

NLN FEATURE

Preservation of valuable collections is a common dilemma of news organizations

BY JEANIE STRAUB, EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Many news librarians are struggling in a Twilight Zone dimension with regards to the preservation of the invaluable cultural assets of clip files and photographs. They are well aware of the value of these collections, yet because the focus of the news business is tomorrow's news, and because the news business is very much a business, some face a slow train wreck. Clearly management must see preservation as a priority.

"This is a very difficult sell," said **Victoria McCargar** of the *Los Angeles Times*, "because we're all so short-termed and bottom-line focused in the news business."

Preservation planning - including strategic planning for future electronic migrations - tends to take a backseat to more urgent priorities that require time and funding, said McCargar, who focused on preservation issues in newspaper libraries while working toward her MLIS at UCLA.

"It may be generations before we figure this out, which is pretty scary" she noted of preservation in news libraries, including electronic formats. "It is like a silent train wreck - a little bit goes everyday. The mate-

rial isn't gone. It is there, but by the time you get around to thinking about it you won't be able to open it."

"Yet coming out of the library," McCargar said, "the responsibility falls to librarians, who are competing for scarce resources."

Many electronic preservation solutions, such as digitization, do not promise a return on investment. "It is a expensive proposition to systematically digitize pictures," McCargar said.

According to *Indianapolis Star* Library Director **Michael Jesse**, some news librarians may come under pressure to discard hard-copy photos as the photos are scanned on an as-needed basis into an electronic system, but the resolution of the scan only matches the requirements for newsprint publishing. "Much of the original detail from the print was lost in the scan," he said, "and if the photo is discarded in the process, that's the end of it." Likewise, clip files may be targeted for disposal to free up space. "Often this is by order of a publisher or editor who has no real understanding or appreciation of what is being discarded," Jesse said.

Much of the reason preservation causes

people to tear their hair out, McCargar noted, is because there are few practical applications for the investment. Digitizing microfilm is profitable for the largest papers, but what about the mid-sized daily?

"We're a long ways from figuring this out," McCargar said. "Meanwhile we do the best we can. We hope we're doing it right and don't come up with a nasty surprise in a few years - sometimes it's years before you find out."

"The conundrum of preservation is that you have to make an educated guess as to what is going to be valuable," McCargar said. "That is the science of appraisal that has gone out the window with the advent of digital media."

The *Columbus Dispatch's* **Jim Hunter**, education director for the Division, said the "Accidental Archivist" course at the SLA Annual Conference went better than expected. "But the issue of archives in newspapers, there is no ready solution to it," he added. There is no "easy fix."

Hunter noted that "Accidental Archivist" presenter **Robert Jansen** of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* "very clearly said the victories are few and far between, but

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News Library News
Summer 2004
Vol. 26, No. 4



News Library News (ISSN 1047-417X) is the bulletin of the News Division of the Special Libraries Association. SLA Headquarters address is: SLA, 1700 Eighteenth St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009. The phone number is: 202-234-4700. News Library News is published four times a year by the division. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited.

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RON LARSON

It's hard to imagine that the SLA Conference was already two months ago. Do many of you who visited Nashville in June still have a large collection of material from the conference piled high on your desk like I do? No, I'm sure most of you are more organized and efficient.

The conference, once again, was a non-stop affair with great sessions. A few of them are summarized in this issue, along with a number of photos to properly document the event. Hats off to all involved, especially **Jennifer Small Evert**, **Jim Hunter**, **Michael Jesse** and **Linda Henderson**, for their time and effort.

It's amazing how the News Division can year after year out do itself when it comes to conference programming. The bar continues to rise and that is good for all of us.

Just as this summer has quickly passed by, so has my tenure as managing editor of *News Library News*. I guess the old adage is true, that time passes quickly when you're having fun. It has been a privilege and pleasure serving you, the Division and this publication.

I have sincerely appreciated the assistance from those of you who have written for NLN. I can't say enough about the high level of the helpful spirit in this Division. Each time I asked someone to write an article, it was always answered with a quick yes.

I must thank **Liz Donovan** and **Leigh Poitinger** for convincing me to give this job a chance. I was quite stubborn and played hard to get, but I'm glad they kept pestering me. The experience of editing *News Library News* has certainly been worth the effort.

And finally, a huge bouquet of thanks and appreciation goes to Cheri Dantin, the talented graphic designer of *News Library News*. I just send her the stories and photos and she does the magic. Her tireless efforts last fall made our transition from a print publication to a digital one appear seamless. Thank you, Cheri, for all of your help and guidance.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



BY JENNIFER SMALL
EVERT

It's really over! After a long year planning the annual conference program, I can't believe that Nashville is behind us and I'm sitting here writing my first column as Chair of the News Division. Before looking ahead to the next year, I'd like to extend a great number of thanks to people who helped make the Nashville program so successful.

First and foremost, a huge thank you to the Czarina, **Linda Henderson**. Without Linda's guidance, I would not have been able to make it through the year with so few troubles. I really admire her dedication to the Division and her willingness to help with any issue.

I would also like to thank all of the great moderators who stepped forward to take time from their busy schedules to put together some great programs this year: **Laura Soto-Barra, Peter Johnson, Carolyn Edds, Mike Meiners, Denise Jones, Mike Knoop, and Lynne Palombo**. These folks did an excellent job of pulling together strong panels (thanks to all the speakers as well!) Almost every program - including those scheduled for 7:30 in the morning - was packed full. On more than one occasion I had folks from other divisions approach me to comment on the strength of the News Division programming. Great job everyone - it would not have been possible without your hard work.

I would also like to congratulate **Jim Hunter**, our skilled Professional Development Chair, for creating two great CE courses - both of which sold out! I think that's the first time in several years and it speaks volumes for Jim's ability to identify topics that are important not only to News Division members but also to the organization as a whole.

There are several friends of the Division who helped make this year's conference special. First, I want to thank the staff at the *Nashville Tennessean* for hosting the Division on the opening day. I also want to thank **Carolyn Edds** and IRE for again helping us webcast Gary Price's Extreme Searching session. As far as I know, we are the only division who has successfully webcast a program. I hope we can continue to do this so that members who are

unable to attend can get a touch of conference. As usual, Gary's session was overflowing! Finally, I want to thank the folks at the Freedom Forum & the First Amendment Center on the Vanderbilt campus in Nashville for sponsoring a reception and program on the closing night. Attendees were treated to a short interview show that featured **Judy Blume** and others discussing censorship. We also toured the First Amendment Center's protest exhibit and enjoyed some tasty barbecue.

Finally, I'd like to extend a sincere appreciation to our vendors. Professional development opportunities would not be possible without the support of these folks. This year we'd like to specifically thank Proquest, LexisNexis, MerlinOne, Heritage Microfilm, Dialog, Factiva and RefUSA. The News Division looks forward to continuing to work with you to build stronger partnerships.

For those of you who did not get to attend SLA this year, I hope you've had the chance to check out the News Division Web site where **Jessica Baumgart**, our webmaster, has done the hard work of posting all of the available presentations and handouts: <http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/conferences/sla2004/>.

As I close the book on Nashville, I'd like to look forward a bit to this year. The News Division Board met during SLA and outlined some of the key issues for the Division. One of the most crucial issues revolves around membership. Our numbers continue to decline and we think it's time to put together an action plan to help boost membership. We tossed around several ideas at conference and will work this year to outline a plan of attack. So look for more on that issue. Another issue that is near and dear to my heart is professional development. The Division was able to resuscitate the News Librarian program at Poynter this year. We are going to continue to work with Poynter to keep a program for news librarians alive. A small group of volunteers is starting the work to outline the program for next year.

I hope everyone enjoys what's left of the summer!

A summary of The Accidental Archivist

BY JESSICA BAUMGART, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The News Division's continuing education course, *The Accidental Archivist*, offered participants insight on how to collect and care for the varied materials at news organizations. Panelists providing the valuable information were Vincent Golden from the American Antiquarian Society, Carrie Christoffersen of the Newseum, and **Bob Jansen** of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. **Jim Hunter** of the *Columbus Dispatch*, the Division's education and professional development director, moderated.

