

SLA EUROPE NEWS



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2007 - Issue 1



President's Letter By Rachel Kolsky

When I wrote my first President's Letter the weather was wonderfully autumnal. Now as I write my second, we are experiencing a sudden day of snow here in the UK. But that is helpful as I am now looking back to the winter of 2006 and reflecting on the past couple of months for SLA Europe.



As ever, we on the Board seem to have been incredibly busy with our Board Members travelling to colleges and international events, promoting SLA and in particular, you, our European colleagues. The week of International Online 2006 was a wonderful week for us. We always have a full calendar of events and this year was no exception. The success of last year's joint Information Professionals Christmas Party was repeated, this year in the Wellcome Wing of the Science Museum.

We again had a stand in the exhibition hall at Olympia and seemed to have a 'full house' of visitors each day. Janice Lachance and Jill Calabria from HQ, and Rebecca Vargha, SLA President, were with us to meet and greet members, current and prospective alike.



Marie-Madeleine Salmon, Veronica Kennard and Jill Calabria having fun on the SLA stand at Online 2006

Rebecca also spoke at our breakfast meeting which was kindly supported by Thomson Dialog. Marie-Madeleine Salmon, our current SLA Europe IP, spoke at Online, encouraging info pros to market their services effectively. Finally, at the IWR/VNU International Information Industry Awards dinner I was thrilled and overwhelmed to be named Information Professional of the Year. SLA was also represented by Neil Infield and his team at the British Library Business Information Centre who were named Best Team in the Public or Academic Sector. Thank you IWR and VNU for thinking of us, it really did make our week!

How to follow that? Well, we started the year as we mean to go on, with opportunities for us all to meet, whether for a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) seminar or, as in January, for purely social reasons. In a curiously warm January we held our annual Winter Warmer Quiz. You can read more about the evening in the newsletter.

Our new student initiatives have really taken off and we have four Dissertation Prize winners to congratulate: Ben Bose from Brighton, Victoria Bird from Loughborough, Rachel Adams from Sheffield and Tanya O'Rourke from London Metropolitan. We wanted to present the certificates and prizes personally if possible and were able to do so in Loughborough and Sheffield. I want to thank both faculties for making Kate and I so welcome, and hope that they will be able to be with us when all four prize winners and members of the Board



Barbara Robinson, Rachel Kolsky and Janice Lachance enjoying an Online 2006 evening event

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Two awards in one night! Rachel Kolsky receiving her Information Professional of the Year award

meet each other at a celebratory afternoon tea in London in May. Our other new student award, to attend SLA Conference in Denver, has also had a fantastic response and we will be announcing the successful candidate very soon.

We barely had time to mull over the success of these new initiatives before it was time for some of the Board to leave for Leadership Summit in Reno. Penny Leach and I were 'First Timers'. It was an eye opener for us to the workings of SLA and at the same time gave us lots of ideas to further promote SLA Europe within SLA and the global 'info pro' world. No sooner were we back than Lyndsay Rees-Jones was putting theory into practice when she represented SLA Europe at the BOBCATSSS in Prague.

Having returned to London, it was immediately back to work, reminding everybody to send in their nominations for the SLA Europe Information Professional 2007, and to invite members and their colleagues to our first CPD seminar of the year, 'Reaching Out to the Emerging World'. Later in the year we have planned seminars on Social Networking and Corporate Social Responsibility, and of course we will be hosting our ever popular Summer Soiree. Outside the UK, we plan to attend events in Paris and Germany, following on from the success of BOBCATSSS.

This has been a great start to 2007 and all of us on the Board look forward to meeting you at our coming events.



SLA Europe Dissertation Awards By Kate Arnold and Rachel Kolsky

Our new student initiative, spearheaded by Barbara Robinson, to award SLA Europe prizes for the Best Dissertation to masters students at selected information studies faculties has been a great success. We are thrilled to announce that we have four winners - Rachel Adams at Sheffield, Victoria Bird at Loughborough, Ben Bose at Brighton and Tanya O'Rourke at London Metropolitan. Congratulations to all.



Neil Infield and his team at British Library winning Best Team in the Public or Academic Sector

The week before Christmas Rachel and Kate were lucky enough to be invited as representatives of SLA Europe to present two of the new dissertation awards. Rachel went to Sheffield to present the award to Rachel Adams and Kate travelled to Loughborough University of Technology to present the award to Victoria Bird. Both presentations took place at a departmental celebration after the graduation ceremony and our SLA Europe representatives were made very welcome. At Sheffield it was the first such celebration, arranged specially to allow for the award to be presented.

