

CONFERENCE ADVANCE

A Wealth of History, Culture and Entertainment is Waiting in Toronto

By MIKE FILEY, COLUMNIST, *TORONTO SUN*

Brief History of Toronto

Toronto has a rich and storied history. To begin, Toronto was named for the Huron Indian word for “meeting place.” And for good reason - the area was well used in this manner for centuries by people of the First Nations, and later by French traders, thanks to its naturally protected harbour.

In 1788, the British purchased the land from the Mississauga Indians, and a settlement slowly grew around the waterfront area. In 1793, Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe established a military garrison and named the town York in honour of the Duke of York of the time. It was renamed Toronto when the city was incorporated in 1834.

During the War of 1812, the town was twice occupied by the Americans (both times in 1813). By 1834, its citizens, mostly British and Scottish immigrants, numbered close to 10,000. Others, such as Jews from the United States, Russia and Germany, would soon arrive, as well as some 40,000 Irish fleeing famine in their homeland. Blacks escaping slavery in the U.S. soon followed, at a time when the seeds of Toronto’s current multicultural diversity were already being sown.

As the population increased, so did the city’s infrastructure. The University of Toronto opened its doors in 1843. Growth continued in spite of the Great Fires of 1849 and 1904. The new city included an extensive network of roads, railways, canals, shipping and telegraph lines.



Toronto’s skyline at night, as seen across the harbour from the Toronto Islands. Photo Credit: Tourism Toronto

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KATHRYN PEASE

Spring is in the air. A time when many of us haven't quite put away our winter wardrobes while others have already been basking in the breeze that an open window brings. A time when the SLA annual conference is just around the corner, and many of us enjoy re-energizing our work lives while getting reacquainted with colleagues from near and far.

Even if you can't make it to Toronto this year, I hope you enjoy Mike Filey's brief history lesson and highlights of the city. Mike is a Toronto historian and author whose weekly column, "The Way We Were," has been a popular mainstay of the *Toronto Sun* since 1975.

For those of you able to attend, this year's event promises to keep you busy with relevant sessions and continuing education classes courtesy of Chair-Elect **Denise Jones** and Education Director **Jim Hunter**. From creating Weblogs and intranets to public records accuracy and privacy concerns, copyright issues, and math skills, there is something for everyone at this year's conference.

Math in the newsroom was also a hot topic at this year's CAR conference. Be sure to read what **Julia Franco** and **Margot Williams** had to say about this year's Tinseltown gathering, and make note of **Debbie Wolfe's** new Math for Journalists interactive Web site.

Presently, my math abilities are being tested by learning to convert American dollars into Chinese yuan, as any day now I'll be embarking on an Asian adventure. Until next time, I bid you farewell. Zàijiàn!

Solve the Mystery



How is it possible to get high quality microfilming and digitization services for your Newspaper at little or no cost?

Come to the News Division Hospitality Suite at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Sunday, June 5th, during the 2005 SLA Annual Conference in Toronto. Enjoy light fare and the company of your colleagues, from 7PM to 11PM. The evening will be sponsored by Heritage Microfilm/NewspaperARCHIVE.com. Come early! Heritage staff will be available as early as 6PM to answer your preservation and digitization questions in a non-sales atmosphere.

Heritage attendees will be:

John Kuiken – Sales Director jkuiken@heritagemicrofilm.com
 Anita Chiodo, M.S.L.S. – Manager, Library Services achiodo@newspaperarchive.com
 Steve Paulsen – IS Director spaulsen@newspaperarchive.com

Free Digitization Drawing! A drawing will be held in the suite at 10:00pm. The winning Newspaper will receive **Free Digitization of their entire microfilm archive**, including free hosting of the digital archive for the Newspaper's website.

To enter... please send an E-mail with your contact information and "Free Digitization Drawing" in the Subject box to one of the individuals above, prior to June 5th. Individuals dropping by the Hospitality Suite can submit a second entry! Please feel free to contact John Kuiken by E-mail or at 888-870-0484 ext. 19 for more details.




NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



BY JENNIFER SMALL
EVERT

Wow! I can't believe that the year is over, and I am writing my last column as chair of this great division.

Before signing off, I want to say a little something about two of the issues that have been closest to my heart over the last year: professional development and membership.

I hope to stay involved in the division's effort to reach out to other organizations, such as the Poynter Institute, IRE and NICAR. By partnering with other organizations in our field, we increase the number and variety of professional development opportunities that we can offer. We had such a successful Poynter seminar in 2004. The workshop participants still correspond on a listserv that developed after the sessions, and they keep in touch on the projects they started at Poynter.

I was disappointed that there was not enough interest in the Poynter seminar this year to merit holding the course. I would love to hear from the membership on the types of programs that *you* would like to see. What types of programs would your management support? Do we need to look at more regional programs so that travel expenses are not so high? Do we need to focus on certain topics to draw a larger pool of participants? The Poynter Institute is willing to continue its partnership with us, and I hope to see another class offered in 2006. In the meantime, please take a moment to drop me a line and give me some input on how the News Division can continue to offer career assistance through professional development.

I don't think that you can completely separate professional development from membership. After all, if a professional organization doesn't offer some tangible benefits to members, the organization will have a hard time keeping old members and getting new ones. After my last column, some volunteers stepped forward to take part in an expanded membership committee. Our

great membership chair, **Alice Pepper**, has these names and I'm sure is more than happy to accept other volunteers. I think we need to dedicate ourselves in the coming year to really examining why our membership numbers continue to decline. Now is the time to put some effort into turning that around!