Golden began his talk by introducing us to the work and collection of the society. He then spoke about the lack of publisher files and the amount of newspapers that have been lost over the years. He illustrated how collecting newspapers is a way to save

history. Many places and groups of people in the United States have almost no records of their history because no one preserved their key publications. Golden shared many anecdotes about procuring newspapers. He also spoke about working with dealers to get materials and how beneficial some of those relationships can be. He emphasized the importance of acquisitions, preservation, and organization.

Christoffersen opened her presentation with an introduction to the Newseum, its collection, and her work there. She shared many excellent resources, like the Newseum's Collection Management Policies and Procedures, and information about storing and preserving items of historical value. Christoffersen emphasized the importance of having good collection guidelines. She told us about the latest thinking regarding archival storage condi-

tions for many items and passed around some instruments for measuring those conditions. She also reminded us that being able to find things in archival storage is important, so appropriate finding aids and labels are an integral part of the collection. She discussed access issues, too, like storing items in locked cases and only giving certain personnel keys to the storage area. Archivists need to keep emergency preparedness in mind, as well.

Jansen, aka "The World's Strongest Archivist," urged us to become better advocates for saving our news organization's history. He gave us some examples of how the news organization can benefit from knowing its own history, like including details about it in articles. Bob suggested some ways we can begin our own archives. If archiving becomes an important part of our

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A summary of Deadline Due Diligence

BY TOM PELLEGRENE JR., *THE JOURNAL GAZETTE*

Newsrooms are now requiring detailed background on businesses and individuals, enabling librarians to provide a terrific value to news organizations. "If all we are doing is Google, we are no better than our reporters, and we have to be better than them," said **Jim Hunter** of the *Columbus Dispatch*, the News Division's education director. During a four-hour continuing education course at the SLA conference in Nashville, a news librarian, a library-school professor and a Web expert provided a detailed look at practices and sites researchers can use to provide that information on deadline.

"We don't know what we know," said **Marion Paynter**, library director at the *Charlotte Observer*, who spent several months interviewing several dozen librarians, private investigators and vendors to

"compile our community's collective wisdom." Her 23-page report is to be made available at the Division's Web site.

Most researchers make the same moves 90 percent of the time, Paynter said, but it's what they do differently in that last 10 percent that extends the community's knowledge.

To get the most for your money, she said, start with free Web sites and printed materials available in your library, such as phone books or city directories. Then go to fee-based services. Sometimes one service can be used as an index for another.

Paynter found that Accurint is the most-often-used first choice because of its low cost - 50 cents to search, free if you find nothing. More libraries have AutoTrack, often used as a backup.

In general, she said, people-finders

shouldn't be made available in the newsroom to avoid high cost, the need to train users and to prevent inappropriate use. Most searches are done in response to newsroom requests, but let the newsroom know what you can do.

Credit and lender issues have restricted the media's right to Social Security numbers in these services, Paynter said. Each vendor has interpreted the provisions of federal law differently. "If one vendor won't give a permitted use, try another," she said.

Among the lessons researchers have learned:

- Make sure someone is coordinating research efforts so multiple people aren't doing the same thing.
- Make sure you know what is (and isn't) in each database.
- Insist on training reporters.

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PEOPLE



BY KATHRYN PEASE

On the Move

Lynn Dombek has joined the *Associated Press* as Research Director of the News Research Center. Lynn was formerly Director of Editorial Research at American Lawyer Media, and prior to that she was the Time, Inc. Research Center's Assistant Director.

Not only is the AP getting a new Research Director, but they're also getting a new building. After 67 years, they left the *Associated Press* Building at Rockefeller Center and moved to the 14th, 15th and 16th floors of its new headquarters at West 33rd Street and 10th Avenue in New York City.

John Martin was appointed Research Editor of the *St. Petersburg Times* in February. John joined the *Times* in 1995 as a News Researcher. Reporting to John will be **Carolyn Edds**, who joined the *Times* staff in July as a News Researcher. Carolyn is the former Research Director of Investigative Reporters and Editors at the Missouri School of Journalism.

I'm a year late with this one, but **Joan Fitzsimons** was appointed as a Reference Manager for the CBS News Reference Library in September 2003. Before coming to CBS News, she was an Information Specialist at the Forbes Magazine Information Center.

The NPR library staff is happy to have **Mary Glendinning** joining their ranks. Mary previously worked at the Freedom Forum, ABC News and LexisNexis.

Kelly Guckian of the *San Antonio Express-News* was promoted to a newly created position of Database Researcher. Kelly will assist reporters and editors to negotiate for data from agencies and provide data cleanup and analysis. She will train and support reporters who are interested in using databases or other computer assisted reporting tools. Kelly will also post searchable databases such as county voter registration on the newsroom intranet. Although she will continue to work on the information desk and have some archiving responsibilities, her major focus will be database support.

The Freedom Forum library in Arlington, VA has welcomed **Sage Hulsebus** to their staff. Sage recently completed an internship with the *USA Today* library and is a May 2004 graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Kerry Prendergast is the new Manager of Library Services at Scholastic. In this role, Kerry will head all library operations - including acquisitions, circulation,

and research - while also overseeing the management and use of the company's print-based product archive.

Kerry joins Scholastic from her recent position as Manager/Information Resources for the NBC Information Center. At NBC, Kerry and her staff provided reference and research services in support of the television news outlets of NBC and MSNBC. She has also held positions as Research Manager and Senior Reference Librarian at CitiBank and has been an instructor at the School of Library Service at Pratt Institute where she taught the use of online databases for business.

The *Raleigh News & Observer's* News Research Department has a new researcher. **Lamara Williams-Hackett** joined their staff on June 1. She has a MLS from Louisiana State University where she was a Reference/Instruction Librarian.

Awards & Acknowledgments

Jennifer O'Neill, Library Director of *The Florida Times-Union*, was selected by a state-wide committee to participate in the year-long Sunshine State Leadership Institute for "librarians who have exhibited leadership potential, as well as the ability to share with others their enthusiasm, optimism, and vision for the library services of tomorrow." The institute is sponsored by a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services.

Here is a sampling of colleagues who were credited in print for their contributions to major stories and projects:

The *Christian Science Monitor* credited **Alan Messmer** and **Leigh Montgomery** for their statistical analysis of U.S. military fatalities in Iraq for the article, "A Portrait of Who They Were" by Brad Knickerbocker. Alan and Leigh found that between March 20, 2003 and May 6, 2004, 759 US troops died in Iraq, and that it was the longest, fiercest, sustained combat Americans have seen in a generation. To read the story, see:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0512/p01s04-usmi.html>

Bobbye Pratt, news researcher from *The Washington Post*, received her first byline for "A Personal History Lesson: Va. High School Classmates Face Their Own Legacy," a story about the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education. Check it out at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59895-2004May1.html>

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Intranet course hits the spot

By LIISA TUOMINEN, OTTAWA CITIZEN

Over the sounds of a laughter seminar seeping over from the room next door, the News Division got the lowdown on two very cool and useful intranets, NewsSpot and SunSpot, during the session "Intranets - Cool Content & Tools and Getting the Work Done (State of the Art)". (Is it mere coincidence that both NewsSpot and SunSpot have the word "Spot" in their names? Hmmm.)

David Dwiggins gave an impressive overview of NewsSpot, planting great ideas in the minds of those of us with more, um, rudimentary sites. Sporting a retired newspaper mascot, (a cartoon dog named Spot) as its icon, NewsSpot has evolved over the past few years to be a tool for newsroom communication and for workflow applications. It has improved communication from person to person, within teams and between departments.

Some examples of NewsSpot's functions include photo orders, photographer mileage reports and correction reports that can be viewed by the *Tennessean's* online side. Logons can be personalized so people can get access to, say, their unfinished photo requests.

NewsSpot is also a site for corporate and focus group reports, the company history, policies, a Cop Shift manual, a daily critique of the newspaper and feedback from readers.

Journalism tools include stylebooks, archives of pdf pages, scanned headlines from a card index and the paper's text and photo archives - as well as links to commercial databases and other useful Web sites.