Kate had graduated from Loughborough 19 years ago and returning to the department was interesting and entertaining. She had the opportunity to catch up with lecturers and noted that very little had changed in the intervening period since she was at the university. Certainly, some familiar DDC and AACR2 books, but also a lot more computers and white boards than were around in her day.

It was a pleasure to meet Victoria and Rachel and have the opportunity to discuss their research. Rachel's dissertation explored the concept of information literacy within a government department and Victoria considered the value a corporate library adds to its organisation. Her research included questionnaires and interviews and the results of her research revealed that the library made an invaluable contribution to the return on investment of the organisation.

The SLA Europe is arranging a celebratory afternoon tea for all the winners. This will be an informal opportunity to meet and discuss not only their research projects but also their new careers.

Victoria Bird

Liz Blankson-Hemans of the SLA Europe Board, and a member of the Student & Faculty Liaison Committee, interviews Victoria Bird, winner of the SLA Europe Dissertation Prize at Loughborough University.

Victoria is the first of the students selected by Loughborough University in 2006 for the SLA Europe Dissertation Prize. Victoria's dissertation was a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) appraisal of an information centre serving approximately 300 organizational



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employees. One hundred of those employees were regular users. Her methodology involved interviewing the information centre manager and an identification of the information centre's costs and benefits, including a survey on methods of valuation.

It was relatively easy to identify the information centre's costs, as accurate figures had been recorded, and the CBA itself was a simple analysis of the cost of the information centre versus the cost of supplying the same information without the centre. A major challenge was how to measure arbitrary benefits.

A summary of Victoria's dissertation appears below.

Tell me a little about your background

My father is an electrician and my mother a receptionist. I would list my hobbies as reading, socialising, and skiing. In fact, I will soon be going on a skiing holiday in Zell am See, Austria.

How did you get into the profession?

I did my first degree in Archaeology, and whilst working in the University Library at UCL, I got 'sucked in'. Of particular appeal was the chance to use my research skills, and to help others do the same. I therefore took up a degree in LIS at Loughborough. I am now working at the University of Reading as a Trainee Liaison Librarian in the History department, responsible amongst other things for user education sessions and making sure reading list resources are available for use.

What do you like most about working life, as opposed to student life, and what do you like best about your current job?

I feel that I have a real opportunity to make an impact on people's work. I love the opportunities it gives me to develop my background and professional training, as well as the chance to make a difference to student research. I am also using the opportunity to challenge opinions of the profession and of information generally.

Grand ambitions, so what are your future aspirations?

I am currently working towards chartership. I intend to continue as a librarian, but at the moment I am open about which field of the profession I will move towards.

With such a strong focus on developing yourself professionally as a librarian, I imagine you must belong to some professional associations?

I am a member of CILIP and belong to the Career Development and University Colleges & Research special interest groups.

Whilst I was a student, I wasn't aware of SLA as a professional association. I think there is a general belief that it is a North American organisation. I have since found out that it is not, so lack of publicity about SLA might be a problem area regarding student membership growth.



Victoria Bird receiving her award from Kate Arnold

That is actually one of the reasons for the existence of the SLA Europe Student & Faculty Liaison Committee, and for setting up this Dissertation Award. I am sure that there were many reasons, but can you tell me one in particular why Loughborough chose your dissertation as the winning one?

Well, Cost Benefit Analysis, and in fact, cost justification, is a topic that is of huge interest to many information professionals. I think that, in particular, the practical application of my subject analysis to a real or actual job situation appealed strongly to the faculty panel.

Thank you very much for taking time out for this interview. We wish you all the best in your current job. Congratulations once again on winning the Dissertation Award for Loughborough.

Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) appraisal summary **By Victoria Bird**

For my dissertation, I conducted a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) appraisal. The information centre that very kindly acted as my case study caters to approximately three hundred employees, one hundred of whom are regular users.

Methodology:

The first stage was to interview the manager of the information centre, to identify key issues affecting the centre's perception.

It was discovered that the centre had recently undergone substantial change, as a reflection of broader changes within the company. This was encouraging, as it suggests that the centre has the ability to adapt to face new challenges.

Although no formal strategic plan existed, staff were keen to implement one, allowing the contextualisation of the valuation into a business framework, and creating a more realistic business case.



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The centre's marketing program has been very successful and this, with its presence on the company portal, has substantially raised its profile.

