoring through its Information Technology Section a U.S. - Scottish Joint Project on GUI Icon Standards for Bibliographic Databases.

Phase III of this project proposes that the standard icon set concluded in Phases I and II be moved into the

standards domain world-wide to ensure its adoption for use in bibliographic information systems.

The web site for accessing the icons and current effort on the project is at: <http://www.scran.ac.uk/iconstd>
Bruce Royan's facility SCRAM (Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network) is supporting this and Steven Carr is managing the web site at the same facility.

Wilda Newman is the Project Lead, Phase III, and can be reached at wilda.newman@jhuapi.edu.

Online Information 98 Call For Papers **By Catherine Graham**

The Call For Papers has been issued for Online Information 98, the largest information industry event in the world, taking place from 8-10 December 1998 at the National Hall & Olympia Conference Centre in London. The 1997 conference attracted nearly 850 delegates, a large percentage of whom were from overseas.

The organisers of Online Information 98, Learned Information, are currently looking for speakers from all sectors to present papers on current issues relating to the online industry.

Themes of the Online Information 98 conference are:

- Who are the new consumers?
- Online Information: educating the new generation
- Bringing content to the Web
- Web versus online: how do search services compare?
- New distribution models
- Libraries and the Web: where do we stand?
- Finding a role within knowledge management
- Knowledge Management: the enabling technologies
- Filling the intranets
- The creation of virtual communities
- Linking full-text on the Web
- New technologies, new tools
- Consolidation or evolution: the development of the information industry

The subjects outlined under the themed headings listed above are guidelines from which a coherent structure for the conference programme will be developed. Offers of papers which cover themes not suggested under these headings but which are of relevance to the online industry are equally welcomed.

The mainstream conference will be complemented once again this year with several high quality and specifically focused satellite workshops and seminars.

Online Information 98 will provide a forum for the world's key information professionals and the growing number of end-users interested in information strategy and implementation. This is a chance to meet and discuss future developments in content and the impact of technology within all industry sectors.

The full 'Call For Papers' can be found on the Online Information 98 web site at www.online-information.com or contact Catherine Graham, Conference Co-ordinator on Tel + 64 (0)1865 388064.

Submissions of Papers for the conference, to include a detailed abstract (up to 300 words in length) outlining the topic, should be sent to Catherine Graham at Learned Information Europe Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5BE.

The European Chapter Welcomes the following new members:

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