Add to this a company directory with photos, and a database of staff expertise, and you've got yourself a dandy newsroom tool.

New information is added with forms so that non-technical people can keep it up-to-date and maintain consistency.

In addition to day to day journalism,

NewsSpot has been used to:

- ❖ compile a database of high school sports to keep exportable game stats for the long term. Stories and photos are linked to the database. Clerks add information via forms.
- ❖ for a project on nursing home fires, they built a database with information on every local facility,
- ❖ used recently for a newspaper remodel project to give centralized information, background news about the project and include team Web sites for individual projects with minutes, reports and ideas

For the future - "PlanSpot" will be a newsroom planning tool for keeping a record of projects with scheduling, art, promotion and art requests

David also addressed the challenges involved with an intranet. Designated individuals must have "ownership" of information and responsibility for keeping it up to date. The main page should be kept simple as the intranet grows and good navigation is crucial. There's the potential for "Feature creep" where time and energy is wasted on capabilities that don't turn out to be useful. As an example, a contacts file - reporters can be reluctant to share their sources, and upkeep can be a nightmare.

He stressed the need to build the right team with designers, tech people, information professionals and end users. As for the software and hardware behind it all, he advising using the technology your IT department knows and can support.

John Maines spoke about SunSpot, which was started in 1998. He gave several examples of Computer Assisted Reporting databases that have been made available to the general newsroom via SunSpot.

- ❖ a felons database going back to the 1930s
- ❖ a "Cool School Tool" contains a list of school district employees.
- ❖ a census database, which when combined with mapping software allows a graphic display of population trends.
- ❖ a Global Search System - allows searching of a name against voter registration, crash records, felons and state employees

The crowning glory, however, is a database of Florida voter registrations which, when linked to mapping software and census data, enabled groundbreaking journalism in the 2000 U.S. Presidential election when all eyes were on Florida voters.

John finished developing this database just before the election, not knowing what an important tool it would become. It allowed him to first map the ethnic and political distribution of voters by neighborhood by overlaying voter registrations on to census data. Once election results were in, he could show the percentages of Bush and Gore votes in various neighborhoods. When percentages of disqualified ballots were added, the journalists could pinpoint the ethnic makeup of neighborhoods with high numbers of these ballots, finding a disproportionate number from African-American and Caribbean areas. The PC-based Visual Basic software allowed this information to be displayed using color-coded maps, which could be exported to the art department for use in the newspaper.

John also demonstrated free software that enables him (and us) to develop search screens for databases. Using shareware, (ASP.NET), borrowed coding and drag-and-drop functions, he showed how to create search screens for Excel files, enabling our newsrooms to mine information from the files - without them having to know Excel. You can even visit his Web site at: <http://66.166.242.163/sla/index.htm> for a demonstration. The site links to a download site for ASP.NET for the PC. Once you've installed the software, his demo allows you to take any Excel spreadsheet and using "borrowed" coding, design a search screen. Putting these search capabilities on your intranet gives your newsroom access to databases they might have been too intimidated to use in the past.

John also stressed the importance of cau-

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First conference experience is worth repeating

By AMY DISCH

In spite of the problems I encountered getting to Nashville (missed connections and lost luggage), I had a wonderful time attending my first SLA conference. I hope to repeat the experience many times in the course of my professional career.

After finally arriving on Sunday afternoon, my mood improved dramatically once I decided to venture out into the vast expanses of the conference hotel. I went over to the conference area and took care of my registration and was immediately impressed by the friendliness of those around me. I started talking to a woman from Texas and at some point, I mentioned my dislike of the cold weather in Wisconsin. She promptly gave me her business card and told me to send her my resume. I remember thinking to myself what a fantastic experience this was going to be.

Monday morning began with the opening general session with keynote speaker Dr. Carl Ledbetter. Dr. Ledbetter spoke about the Internet and the various issues we face in conjunction with it, such as privacy, security and the like. I then attended a poster session on using the Internet to effectively teach the sciences. Even though science has never been my strong suit, I am very interested in the issue of bibliographic instruction and training and decided to check out the session anyway. One of the tutorials had been created using Camtasia, the software I'll be using this fall as part of a practicum experience at the UW-Madison's Health Sciences Library. I also got my first chance to wander the exhibit hall, which I admit overwhelmed me a bit. Besides filling my bag with endless freebies, I spent some time visiting the booths of the UW's Engineering Library, the National Library of Medicine and the Library of Congress. In the afternoon, I attended the News Division's annual business meeting. It

was great to finally connect faces with the names I see on NewsLib and everyone was very welcoming to me.

Monday evening I attended the awards banquet at the Belle Meade Plantation, where I was honored to receive the Division's Vormelker-Thomas Student Award. I had the pleasure of meeting and having my award presented to me by last year's winner, Jennifer Klimas. It was a very memorable evening and I thank the Division for the generosity it showed me.

On Tuesday, I attended several News Division programs, including newsroom intranets, computer-assisted reporting and covering political candidates. I also attended a session geared specifically to new graduates or students approaching graduation on alternative careers that can be pursued with an MLS. In the evening, I attended the association's business meeting, where I officially became the president-elect of the Wisconsin chapter and had the opportunity to meet several fellow cabinet members.

Wednesday proved to be the best and most informative day of the conference for me. I really enjoyed the general closing session with Bill Ivey. My undergraduate studies concentrated on film history, so I was completely absorbed with Ivey's discussion of the need to preserve our cultural heritage, including items such as early films, television shows and radio programs

The remainder of the day was filled with sessions on microfilm digitization and proving your value to the newsroom. The latter was something I spent a great deal of time discussing and writing about during a special libraries course I took last fall, so it was great to hear these issues discussed in terms of practical situations.

I finally got to attend a presentation by the venerable Gary Price! His was undoubtedly the best session of the conference, with lots of tips and Internet information that can be taken back to our library's two news-



Amy Disch, left, receives the Vormelker-Thomas Student Award from last year's winner, Jennifer Klimas.

rooms. I was particularly interested in his discussion of Vivisimo's ClusterMed (for my fall practicum) and MovieLens.

Wednesday evening I attended my final conference event at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University. In particular, I found the visual timeline of events in the history of rights and free speech extremely powerful.

I decided to take advantage of the Thursday tours and had a wonderful time visiting the Hermitage, the estate of the seventh President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. I got to tour the mansion, as well as the beautiful gardens and grounds. Much of it was self-guided and I really enjoyed having the opportunity to explore things on my own.

Even though I got to meet many people, I do regret that I didn't take part in more of the structured networking activities that were available. This is the main thing I intend to rectify at future conferences. Nonetheless, my time there was fun and enjoyable and I'm eternally grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend while still a student.

Thanks again to the Division for giving me this incredible experience. I can't wait to do it all again next year in Toronto.

Session offers helpful advice when dealing with candidates

BY MEGAN GALLUP, DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

As most of us prepare to help our newsrooms cover the many races brewing during this election season, it's always helpful to think about what we should do. "Elections 2004: Covering the Candidates and their Campaigns (Practitioner's Toolkit)" provided useful advice to get us started.