In order to perform a CBA, the information centre's costs and benefits need to be identified. In this case, it was easy to identify the costs, accurate figures had been recorded for:

- Staff costs
- Cost of information resources
- Service costs (e.g. Inter Library Loans)

The major benefits were perceived as being:

- Monetary
- Man-hours
- Qualities (e.g. more timely information, targeted information etc...)

The major problem was how to measure arbitrary benefits (Broadbent, M. & Lofgren, H. 1993, p. 691). Only quantifiable information could be included in the process, but other perceived benefits could be used to contextualise the findings. The CBA itself took the form of a simple presence versus absence measurement: the cost of the information centre versus the cost of supplying the same information without the centre.

Key assumptions were:

- The same level of information would be required
- The information would cost approximately the same
- Time spent locating and processing information would be the same

While it is possible to dispute these, keeping as many variables the same as possible is more scientific than ascribing seemingly random values. The average staff wage was calculated into an hourly rate, using data from the company balance sheet, £15.81. From data obtained from the information centre manager, it was deduced that the staff there received an average of £14.88, a difference of 93p. Over the year, this gave a total difference of £178,560 for all regular users. This was doubled to represent the time researchers would spend obtaining information, instead of doing their job. This gave a total cost of £357,120.

The cost-benefit ratio (CBR) was then calculated:

CBR= 1:1.6

Where:

$$\text{Total time costs} \div \text{cost of providing centre} \\ \pounds 357,120 \div \pounds 228,250$$

This gives a ratio of 1:1.6. This implies that the information centre is one and a half times as efficient as information procurement without the centre. On recalculating to incorporate information resource costs to the centre, the CBA soared to 1:2.1.

Findings:

The information centre clearly is a huge asset and saves the company money, although it is possible to dispute the exact amount. It is possible to calculate

CBA in several different ways. It is therefore crucial that in performing this exercise, information centres are transparent about what they are measuring. Information centres should not be afraid to attempt more proactive and quantifiable means of assessment, provided these are conducted in a transparent manner so that it is apparent what is being measured.

The main value of such centres, customer service, is not quantifiable. However, it is possible to provide qualitative evidence to reinforce the quantitative findings of a CBA and strengthen the case for the information centre. CBA should be seen as one of a number of tools available to such centres to enhance their standing within their company.

References:

Broadbent, M. & Lofgren, H. 1993. Information delivery: identifying priorities, performance and value. *Information processing and management* 29(6): 683-701.

Victoria Bird, History Liaison Librarian, Main library
University of Reading *v.l.bird@reading.ac.uk*
http://www.reading.ac.uk/library/



Interview with Ben Bose Winner of the SLA Europe Dissertation Prize at Brighton University By Barbara M. Robinson

Ben Bose was selected to receive the SLA Dissertation Award by his faculty at Brighton University. He was a full-time student in the programme and was awarded an M.A. in Information Studies, with distinction, in July 2006. From July to September 2006, he worked at the Windlesham offices of the pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly & Co. liaising with the Information Science team there. He met what Eli Lilly described as an "aggressive and ambitious" time scale. His dissertation, created as part of a company-wide portal redevelopment, focused on the suitability of deploying a federated search engine in a company with an information architecture like Eli Lilly's. A summary of his research findings appears in this issue.



Ben Bose

Barbara Robinson interviewed Ben in the canteen at his workplace, the East Sussex County Council (Lewes), where he has been working for their ICT Support Services department since November 2006.

Why did you decide to get an M.A. in Information Science? I see, from your resume, that you got a B.A. in Jurisprudence from Balliol College, Oxford University in June 2000. Why LIS (Library and Information Science) and not a career in the law?
Well, I love reading – especially fantasy and science

fiction! I also love books as a medium – to be able to sit and read a good book is just about my favourite thing. In the past I've written some fiction of my own, although I haven't had time to pursue my writing interests lately.

As a result, I made quite a lot of use of my local library, and as I went from branch library to branch library, tracking down books to read, I found that the library catalogue wasn't quite what it could be. Then the new Jubilee library in Brighton opened, with an attractive building that brought in many new users. I felt it was a shame that the investment in the building had not been matched by that in the catalogue. The search engine, for example, is not very robust, and the user interface limited.

I wanted to do something about the problems I had encountered, but I knew nothing about what running a library involved. That's what motivated me to get an M.A. in Information Studies; getting practically involved in something I felt – and feel – strongly about. I still hope to be able to pursue my interest in categorising and cataloguing.

As for why I didn't pursue a career in law, after the first year I realised that the legal concepts interested me but that the only kind of law that I might consider doing would be corporate law. The rest never really captured my interest. I undertook work experience at three law firms to get a feel for the profession, but I found it to be very competitive, to the extent that handling the competition became more important than doing the job itself.

I did complete the degree, however, because I don't like giving up. When I start something I want to see it through. The idea of a career in a field I wasn't passionate about didn't appeal to me. That's why I looked into writing, and later decided to pursue a Masters at Brighton.

Why did you choose Brighton University?

Brighton University was just right for my needs. I live in Brighton, so it was very convenient in terms of travel, and the course modules covered what I was interested in learning about. I met with Juliet Eve, the course leader, and was struck by how knowledgeable, friendly and enthusiastic she was. After speaking with her, and reading through the course handbook, I was really looking forward to studying metadata, search engines, and information systems in all their fascinating and sometimes insane glory.

Tell me a bit about the kind of work you do for the East Sussex County Council in ICT Support Services and how you put your newly-minted graduate degree to work in your job.

I work on the front line at the service desk, where the other workers of the Council are our customers. It is a high-tempo job with all kinds of requests for technical aid coming in, one after the other. If I cannot resolve a

problem quickly, it is sent on to the relevant specialist team. One of the best things about the job is the atmosphere, where people are always making an effort to be friendly and helpful. There's also a real sense of satisfaction to be gained when you succeed in helping someone out.



As for putting my newly gained knowledge to work, I have been able to draw on my understanding of metadata and how to organise it. The web-based module of the Brighton University course has also been helpful. I've also kept up with my interests that began with my Masters, looking into the continuing development of search engines on the internet, and the various possibilities offered by Open Source software. For example I am a frequent visitor to SourceForge.net (the world's largest repository of Open Source code).

I see from your resume that you have lots of interests, including playing tennis, playing the guitar, and improvisational drama. I see that that you ran a group of 20 to 50 people, who met weekly, over the course of three years in the late 1990s. You also list on your resume that you have been involved in a family business, managing properties in Derbyshire and Brighton since 2001 to the present.

Yes, I haven't had time to pursue my interest in improvisational drama recently. I spend a lot of my spare time continuing to work managing my family's properties. One benefit of my current role at the Council is that it has very defined hours - I work hard, but I know when that will be until! Working as a landlord is very different; I'm never quite sure when something will go wrong, and the relationship with tenants is very much a managerial one. It's an interesting contrast. Both of my degrees have been helpful in this part of my life, and I've been impressed just how much difference properly organising information has made to me.

Thank you, Ben. It has been a pleasure to meet you and learn about your work and your interests. We look forward to following your career.

Dissertation abstract By Ben Bose

The dissertation examines the extent to which federated search engines can meet the information needs of a major pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly, by an empirical examination of four trial programs, Central Search, MetaLib, SearchSolver and WebFeat Express. Most evaluative studies to date have focused on a single program, and none have had the opportunity to consider a federated search engine set up specifically for that purpose. In addition, the priorities of the



Sheila Corrall and Rachel Kolsky celebrate Rachel Adams' award (Copyright 2006 Peter A Bath)

literature were predominantly those of public or academic libraries, with a corporate environment offering very different challenges.

The evaluation begins by discussing the need for electronic content integration and how the failings on the part of more traditional search engines gave rise to federated searching. The federated search process is then considered in more detail, along with the academic literature in the area and what it has and has not considered, particularly the view that federated search is of use primarily as a discovery tool. The criteria by which the four federated search engines considered were selected is established, and the process of set-up is explained, including difficulties encountered with Central Search and MetaLib.

After this, a framework for evaluation is laid out, first establishing the key characteristics of Eli Lilly's information architecture, and then relating these to the facilities possessed by the specific federated search engines being evaluated. The results of the study are then presented alongside a qualitative review of each engine, with WebFeat Express and SearchSolver emerging as the two strongest programs. A final overall review concludes that the views of the academic literature as to the limits of federated searching are still largely accurate as regards those programs reviewed. However, it also provides examples of developments available in the immediate future which will allow for wider applications of the technology.

The Information Professionals' Christmas Party 2006 By Penny Leach

Once again SLA Europe was delighted to join with other information membership groups to host the traditional party for their members and guests. It is always held on the night before the opening of London's Online Information Conference and exhibition. This year we partnered with the Association of UK Media Librarians (AUKML), the British & Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL), the City Information Group (CiG),

the City Legal Information Group (CLIG), and the Industrial and Commercial Libraries Group (ICLG) of CILIP.