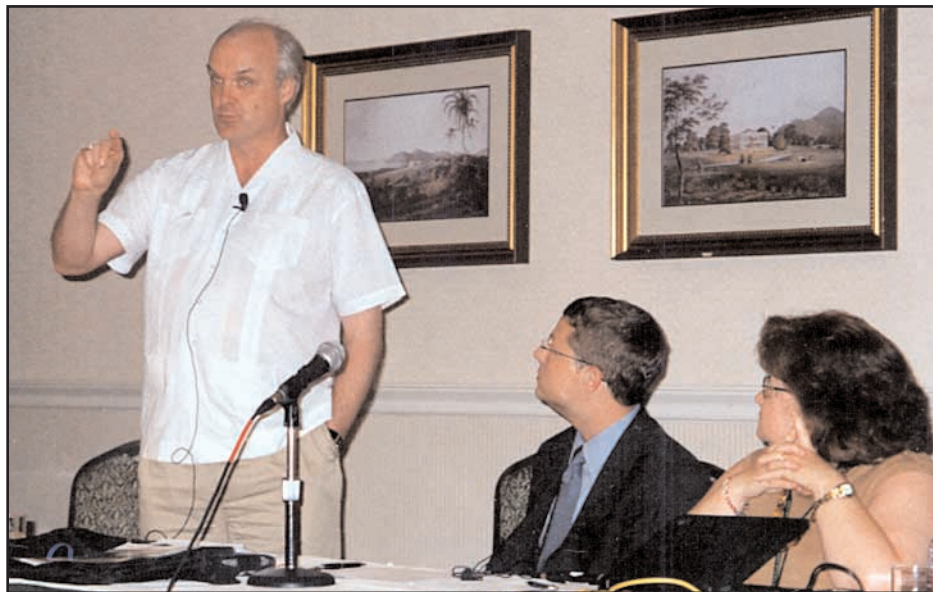
Denise Jones, of *The News and Observer*, shared the four questions she advises reporters to ask about every candidate:

- ❖ *Do the candidates vote? Find out how long they have been registered to vote and whether they vote regularly or skip elections.*
- ❖ *Do the candidates live where they say they do or are other addresses associated with them? Check property records and directories.*
- ❖ *Do the candidates pay their taxes - and do so on time? You may have to check your local courthouse if the information is not online. There may be liens against a candidate if they haven't paid their taxes.*
- ❖ *Has the candidate been divorced? Check the divorce records - you could get some juicy stuff if there was a highly contested divorce.*

Derek Willis, of the Center for Public Integrity (www.publicintegrity.org), reminded the audience that it's important to remember that state and local elections impact federal elections, and vice versa. And it's important, and fun, to follow the money.

When covering federal elections, keep in mind that new campaign finance laws may actually have made finding out who is donating money more difficult. For example, 527 Committees are exempt from tax-

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Stephen Abram, left, Chris Hardesty and Kathy Foley provide ideas on how to prove your value.

Communicating, networking and innovation help prove value

BY MEGAN GALLUP, DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

Most of us are constantly trying to prove to upper management that news libraries are a valuable asset to the company. The session, "Proving your value (Knowing & Growing your customers)" featured three speakers who offered up tons of ideas to accomplish that goal.

Kathy Foley, of the *San Antonio Express-News*, shared several ways to bring in revenue. From photo reprints and custom text reprints, to through licensing and permissions, you should find ways to repurpose your organizations' products. And, if you can, try to get the resulting revenue into your budget, or at least into the newsroom budget. Kathy suggested trying to grow income gradually each year, then start asking for marketing help.

Newsday's **Chris Hardesty** suggested that one way to prove your value is to visit other departments to find out what they're up to - and how you can help them. Then invite them to your department for a tour. Share your archives with other departments if possible. For example, your advertising department may find your PDF archive invaluable when it comes to billing.

Finally, Stephen Abram, of Micromedia ProQuest, informed the audience that you have to communicate with management on an emotional level, rather than bombard them with facts and information. Talk about your value frequently - don't wait for the once-a-year annual report.

Abram suggested that we should make our 'stories' relevant and cautionary. For example, let reporters know about the ways Google search results can be manipulated by interested parties.

Communicate with people on their level (e.g., talk money to the accountants, talk ethics to the editors). Most importantly, become the person that is most valuable in your newsroom.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



2004 Conference Pics

Top Left: It isn't the Grand Ole Opry stage, but Richard Geiger, right, is content to play for the audience in the Division suite.

Center Left: After enjoying a reception and barbecue at the First Amendment Center, Division members were able to enjoy viewing the educational exhibit at the Center.

Bottom Left: The Belle Meade Plantation offered a lovely setting for a reception sponsored by ProQuest.

Top Right: Charlie Campo, left, presents John Cronin with the Joseph F. Kwopil Memorial Award.

Bottom Right: Chris Hardesty displays a bit of history during the auction in the Division suite.





2004 Conference Pics

Top: The expanse of the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center required a lot of walking and a road map.

Bottom: Nancy Stewart, left, and Catherine Kitchell, right, pose with Minnie Pearl outside the Grand Ole Opry.

A summary of *The Accidental Archivist*

Continued from page 5

jobs, he recommends that we take at least one course about archiving. He told us about how his relationships with people have helped him get materials for his collection. Once people know about his collecting efforts, they've given him things for the archive and encouraged others to do the same.

Those of us who attended *The Accidental Archivist* learned about the news librarian's role in preserving not only the news organization's history, but also the history of people and places by saving published materials. We learned about archiving in general and some specific tools and procedures we can employ to aid our collections.

A summary of *Deadline Due Diligence*

Continued from page 5

- Communicate. Get requests in writing and keep records of what was done.
- Assume nothing.

There is no such thing as a nationwide criminal search, Paynter said, although services are available that cast a "wide net with big holes." She said you should become an expert on your state's court system, and make sure you understand what you're seeing from out-of-state courts. To clarify, ask questions of the court or the vendor.

What is real, authentic or useful is not immediately apparent without context, said Roberta Brody, associate professor in the school of library and information studies at Queens College, City University of New York.

Some things covered well on the consumer side are difficult to background on the business side, Brody said.

She said researchers should first find the company's name, owner and major players. Companies may be in more than one industry, so pick the one appropriate for the inquiry.

Many but not all industries are federally regulated, and those agencies may be of assistance, Brody said.

She said researchers should ask, *Who needs to know? Who wants to know? What associations, books or consultants do they use?* Find the smallest unit that would have the information you need.

Not everything is on the Web, Brody said, so take time to develop contacts.

Look at search engines such as Google in terms of their underlying databases, said Greg R. Notess, a reference librarian and associate professor at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Because of load-balancing among servers, the same search may not get the same result twice, so reloading can help, Notess said. Use sponsored links for information, knowing where you got it.

SLA NEWS DIVISION

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2004

Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

IN ATTENDANCE

News Division Executive Board members (Linda Henderson, Chair; Jennifer Small Evert, Chair-elect; Michael Jesse, Past Chair/Director-Awards; Leigh Poynter, Secretary; Jim Hunter, Director-Education/Professional Development Chair; Liz Donovan, Director-Publications), other Division members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Linda Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Henderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2003 annual business meeting, as published in News Library News, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Summer 2003). Ginny Everett put forth a motion to approve the minutes; Donna Scheeder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

CHAIR-ELECT - JENNIFER SMALL EVERET

Jennifer announced that 138 News Division members had registered for the conference and that the Division's ticketed events were sold out. She thanked David Dwiggs for hosting the tour of The Tennessean on June 5 and Jim Hunter for organizing the two sold-out Continuing Education sessions on June 6.

Jennifer also talked about the News Division's 11 planned sessions at the conference, thanked all the speakers and vendors and gave reminders about the News Division Awards Banquet and the Vanderbilt TV News Archives tour.

TREASURER - JUSTIN SCROGGS

Peter Johnson read the following report submitted by Justin Scroggs...

Highlights for the year ending June 7, 2004:

On June 3, 2004, the Division had a checking account balance of \$15,191. In addition to general funds, the Division also carries a balance of \$6,175 designated for the "C.B. Hayden Fellowship."

This year the Division received a \$7,300 membership allotment* from SLA. That was a bit of good news as it indicates an upward trend in Division member-

ship. For reference, here are the allotment figures for 2001-2004:

<i>As of*</i>	<i>Amount</i>
12/31/03	\$7,300
12/31/02	\$7,090
12/31/01	\$7,300
12/31/00	\$7,930

*The allotment is computed at \$10/division member on record on 12/31.

In 2003, SLA began requiring Divisions to pay half of estimated conference costs in advance. In April of this year the Division submitted a check for \$9,490 towards the costs of this conference.

From February 29 through March 3, 2004, the Division and the Poynter Institute co-sponsored the seminar "Mission Critical: Reshaping News Libraries for the 21st Century." This program was possible due to the generosity of Heritage Microfilms Inc., NewsBank, Inc. and the Poynter Institute.

*Respectfully submitted,
Justin Scroggs
News Division Treasurer*

Linda Henderson added that the News Division is in good financial shape due to switching *News Library News* to a PDF version and also due to the sold-out Continuing Education sessions at this year's conference.