The venue was the Science Museum, London. Guests were welcomed with a glass of champagne in the Energy Hall, with a spectacular plasma wheel circling overhead. The first event was a raffle, to which our sponsors had generously donated a variety of prizes. More drinks and food were served, and dancing took place in the new Wellcome Wing, where the generous space facilitated networking, particularly as there were plenty of tables to sit and eat at amongst the exhibits.

Inderscience Publishers and Prenax were the Gold sponsors and the following were Silver sponsors: Bailey Solutions, Brand & Company, CILIP, EBSCO Information Services, Experian, ICC Information, Infocandy, 7Side, Sue Hill Recruitment, Swets Information Services, TFPL, Thomson Scientific, Wildy & Sons. Thanks are due to those companies, and also CiG without whose Committee and Administrator this event would not be possible.

Photographs can be found at:
<http://www.cityinformation.org.uk/Events/Xmas06Photos/Xmas06Photos.htm>.

SLA Europe's Winter Warmer Quiz, 18th January 2007 By Penny Leach

This year's Quiz, held again at the City Tavern in the City of London, was another great success with eleven teams keenly competing for the prizes, and to avoid the ignominy of being last! Prizes (and useful notepads, pencils and mugs) were kindly supplied by Sue Hill who sponsored the evening (www.suehill.com).

Our professional quizmaster from AskTony used the night to treat us as guinea pigs in order to try out some new and experimental session formats, so there was no room for complacency amongst previous attendees. The hotly contested but well-deserved first prize went to



1st prize went to the Infomaniacs, a team from Rothschilds

the Infomaniacs, a team from Rothschilds. However it was a close run thing as the second team, the Conan Librarians, were at least one person down on the night.

The City Tavern kept us well supplied with a variety of pizza slices to fuel our brain cells and keep the wet winter's night at bay.

Photos for those of you who want to relive the night can be found at www.asktony.co.uk/18-01-07/

1st	INFOMANIACS	155
2nd	CONAN LIBRARIANS	154
3rd	SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION	150
4th	SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE	146
5th	DEALOGIC SMARTY PINTS	145
-	GIN L FIX IT	145
7th	NORFOLK N CHANCE	140
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9th	FINCHLEY WARRIORS	137
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11th	PATENTLY ABSURD	126



SLA Leadership Summit in Reno, Nevada; a perspective By Sylvia James

The Leadership Summit this year was from January 24-27th and was actually held in a suburb of Reno called Sparks at the extraordinarily named John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort. I have to admit that the name of this hotel, including the term "resort" had conjured up for me a location in lush grounds in the shadow of the mountains, perhaps hacienda style ? Unfortunately this was not to be and I had a bit of culture shock, when I arrived at an enormous high rise hotel, the ground floor of which was an assault on my jet lagged senses, being full of gaudy flashing and beeping fruit machines.



I think I may have had Lake Tahoe (the much more upscale neighbouring town) and Reno a bit mixed up in my mind from reading a guidebook on the two locations. Nevertheless, I did have a good view of the mountains from my room on the 26th floor, some snow capped. There were some attractive parts of the hotel away from the slot machines and surprisingly the food was excellent in the hotel restaurants and for our lunches, with an unusual amount of fruit and vegetables on offer.

As I have written about Leadership summit several times before for the SLA Europe Newsletter, I don't really need to remind everyone that the main purpose of this SLA meeting is for SLA's leaders, the Association wide committee chairs and members, presidents and

presidents-elect of the Chapters, chairs and chairs-elect of the Divisions and of course the Board of Directors to meet and do business. As my first Summit as SLA Treasurer, I attended two Board meetings with Executive and Open sessions and also Chaired a meeting of the Finance Committee, which always gets together at this meeting.

But, anyone can attend the meeting that is interested in SLA and as Connie Crosby says so well in her blog "Library Leaders": "It is impressive to see an organization actually make a concerted effort to address leadership issues. It's good to know this is open to anyone, not just SLA glitterati."
<http://libleaders.wordpress.com/2006/11/09/sla-leadership-summit-2007/> I'm just mulling over whether I've managed to join this SLA "glitterati" or not. I've never quite seen SLA in that way. There were nearly 300 delegates In Reno and our location in Sparks, away from downtown Reno and any other distractions (apart of course from the dreaded casino operations) kept most of us focussed and in all the sessions.

One of the most important reasons for attending this SLA meeting is for the Division chairs-elect to begin planning the year after next's annual conference and one of the first formal meetings on Wednesday, apart from the Board Meetings, was for the Seattle Planners for the July 2008 SLA conference. This is going to be at a later time in the summer than usual and all the signs are that it is going to be a really different type of conference and experience. As usual, on the 2 main days of the summit we had keynote sessions from "inspiring" speakers and this year I think they were, on balance, better than usual. I didn't hear one example from the Disney school of management !

The first was from a management guru, Chip Heath, a Professor of Organizational Behaviour from Stanford University (website: <http://faculty-gsb.stanford.edu/heath/>) whose main point in his presentation "Made to Stick: The Six Hooks of Successful Ideas" was about the ability of managers to create "sticky messages". This was interesting, but not particularly revolutionary or new. I have read and heard several similar presentations, but it was delivered in an engaging way. The six hooks and his mnemonic for creating sticky messages is:

- S -- Simple
- U -- Unexpected
- C -- Concrete
- C -- Credible
- E -- Emotional
- S -- Stories

I always feel slightly irritated that there is an assumption with these rather anodyne speakers, with a standard message and presentation, that everyone in their audience works for a large organisation and I feel that they rather alienate their audience that don't happen to be in that situation. There are an awful lot of us out there that work in very small companies and



John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort

these presentations never seem to reach out to us! Ken Haycock, director of the School of Library & Information Science at San Jose State University (<http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/people/faculty/haycockk/haycockk.php>) was the other keynote speaker on Friday morning and, knowing the audience very well, gave a lively and informative presentation called "Leadership and You: Tackling the Dragon". His main argument was about a concept he termed ROTI or Return on Time Invested. Basically this focussed on the premise; are we doing our information projects most effectively in the time we are given? Again, not a particularly new concept and one any experienced information manager has had to tackle over and over again.

There were some other key points including the San Jose State School of Library & Information Science set of competencies (see <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/slisis/competencies.htm>) that they believe all of their graduates need to have and which are always interesting to compare with what skills you may have both professionally and in your work environment. Ken also gave a rundown on what San Jose Library School calls an "executive MLIS", which is described at their website: <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/classes/exec.htm>. As we are really trying to push forward on all kinds of new student initiatives in SLA Europe, I found this very interesting.

The other more general presentations were from Betty Jo Hibberd of Dialog on onpreparing an "elevator speech" so that you can summarise what you do when you meet a senior manager or similar in a 'lift'; and from Donna Scheeder and SLA Europe's own Gill Voisey on running effective meetings. Both were very successful with the delegates.

The rest of the Summit was taken up with important SLA business meetings including the Chapter and Division Cabinet meetings. Janice Lachance and Rebecca Vargha gave a rundown of the year ahead for SLA and there were final sessions on Friday afternoon about the Chapter Modelling and Strategic Realignment initiatives and their progress following development from

the original Task Forces that had taken the ideas and made recommendations to the Board in June 2006. There was plenty of opportunity for discussion and comment from delegates on progress, particularly on the suggestions made for the Strategic Realignment and it will be very interesting to see how these putative suggestions are taken back by SLA unit leaders to their membership and discussed further and what conclusions are reached by the grassroots. There was a feeling that these discussions could have been better scheduled for earlier in the Summit, rather than left to the end of the meeting.

SLA Europe members will also be interested to note that Kate Arnold and myself presented a session in the Joint Cabinet Meeting (when the Chapter and Division leaders come together on issues of interest to both) on our International Membership Initiative. We reported on how we presented a Board Document at the Board Meeting in Monterey in October 2006 in the last SLA newsletter and were tasked by the Board to take this further at the Joint Cabinet meeting in Reno.

The slides we have prepared will be available on the SLA Europe website and we would welcome any ideas, comments and discussion from any SLA Europe members on how we can take this initiative forward. We intend to hold a focus group on the Initiative at the conference in Denver and anyone who would like to participate should let us know at my e-mail address. We would particularly like to hear from any of you that have been active in Division leadership at any time during your membership of SLA and especially what you think it brought to your membership experience that you did not get from the Chapter side.