PAST CHAIR/AWARDS - MICHAEL JESSE

Michael thanked this year's awards committee for their work. The awards committee included Barbara Semonche, Carolyn Edds, Catherine Kitchell, Ginny Everett and Michael Jesse. The committee awarded the Joseph F. Kwapil award to John Cronin, the Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor award to Liz Donovan and Gary Price and the C.B. Hayden fellowship to Lynne Palombo.

A separate committee chose the Vormelker-Thomas Student Stipend Award recipient, Amy Disch. The student stipend committee consisted of Dru Frykberg, Regina Avila, Jennifer Klimas, Kee Malesky and Candace Stuart.

THIS YEAR'S AWARDS BANQUET AT BELLE MEADE PLANTATION IN NASHVILLE COST \$7500, ALL OF WHICH WAS COVERED BY TICKET SALES.

Michael also announced that Barbara Semonche has

suggested creating a new Division award that "specifically honors members who have a well-regarded record of publications about news librarianship and technology or who have conducted a demonstrated high level of respected scholarly research about our profession." Most of the Division's current awards focus on members' contributions to the Division. Suitable candidates for the proposed new award would not have to be actively involved in the Division.

Barbara suggests naming the award the "David A. Rhydwen Award for Outstanding Scholarly Publication and Research." David A. Rhydwen was formerly chief of the INFO-GLOBE section of The Globe and Mail in Toronto, Canada, and was chair of the News Division in 1960-61 as well as being highly honored by the Division and SLA.

Michael recommended that the incoming Division executive board consider creating the new award.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - JIM HUNTER

There were two Continuing Education sessions at this conference: "Deadline Due Diligence" and "The Accidental Archivist." Jim thanked presenters Dr. Roberta Brody, Greg Notess, Vincent Golden and Carrie Christoffersen. Jim especially thanked Division members Marion Paynter and Bob Jansen for their presentations. Material from the CE courses will be posted on the Division Web site in the future.

Jim also said he is looking for ideas for next year, so if you have a suggestion please let him know.

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR - LIZ DONOVAN

Liz announced that *News Library News'* switch to a PDF version last year went smoothly. Liz thanked *News Library News* editor Ron Larson and Web site editor Jessica Baumgart for all their excellent work.

Liz also started a blog at the 2003 convention, which is now an ongoing blog (<http://newslib.blogspot.com>). Additional postings to the blog are welcome.

WEB SITE - JESSICA BAUMGART

Jessica thanked the 20-30 volunteers who have contributed to the Web site in the past year. She mentioned that lots of library school students have also been contributing to the site. Lots of pages on the Web site need volunteers to "adopt" them, especially the US News Archives section. Jessica plans on eventually redesigning the site and she will continue to be the webmaster for two more years.

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes

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NEWSLIB - BARBARA SEMONCHE

Barbara reported that NewsLib switched to a port 82 Web server that can be accessed by academic libraries with no problem. Some companies might have firewall issues connecting to a port 82 server. If you cannot access the NewsLib Web server, it is possible to search the NewsLib archives via e-mail commands.

Barbara also talked about how NewsLib is no longer an "open list" where anyone can subscribe. All requests to join the list are now forwarded to Barbara (the list administrator) for approval. If there are questions about approval, people should contact Barbara directly.

Currently, NewsLib has 1,227 subscribers. Of that number, two-thirds are actively receiving posts; the remaining subscribers are not receiving mail from the list.

Barbara also recommended that the Division adopt a set of "copyright best practices" for NewsLib, to be discussed under New Business later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES - TERESA LEONARD

No report.

EMPLOYMENT - ROSEMARY NELMS

Rosemary Nelms presented the following written report:

"The number of job postings on the NewsLib list-serv and/or on the NewsLib Web site continues to decline. Thirty-three jobs were posted between June 10, 2003, and June 5, 2004, as compared to 36 postings last year. The postings five years ago (1999-2000) totaled 76, more than twice the number of this year's. There were 40 postings for the period June 2001-June 2002 and 63 for June 2000 - June 2001.

Of the jobs posted in the current period, there were 18 in newspaper libraries, 8 in broadcasting, one from a magazine, and 7 in the "other" category.

Of the job totals, the majority were postings for reference librarians or researchers, full time (13) and part-time (6). There were five postings for managers of research centers, five internship positions, and one posting each for a photo archivist, manager of an info store, fact writer, and information systems specialist.

Some of the more interesting job duties mentioned:

- "provide keywords for a digitized microfilm database"

- "get solid results from Boolean searches at break-neck speed"
- "troubleshoot minor computer problems for staff"
- "process, catalog and assign appropriate indexing terms to cut and raw video generated by news production teams"
- "seize teachable moments to demystify technology for reporters and editors"

Linda and I agree that it's time for the Employment Committee to disband itself. It was useful before e-mail and the Internet to let people know about employment opportunities in news libraries. However, now we have the listserv and the News Division Web site for job postings. So this is the last report from the Employment Committee."

Linda Henderson added that there is a sea-change in how we do business and that all committees will be looked at in the future to determine if they need to continue or be modified in any way.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS - HEIDI YACKER

No report.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - WIL ROESTENBURG

Submitted by Wil Roestenburg, Government Relations Committee Chair:

"Dear colleagues, I'm sorry I'm not able to attend this year's conference. I couldn't convince my boss hard enough and he wouldn't let me go, because my company needed me for some big project that will have a Go/No Go decision on June 30. But I know, part of the reason is the need for cost-reductions that my company is facing. Not only my company, I think this cost reductions are an international issue in itself. And those cost reductions gave a lot of trouble too- we were all so very busy with so many things that the International Relations Committee issues didn't get full attention all the time.

When I was moderating the "News Research Without Borders" panel earlier this year, I contacted several non-US colleagues to find out if they were planning to go to Nashville. But at that moment nobody was certain about that and nobody could promise to have a role in the panel. That was a frustrating situation, because I knew exactly what was going on and how difficult it was to get an agreement; I was dealing with the same issue.

Thanks to Jennifer Evert and Laura Soto-Barra the panel could be continued with Joan Sweeney, Dana Gordon and Madeline Cohen. I hope you all had a good session and I also hope there will be a follow up next year in Toronto (maybe with more international attendees, if we succeed in convincing our bosses and

finding the funds).

Part of the arguments could be collected in the next months. One of the ideas for next year is to have a follow up on the "Best Practices Survey" that was held by Teresa Leonard and Laura Soto-Barra, in preparing the Poynter Seminar "Mission critical" earlier this year. The survey was returned by a small group of international colleagues and the results inspired the idea of having a worldwide survey done - the more response, the better. Our suggestion is to support this idea and to have an "International Best Practices Survey" done in 2004/05.

When I was attending the Poynter seminar and talking with Paul Pohlmann, we discussed the idea of having more people from abroad at Poynter seminars. Another idea was to get the Poynter-trainings done in Europe again and maybe in other continents, as happened in the '90's. So far this idea didn't get a follow up, but all ideas and suggestions are very welcome.

One last remark that also has to do with international exchange. In March I posted a message to several colleagues, from a Dutch student, looking for a temporary placement in a newslibrary, in the USA or Canada. So far, this didn't work out. She is still after a temporary placement, I attached her letter again, so it can be distributed to the News Division members in Nashville.

Dear colleagues, I wish you all were attending "the best conference ever" and I hope to be able to come to Toronto next year.

*Warm regards,
Wil Roestenburg"*

MEMBERSHIP - ALICE PEPPER

Alice Pepper presented the following written report:

The numbers - New
March 2004: 138 new members, 703 total

New News Division Members			
Date	News	Students	Other
April 2003	12	7	7
May	3	3	5
Jun	4	1	6
Jul	5	1	2
Aug	2	4	1
Sep	4	3	3
Oct	2	3	3
Nov	1	5	4
Dec	1	4	4
Jan 2004	0	6	4
Feb	3	9	1
Mar	6	3	6
Sub-total	43	49	46
Total	138		

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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The numbers - Old

2003: 736 members
2002: 701
2001: 772
2000: 812
1999: 845
1998: 889
1997: 891
1996: 821
1995: 852
1994: 810

(SLA HQ membership liaison Diana Gonzalez says our losses are in line with other divisions and chapters.)