As for many of the past few years I also attended a Division Board meeting. I am now Past-Past Chair of the Business & Finance (B&F) Division, with the responsibility of nominating the B&F slate of officers who will take their responsibilities on in January next year. With a committee I have to select a Chair-elect, Treasurer and one new Director for the Executive Board of B&F. It would seem that you never quite lose contact with Division work once you have been involved. We choose to change our officers of B&F this January and Hal Kirkwood became our new Chair. I was still involved last year with the B&F awards process as Past Chair and have been really delighted at the response to our new joint award with SLA Europe to select a student from Europe to go to Denver (See separate article in this newsletter). It was a pleasure to report this to the leaders of B&F.

On Thursday evening, there was a reception held in one of the hotel restaurants sponsored by SLA and the Sierra Nevada Chapter, which took the form of a very interesting wine and food tasting. I would particularly like to thank the Sierra Nevada Chapter and especially their President, Buzz Haughton, for hosting this Summit and making us all welcome. I know they are a very small Chapter of just over 60 members and it must

have been quite an effort to have us all in their territory ! For the first time in several years, there were some tabletop displays from supportive companies who came to the Leadership Summit.

Thanks to them all for contributing to the Summit. Amigos Library Services, Basch Subscriptions, Inc. EBSCO Publishing, Factiva, Hoover's, IEEE, Outsell, Wall Street Journal. Next Year, the Kentucky Chapter will be the host of the SLA Leadership Summit. They are very excited about this opportunity - this is an extract from their website: "Chapter members prepare. We will have a lot of work to do to make sure that our fellow SLA members know that while Kentuckians have a great time in other cities; we will have a better time showing them how to enjoy Louisville. Louisville is home to the Derby, the 2007 Orange Bowl Champions, the Slugger, and ALI. In January 2008 we will be home to SLA."

It will also be the first time that newly elected Board members take their place on the Board in January, rather than June. We will be over our transitional period for the leadership year coming into line with the financial and administrative year and so will begin a new era of governance for SLA. Should be interesting to see how it all works out.



SLA Europe's Student Initiative Student Stipend Award By Sylvia James

Last year, SLA Europe's Board began some new initiatives to attract more student members. One of the areas the Board decided to focus on were student awards and along with the new Dissertation prizes we are now giving at four LIS university courses around the UK, we decided to offer a new student award to attend SLA's annual conference.

The Board had been thinking for some time about offering a similar award to that of the EIP (European Information Professional of the Year) to a younger member of the profession, but the financial commitment seemed rather large and the likelihood of getting long-term sponsorship was doubtful. The idea of combining with another SLA unit to co-sponsor was a definite possibility, especially a Division, who had many activities at Conference, which could provide both excellent support, both financial and with experienced mentors, for a more inexperienced award winner.

As I was on the Board of the Business & Finance Division (B&F) for 2006 and was also as Past Chair, the Awards Chair for them, I was able to introduce the idea, which had been approved by SLA Europe's Board, to the B&F Board in Baltimore at annual conference in June 2006. I was very pleased that it was taken up with alacrity and so the new jointly funded award which we set at approximately \$2,000, (\$1,000 from each unit) was launched in the autumn of 2007.

Attending the SLA annual conference is generally regarded as one of the most valuable experiences for anyone new to SLA. The success of SLA Europe's EIP award is testimony to this. B&F have long experience of student awards and have a longstanding tradition of offering 6 awards per year to attend SLA's annual conference. See the details at their website at <http://condor.depaul.edu/~bunnn/studentannouncement2007.doc> In Baltimore in 2006 they held a very successful student session on employment after graduating called "Landing Your Dream Job" and are planning a similar event for future conferences.

There has always been a problem with the B&F awards for students who might wish to apply for these stipends from outside North America, in that they are too small in monetary value (\$1,200) to cover the full cost of travel and subsistence from Europe, so this new award idea with SLA Europe represented a realistic opportunity to attend. During the summer of 2006, Barbara Robinson, SLA Europe's Student and Faculty Liaison and myself, representing B&F, drew up the terms and conditions of the Award. We consulted faculty from several British universities about the attractiveness of such an award and then with the green light from all concerned, we began to publicise it in relevant LIS publications and to faculty members in the LIS schools around Europe.

We were delighted that we received 8 applications from all over Europe for the initial award by the closing date at the end of 2006. This really justified our confidence that the Award would be sought after by students wanting to experience this opportunity. We will be meeting in early February as an awards panel to choose the winner. The panel will comprise Rachel Kolsky, President of SLA Europe, Barbara Robinson and myself along with 2 of our colleagues from B&F, Toby Pearlstein, B&F Awards Chair and Awilda Reyes, B&F Chair of Grants and Stipends.

When the winner is announced, they will be briefed as extensively as possible on the pros and cons of attending the SLA conference for the first time by SLA Europe members, including last year's EIP, Marie-Madeleine Salmon. We intend to introduce the winner to B&F at our opening Board dinner in Denver, where we usually meet and honour the new EIP. Awilda Reyes, Chair, Grants and Stipends of B&F will then take over the guidance of our Student award winner for the rest of the conference.

Stop Press - February 23rd 2007
The winner of SLA Europe's Student Initiative Student Stipend Award has been announced as Verena Till, a student of Library and Information Management at Stuttgart Media University in Germany.



The award is sponsored by Books 24x7

Books24x7, a SkillSoft Company, is a leading provider of web-based digital technical and business reference content, containing thousands of digitized "best-in-class" reference books, research reports, documentation and articles. Books24x7's hosted web-based platform enables users to search, browse, read and collaborate with vast professional "Referenceware" libraries assembled through its relationships with the world's top IT and business publishers. This includes, in the technical publishing arena, imprints like Microsoft Press, Osborne/McGraw Hill, Artech House and many others. In the business field, prominent publishing partners include AMACOM, ASTD Press, Berrett-Koehler, Harvard Business School Publishing, John Wiley, MIT Press, Oxford University Press and others. Prominent customers that have adopted Books24x7 solutions include: Bank of America, Lockheed-Martin and many more.

 **A life in the day of...
Angela M. Gooden - Treasurer
Cincinnati Chapter**

I start my day by checking my email and quickly perusing the University of Cincinnati homepage to determine what is going on today. A patron shares that he is planning a trip to the Quebec area and wants to know the depth of the waters for the Hudson Strait (an area he is planning to visit while on vacation). Minutes later, the patron leaves satisfied as we are able to locate a Sounding in Meters map he can use.



Shortly after, I attend a committee meeting in the main library which is a few buildings away from mine. The weather is surprisingly mild for December so I enjoy the trek at a leisurely pace. Now the Priscilla Neill Library Leadership Award Committee is not just any humdrum meeting. Serving on this committee gives me great satisfaction because I help to select three of our peers for leadership awards that include nice monetary bonuses. Back at the ranch, I take advantage of the fact that the students are out for the holiday break and catch up on online articles in the Journal of Library Administration and Collection Building. I also take some time to thumb through journals that have piled on my desk for the last few weeks.

Later, pondering about ways to make my "Resources for Statistics Students" January library session more interesting, I search Access Science to view the 'Headline News'. Next, I scan *www.cnn.com* to locate additional current topics. I select a few and began to conduct searches in the Current Index to Statistics and MathSciNet. I jot down some notes and prepare my cheat sheet for the upcoming class. At the end of the

day, the staff and I put on our "merry maid" hats and disinfect keyboards, scrub workstations and dust a few books. Winter seems far away but will be here before you know it!

Angela M. Gooden
Head, Geology-Mathematics-Physics Library
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 **The 13th Nordic Conference on Information and Documentation
From Kristin Geirsdottir**

Dear colleagues in SLA Europe, I would like to bring to your attention that the website for the 13th




NORD I&D conference Human side of IT has been updated with conference programme and information on registration.

<http://nordiod2007.sfis.nu/site/298/default.aspx>

Early registration is until April 15. The conference language is English so this is a special opportunity to get an update on what is happening in the information and library field in the Nordic countries. Hope to see you there!

The 13th Nordic Conference on Information and Documentation - Stockholm University, Aula Magna, 18-19 June 2007

The conference will deal with the human aspect of IT. It could be within the field of knowledge organization, information tasks, librarianship, learning and teaching as well as other aspects of information technology.

 **Welcome to new members
We welcome the following new and returning members to SLA Europe.**

The following new members have joined since December 2006

- Rita Weissenberger, I2K Services Gmbh, Germany
- Stephen Phillips, Morgan Stanley, UK
- Alison Shahan, Drugscope, UK
- Natasha Davies, IPEEX Limited, UK
- Jill Golden, Marshall Center Research Library Germany
- Hazel Hall, Napier University, UK
- Richard Jackson, AROQ Ltd, UK
- Christina Apostolou, UK
- Anne Spitalier, BC Partners, France
- Varju Luceno, US Bank, US
- Sophie Ameln, The Blackstone Group, UK
- Kevin Emany, UK

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