Thank you to ...

NewsBank has once again generously supported the Division by publishing our membership directory. Thank you Linda Paschal and Becky Meland for your hard work and dedication to our group.

And a "tip of the hat" to the Detroit Free Press for paying for copying and mailing 138 "new member" packets for the last 12 month period.

NEW BUSINESS

During a brainstorming session in the Fall of 2003, it was decided that Membership should contact people who had left the News Division — only if they were from news organizations — to find out why. These "exit interviews" (just like the circulation department) might reveal whether people are dropping out because of the economy, job changes, lack of interest, etc.

Between January and March of 2004, SLA named 33 people from the News Division who became "inactive." However, from that group, eleven appeared on next month's list as "reactivated." The majority of those who remained "inactive" were students or from non-news organizations. All those who returned were from news organizations.

This lag in the reports made it difficult to implement the "exit interview" plan.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alice Pepper
Membership*

NOMINATIONS - PETER JOHNSON

Peter reported that it was a challenge to get candidates this year, but the committee came up with a good slate. The nominated candidates were: Chair-elect: Denise Jones; Secretary: Regina Avila and Merrie Monteagudo; Director-Publications: Catherine Kitchell and Leigh Poitinger.

The nominations committee included Peter Johnson, Jessica Baumgart, Michael Jesse, Donna Scheeder, Judy Canter and Monnie Nilsson.

ELECTIONS - BILL VAN NIEKERKEN

Linda Henderson reported that Bill Van Niekerken took over the elections process this year. Out of 763 ballots sent out, 240 were returned.

PUBLICITY - DANA GORDON

Linda Henderson reminded everyone about the silent auction in the Division suite on June 8.

Linda asked for a motion to accept the Committee reports. It was so moved, seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

GOVERNING DOCUMENT AND BEST PRACTICES

Linda Henderson reported that SLA is asking all the Divisions to submit a "Governing Document" that generally describes how the Division does business. The Division executive board is reviewing a version that has been put together by the News Division Governance Committee (Barbara Semonche, Kathy Foley, Charlie Campo, Linda Henderson, Michael Jesse, Richard Geiger). Once the Division board has approved the Governing Document it will be submitted to SLA and then to the Division populace.

In addition to the general Governing Document, the Division is also putting together a 40-page "best practices" manual, overseen by Linda Henderson. The best practices manual will describe in detail how we do business, such as tasks, committees, offices, etc. SLA has provided a boilerplate version that the Division needs to modify. Linda is looking for volunteers to work this project. The manual will be put on the Division Web site when it is finished.

POYNTER WORKSHOP

Jennifer Small Evert reported on the seminar held at the Poynter Institute from February 29 to March 3, 2004. The seminar was a joint effort between Poynter and the News Division. Similar seminars had been held in the past, but this was the first one in several years. The seminar, entitled "Mission Critical: Reshaping News Librarianship for the 21st Century," focused on leadership development. Jen thanked NewsBank, Heritage Microfilm and Poynter for helping to sponsor the seminar.

There were many applicants, and 17 people were eventually chosen to attend the seminar. The teaching staff included Paul Pohlman from the Poynter Institute, Kathy Foley, Teresa Leonard, Laura Soto-Barra and Debbie Wolfe. The seminar focused on leadership, strategic planning, news libraries as profit centers and expanding roles.

Jen wants to continue seminars with Poynter in the future. There will be another leadership seminar in 2005, and then a seminar will be offered every other year after that. Poynter has offered to continue hosting the seminars; future topics may vary.

Jen will be forming a committee to organize future seminars. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact her.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW AWARD FOR THE NEWS DIVISION

Linda Henderson talked about the new Division award proposed by Barbara Semonche and mentioned earlier in the meeting by Michael Jesse. Linda clarified that the new award (like the C.B. Hayden Fellowship) would not necessarily be awarded every year. Linda said the board will review the recommendation for the new award.



Barbara Semonche talks to Division members at the Annual Business Meeting about the need to develop a set of "copyright best practices" for NewsLib.

COPYRIGHT BEST PRACTICES FOR NEWSLIB

Barbara Semonche talked about the need to develop a set of "copyright best practices" for NewsLib. The need has arisen because of numerous postings on the list asking for copyright protected material. Sometimes this material is posted to the whole list, which has raised questions about the ethics and legality of this practice.

As the list administrator, Barbara has gathered a group to address this issue and develop a set of best practices. The group includes Barbara, Sherry Adams, Suella Baird, Gini Blodgett, J. Stephen Bolhafner, Michael Jesse, Amelia Kassel, Michael McCulley and Justin Scroggs.

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The committee has drafted a proposal of best practices and will be posting it on NewsLib for comments and suggestions from all subscribers. The committee plans on posting a final draft of the best practices on the News Division Web site by July 2004.

Barbara also mentioned that she will not be a “cop” in enforcing the practices, but she will continually remind people about them.



Linda Henderson, left, passes the gavel to incoming Chair Jennifer Small Evert at the Annual Business Meeting.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The new Division officers were installed: Denise Jones, Chair-elect; Merrie Monteagudo, Secretary (Merrie was not in attendance); Leigh Poitinger, Director-Publications.

Linda Henderson passed the gavel to Jennifer Small Evert, who started her term as Chair of the News Division by asking for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Leigh Poitinger, Secretary*

Intranet course hits the spot

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tion and double-checking when you're using data - there's always the potential for error - something we don't want to be responsible for getting into news stories.

What should we take away from this session? I don't think we should expect to imitate all of these features and databases (at least, not right away) - after all, each organization has different equipment, talents and needs. However, these two intranets have showed us some exciting possibilities, something to aim for or evolve towards. These are two intranets (and intranet developers) that are very relevant to their newsrooms. I believe many of us left the session inspired to do some work on a “spot” of our own.

People

Continued from page 6

Also at *The Post*, **Margot Williams** received a byline for “Guantanamo — A Holding Cell In War on Terror” about the detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. For two years, Margot has been compiling a database of the detainees. See the story at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58702-2004May1.html> and the list of detainees at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/guantanamo_names.html

And in a public records coup...

John Maines at the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* received bylines for his database research on the series, “Marine Attractions: Under the Surface.” What's amazing about his work on this project is that when a FOIA request was submitted asking for an electronic copy of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Mammal Inventory Report, the agency said it could not comply because it used an obsolete computer program that it couldn't reproduce. Agency officials said it lacked the estimated \$70,000 to \$100,000 needed to make the information available on its Web site. Not one to be deterred, John went to their Maryland headquarters and spent all of three hours downloading the data and converting it into an Access database. This has resulted in the agency being able to analyze its own data for the first time and to share it with other interested parties.

We also have some authors and editors among us...

Sandy Hall, Kwapil winner and former chair of the News Division, now best selling author, penned a newly revised biography of Duke Kahanamoku, called “Duke: A Great Hawaiian.” It is a hardbound book about Hawaii's most famous native son, the full-blooded Olympian swimmer, and father of Modern Surfing, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku (1890-1968).

Angelika Kane, head librarian at *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, is the associate editor of “Sports Town: A Look at the Famous Sports Pages of the Post-Gazette.” Information Specialist, Stephen Karlinchak said, “Angelika spent countless hours fact checking as well as tracking down historic photographs and memorable pages from the PG's sports sections; this I know because I helped with some fact checking (and I even received editorial credit!).”

The book reproduces the sports pages that covered many memorable athletic events in western Pennsylvania, such as Lance Armstrong winning a bicycle race there in 1993 and Franco Harris' Immaculate Reception in 1972 (a famous moment in Steelers-and NFL-history). There is even a one-paragraph item on Joe Namath playing football—in high school.

Preservation of valuable collections is a common dilemma of news organizations

Continued from page 1

that it is worth doing.”

Hunter agrees with McCargar’s slow-train-wreck metaphor: “I think that is probably a good description of the problem.”

“One of the things that Victoria made very clear, she basically said the 90s are gone already,” Hunter said. “She has a really good grasp of the issues of digitization, particularly images, as papers get into digitizing microfilm and bound copies. Digital files are the most fragile as far as preservation goes. It was news to me how fragile the digital archives we maintain really are. That has implications way beyond digitizing microfilm.”

A cursory glance at the preservation issues surrounding hard-copy clip and photograph collections in news libraries:

CALIFORNIA

*Victoria McCargar
Los Angeles Times
Tribune Publishing Co.
Sunday circulation: 1,392,672*

The *Times* gave up its bound volumes out of necessity in the early 1980s, said McCargar. “At one time the *Times* was one of the biggest consumers of newsprint on Earth,” she said. The Sunday edition alone was large enough “to kill a small dog.”

“To keep bound volumes was ridiculous,” she said. “You’d need a warehouse the size of southern Nevada.”

The *Times* scans photographs on an as needed and saves the original hard-copy. McCargar notes it would be a huge mistake to do otherwise: “As long as you’ve got a hard copy of something, you’ve got something to go back on.”

The *Times* at this point is not scanning historic photos in “any systematic way,” she said; that could change given enough time

and interest.

The *Times* is scanning microfilm as part of the ongoing Proquest project that aims to make historical newspapers digitally accessible. In the early 1980s historic negatives were donated to the University of California at Los Angeles; McCargar said the decision was necessary in terms of preservation despite any now-apparent downsides. No one at the time foresaw the extent of commercial possibility the Internet would bring, and to get the tax write-off the *Times* had to give up copy-right.

“As you might expect, everyone said, ‘Gee. We could make money off historic photos,’” McCargar said of 20-20 hindsight. But it was either take the tax write-off “or leave it alone and watch the emulsion break off.”

“At the time I think it was the only decision,” she said. “It was in the basement. It was falling apart.”

The *Times* has access to the images at UCLA, and many historic images the library did keep in anticipation of future use.

One of McCargar’s most pressing concerns is the future of mass volume of photos stored on CD. “It is an expensive proposition to get those off CD ROMs,” she noted, citing a recent example to show the shaky nature of digital media: It took one person six weeks to retrieve a Gulf War information graphic that had been stored digitally. Many newspapers have lost such important works.

“Ten to 12 years is really stretching it for digital,” she said.

COLORADO

*Carol Kasel
Rocky Mountain News
The E.W. Scripps Co.
Combined Sunday circulation: 783,274*

Kasel said her hope is that the clips files will stay with the newsroom when the News moves into a new building with *The Denver Post* in 2006, but that management has yet to make a decision. Some historic

images were donated to the Denver Public Library Western History Department, which has a digitization project. (See <http://photoswest.org/>.)

Other hard-copy photos will never be discarded. “We had a whole gob of ZIP disks,” she notes, “and we don’t even have a ZIP disk reader anymore.”

Kasel is concerned about the perception that digitizing current issues would be less expensive than microfilming - that microfilm would no longer be necessary - and feels strongly that microfilm needs to be maintained. “I didn’t get the impression ... that people were abandoning microfilm,” she said.

Regarding the digitization of microfilm, she notes that microfilm doesn’t preserve color; clips do. “I’d be open to other ideas but I’d really want to make sure that it was proven,” she said of new technologies. Kasel notes that news managers are not interested in preservation “unless they can make money off it.”

FLORIDA

*Megan Gallup
News-Journal (Daytona Beach)
News-Journal Corp.
Sunday circulation: 129,385*

Gallup said the *News-Journal* library will push to keep original hard-copies when digitization starts. “We’re not doing any full-blown digitization yet,” Gallup said. “We haven’t had to have that discussion yet.”

The library will not discard clip files, which are stored in a separate building, if microfilm is digitized.

An issue at the annual conference course “The Accidental Archivist” that hit home for Gallup was that people expect that a CD Rom will last forever. “You need to have a backup” in another medium, she noted, “and a lot of respect.”

*Sammy Alzofon
The Palm Beach Post
Cox Newspapers
Sunday circulation: 219,656*

Continued on next page

Preservation of valuable collections is a common dilemma of news organizations

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Alzofon said each Cox paper has autonomy and that the *Palm Beach Post* values archiving and the maintenance of its collections. "They put their money where their mouth is," noted Alzofon, who attended preservation training that, while academically oriented, "pretty much reinforced the overwhelming nature of trying to preserve newspaper collections."

Alzofon said the library has no intention of systematically digitizing photos. "It is just too big a job," she said. "There is no return on investment for us. It is so expensive."

"My big concern is our clip files," she said. "What happens to invaluable clip file collections when converting them to another medium is not possible?"

The library in the pre-electronic past made microfiche copies of clips to get them out of the way. "And that was too bad because it was a horrible copy," she said.

GEORGIA

*Julia Muller
Savannah Morning News
Sunday circulation: 70,000*

Muller said hard-copy images will be discarded over her "cold dead body," even if that means donating photos to the historical society. "I just don't think it is a good idea because electronic formats change everyday," she said.

Her greatest priority is bound copies of the newspaper that date back as far as 1850. "When we move into the new building they are supposed to get into a better climate - they have been sitting up in the attic in the sun and the cold and other things that go bump in the night," she said.

Clip files will also be kept, even if management moves to digitize from microfilm. Clips are accessed two or three times a

week. "We just had a judge die last week that had been around forever," she said, citing an example.

"I have an executive editor who agrees with me, keep everything," she notes. "I just think it is important that we keep all this stuff as best we can."

INDIANA

*Tom Pellegrine Jr.
The Journal Gazette
Knight Ridder
Sunday circulation: 128,245*

The library values microfilm digitization but is years away from finding the money or selecting a vendor to do it. And Pellegrine said no formal plan is in place to digitize the hard-copy photo collection. "We haven't had that conversation," he said. "We certainly don't have a lot of space. If there were a way to avoid having hard copies that would be nice."

The library has a collection of negatives dating back 50 years as well as bound volumes detailing where photographers were at certain times and dates - the log can be matched with the negatives. Photographers handle storage of negatives, which are organized chronologically by year. The negatives are housed in relatively constant conditions, "although not ideal," Pellegrine said.

"This summer our library intern is migrating two years' worth of photos from CDs into our SAVE archive system," he said, "which provides thousands more images in searchable form to our newsroom staff. But we have no plans for scanning or making available digitally the older photos. Maybe that's the project for our next summer intern."

MARYLAND

*Diana Stratton
The Baltimore Sun
Tribune Publishing Co.
Sunday circulation: 470,453*

Stratton, who has basic training in book and paper conservation, emphasizes the importance of preserving books, especially those out of print and on local history, and recommends subscribing to an electronic

list to learn about preservation and conservation issues.

She notes the importance of pest and mold control with all collections. "Either of these can quickly wipe out a collection," she said, "and all your conservation knowledge will be useless."

She also stressed that all libraries, regardless of type, should have a disaster plan that has been reviewed by everyone in the department.

"My theory would be prevention is most important in preserving a collection - filing newspapers and shelving books properly and inspecting the collection from time to time for pests and mold. Some readers eat while reading."

MINNESOTA

*Robert Jansen
Minneapolis Star-Tribune
McClatchy Newspapers Inc.
Sunday circulation: 671,275*

A select number of hard-copy photos - those that are disappearing or disintegrating or of great cultural worth - are digitized, said Jansen, who suggested "Accidental Archivist" for the SLA workshop. "What we have done here is ID areas where photos are very important," he said. The hard-copy original is retained.

Photos are stored in a light and temperature-controlled area of the basement; while not of archival standards, he said, "it is the best we can do without spending a whole lot of money."

Clips are also housed in the basement. "We have talked to vendors about digitizing microfilm, Jansen said. "That will eventually come. Spread out over years, that clearly is the answer - that's an amazing product."

Jansen predicts microfilm will continue to be valued. "I'm a believer in keeping it," he said.

In his 20-year tenure at the *Star-Tribune*, Jansen has pitched three preservation proposals - including preserving clips on microfiche. "Lot of us earned the respect of management," he said of news librarians.

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Preservation of valuable collections is a common dilemma of news organizations

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“But no matter how good a politician, arguer and presenter of plans you are, it is still a hard sell. People do the best they can under the circumstances.”

NEW YORK

*Zana Varner
The Journal News (White Plains)
Gannett Co. Inc.
Sunday circulation: 164,636*

Varner says the library will keep the hard-copy clips until they can no longer be read. Before the start of her tenure a mid-level manager donated historic photos to an organization with which the library has a good working relationship; most of the photos were tossed, and a minimal number were scanned - the library was consolidating at the time and the new space required narrowing 30 shelves worth of photos to five. “Those have been whittled down further to two double shelves,” Varner noted. “Those will remain as they are in perpetuity - supposedly.”

Three or four hard-copy photos are scanned a year based on the needs of the photo department - if they need an image the library finds it and at that point it is scanned into the new electronic system. “So it is not a priority at all,” Varner said.

OHIO

*Jim Hunter
The Columbus Dispatch
Columbus Dispatch
Sunday circulation: 371,551*

“I’d given serious thought to carving up our bound volume collection - three- to four-thousand bound volumes - and just digitizing those,” Hunter said. “I’m convinced that would be a horrible mistake at this time. If people are premature about digitizing projects, they are going to pay a huge price down the road. I would just urge

caution. It could get to be really horrifying.”

Said Hunter: “As a class of librarians we have little competence or experience with any of these matters - these preservation issues get dropped on librarians on the assumption the a librarian can do it. I tend to see this as an opportunity myself but others may not.”

PENNSYLVANIA

*Angelika Kane
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Block Communications Inc.
Sunday circulation: 406,754*

Kane said the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* is not actively migrating old photos into the digital photo archive. The library has clip files into the late 1920s for both the *Post-Gazette* and the *Pittsburgh Press* as well as hard-copy photos for both papers. Clips were moved to a different floor; hard-copy photos for both papers are stored in the library proper - about half a million.

When a photo is scanned for use in the paper, the library suggests that the entire file be scanned; the hard-copy images are then re-filed.

“Eventually as we have the time and the inclination to scan in more photos we’ll start to get rid of some of the hard copy,” Kane said, noting that photos with “the least bit of value” will be given to the public library or the university.

When water leaks damaged photo files, library staff scrambled to try to preserve them and the bulk of photos damaged by water were reconstructed, but until mass digitization is commercially viable little will be done in that arena.

“We need more bodies to do this, too,” Kane noted. “That’s part of the issue.”

One of her main concerns is the clip files, a valuable resource stored in remote storage that is not climate controlled. “Those literally can fall apart in front of our eyes,” she said. “We really need to make some kind of effort to save clip files. I see it as high priority, but right now we don’t have the money to do it.”

The most recent evidence of how valuable those clip files are: With John Kerry in the news, the files are checked “in and out, in and out.”

Kane said the nature of the news business and the perception of the library as support is an obstacle to preservation. “They cared about the photo files,” she said, “but they really cared when a flood came through the ceiling. It takes a natural disaster to get the attention of management.”

TEXAS

*Stacy Garcia
Fort-Worth Star-Telegram
Sunday circulation: 332,861*

Garcia said the *Star-Telegram* donated some photos and its early clips - as far back as the 1940s - to the University of Texas at Arlington, with which the library has an excellent working relationship. The library can get what it needs couriered from the university. “It is really wonderful,” Garcia said of the library’s relationship with the university. “We’re really lucky to have them, because we know that they will care for our old clips and photos and they are available to the public.”

The library plans to keep the balance of hard-copy photos. Photos are digitized on an as-needed basis, but the library has future plans to digitize significant historical photos of Fort Worth and northern Texas.

“We don’t have any plans yet to digitize microfilm,” Garcia said. “Of course we would love to, but it is not in the cards right now. Certainly UTA is interested in doing that.”

Garcia is concerned with the affect of environment on the clip files. “I think we’re all concerned about our clip files. You can tell that they are deteriorating. Even the ones from the 60s are getting damaged from light and use.”

The library has a project to put personality clip files on microfiche. “We’re not very far into that,” she noted. “It has been one of those projects that falls to the bot-

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tom of the to-do list.”

CANADA

Kate Bird

*The Vancouver Sun & The Province
Pacific Newspaper Group Inc.*

Bird said any thought of getting rid of hard-copy photos after they were scanned was quickly discarded because of the low resolution. “Resolution for paper is one thing,” she noted.

Although the resale of photos is an interest, the library doesn’t have the time or staff to systematically scan photos. The storage of hard-copy images are a concern. “We have some very valuable photos and negatives that are not kept archivally at all,” Bird said.

Some negatives have been given to local archives, but the problem there is that the company wants to retain copyright.

All clipping files are on microfilm and on microfiche by subject.

“We’ve got a huge thesaurus of subject terms,” Bird said, adding that clips are accessible by multiple access points.

Bird said there is a concern that the electronic text archive is checked less and less for accuracy against the print copy of the newspaper; the process of creating the electronic text archive has moved to corporate headquarters.

LATVIA

*Inga Vilcane
Diena*

*Average circulation: 73,000
Average readership: 300,000*

Vilcane said it is important to emphasize that Latvia is a developing country; a declaration of renewal of Latvia’s independence was made in 1990, and Latvia is a new member of the European Union. The first issue of *Diena* was published November 23,

1990, and it is the largest morning newspaper in Latvia, published six times a week. “You can see that we are really young country and newspaper,” Vilcane said. “For that reason, we have not such big and huge old clip stocks like the *Dagens Nyheter* newspaper library in Stockholm, which I visited in September 2000.”

Clip files are maintained in two main categories, people and subjects. The library is augmenting its clip files with important articles from other important newspapers in Latvia, both in Latvian and Russian languages.

The library has an extensive hard-copy photo archive that includes more than 14,000 negatives from the first issues of the newspaper as well as digital archives.

“We are going to maintain original copies of our newspaper *Diena*, of course,” Vilcane said. “But thinking about other newspapers, I tend to this point of view: that it is useless and unnecessary to hold the original copies of these other newspapers because we have also electronic newspapers archives.

The newspaper is moving into a new building at the end of 2004. The new building of the National Library of Latvia is expected to be completed next door to the new *Diena* building within four years.

Vilcane said the editor-in-chief trusts the three librarians to make the correct decisions with regard to cultural assets. “She accepted that we are making donation to Latvia National Library with rare materials from our library - books, magazines, newspapers. Other Latvian librarians, they welcome such donations. Latvia - now we are the new EU’s poorest state. But we are really trying to change this situation.”

Additional reading and resources:

❖ Presentations and notes from the News Division Continuing Education Course “The Accidental Archivist” offered at the 2004 SLA Annual Conference are now available on the News Division site.

❖ Park Library Director Barbara Semonche recommends a chapter on preservation and disaster control written by Richard Geiger for the 1993 book “News Media Libraries: A Management Handbook” available at <http://parklibrary.jomc.unc.edu/disaster.html>; Semonche notes that the site has been updated to include a look at the impact of the Red River flooding on the *Grand Forks Herald*.

❖ Sanders, T. (1997). Into the Future: On the Preservation of Knowledge in the Electronic Age [videorecording]. Commission on Preservation & Access.

❖ “Preservation of Library and Archival Materials,” a 443-page manual developed by the Northeast Document Conservation Center for institutional clients, is available online at <http://www.nedcc.org/plam3/newman.htm>

❖ Conservation Online - <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/news/> - offers a listing of upcoming classes, workshops and internships.

❖ “Preservation 101: An Internet Course on Paper Preservation”: <http://www.nedcc.org/p101cs/p101wel.htm>

❖ Dorge, V., & Jones, S. L. (1999). Building an emergency plan: A guide for museums and other cultural institutions. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute.

❖ Proquest Historic Newspapers digitization project: <http://www.il.proquest.com/products/pd-product-HistNews.shtml>

Session offers helpful advice when dealing with candidates

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ation because they’re considered political committees. But, they do report to the IRS - though it’s likely easier to search through the data at www.publicintegrity.org/527.

You can read more about Derek’s presentation here: www.thescoop.org/projects.