Now on to some new issues. At the mid-winter SLA Leadership Summit, we were informed that we needed to change our election cycle so that our election calendar aligned with SLA's fiscal year (January-December). In the future, our elections will be held in the fall. As a result, new cabinet members will take their positions on the board in January, rather than in June at the annual conference. The board is still working out the logistics for how we are going to manage this change in the calendar, so stay tuned to NewsLib for further details. We may be holding a special election in the fall to start shifting our schedules as well as the workloads for division board members.

Speaking of the board, I'd like to congratulate our new board members: **Jim Hunter**, Chair-Elect; **Dana Gordon**, Director of Education & Professional Development; and **Peter Johnson**, Treasurer. Thanks to all the candidates for your willingness to take part in the News Division elections. And a special thanks to our illustrious vote teller, **Bill Van Niekerken**, who makes this whole election possible.

I'd like to close by thanking everyone who has provided assistance to me over the last two years. I'm honored to have served as the division chair. The News Division has offered so much to me over the years, and I hope that I've been able to give a little bit back. I hope to see everyone in Toronto. **Denise Jones** has put together a fabulous program, and **Jim Hunter** has once again created some great CE classes. This promises to be a wonderful conference!



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PEOPLE



By JENNIFER O'NEILL

On the Move



Cronin

John Cronin, chief librarian at the *Boston Herald* for the past 29 years retired on April 4, 2005. John has been an extremely active member of the News Division serving on numerous committees and in various chairs. He was awarded the Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award in 2004 in recognition of his achievements in and contributions to the field of news librarianship.

Alan Thibeault, formerly assistant chief librarian at the *Boston Herald*, has been named to replace "Cronin of Boston."

Chris Donnelly, formerly the *Boston Herald's* photo librarian, has been selected as the new assistant chief librarian.

After nearly 21 years with the *St. Petersburg Times*, including 15 years as a news researcher, **Kitty Bennett** is retiring. Kitty and her husband Bob, who live on a 36-foot sailboat, will be setting sail for Nova Scotia sometime before the start of hurricane season.

Sandy Freeman, a news researcher at *The Seattle Times*, has retired after 45 years of service.

Laura Soto-Barra has left her position as assistant managing editor for the library at *The Post-Standard* in Syracuse to become the new senior librarian at National Public Radio in Washington, DC.

Lucy Shackelford of *The Washington Post* was promoted to research editor while **Derek Willis**, formerly of the The Center for Public Integrity, is *The Post's* new research database editor.

Andrea Mettert has rejoined *The Journal Gazette* of Fort Wayne, Indiana, this time as its photo librarian. Andrea had been an obituary clerk and general-assignment reporter at the newspaper before leaving to get an MLS at Indiana University. Most recently, she was head cataloger for the

metadata team at the Indiana Humanities Council in Indianapolis.

Connie Carter of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* has been promoted to the position of assistant librarian. Connie has been with the department 16 years. Her new duties include supervision of the text, photo, graphic and page archives.

Jaimi Dowdell has accepted the position of assistant director of news research/CAR specialist with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Jaimi was previously with Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) as acting resource center director, data analyst and instructor.

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EXPERIENCE A TIMELESS INFORMATION JOURNEY

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REVOLUTION AND EVOLUTION CONTINUE

Williamsburg, Virginia • September 28 - October 1, 2005

The Woodlands Hotel & Suites • Williamsburg, VA

Keynote Speaker David Seaman to Discuss Digital Libraries

David Seaman, founding director of the Electronic Text Center at the University of Virginia Library, will discuss issues of digitization and their implications for libraries. Since 2002, he has been the director of the Digital Library Federation, a consortium of academic libraries. He has published widely on humanities computing and digital libraries.

Make plans now to Attend the Third South Atlantic Regional Conference, "Explore A Timeless Information Journey," in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Member registration is \$215 with Early Registration available through 8/15/05 for \$165. Registration includes opening reception, two deluxe continental breakfasts, two lunches, breaks, and a pass to Colonial Williamsburg.

The conference hotel, the Woodlands Hotel & Suites at Colonial Williamsburg is offering an SLA rate of \$99/night.

See the conference website <http://www.sla.org/sarc3> for additional registration discounts, preliminary program, hotel information and registration form.

Toronto Rich in Media Outlets

BY AMY DISCH

Editor's note: Toronto is a city rich in media outlets. The four libraries profiled here represent three major newspapers and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. If you are interested in learning more about these libraries, the Toronto Star library will be open for free tours on Saturday, June 4 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The CBC library is offering a luncheon and tour on Thursday, June 9 from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please see the conference advance in this issue for more information.



BY AMY DISCH

The Globe and Mail Library

The *Globe and Mail* library's collections are comprised of between 7,000 to 8,000 books, 300 journal titles, clip files dating back to 1938 and around 500,000 print photos beginning in the 1920s. Stories began being filed electronically in 1977 and are currently available through the Factiva database. The newspaper is also searchable in PDF format beginning with the 1844 editions. A digital image archive was instituted in 1993 and at present contains 600,000 photos. The staff estimates that electronic resources, including the Internet, phone CDs, databases such as LexisNexis, Factiva, Dialog, Infomart, Quicklaw and NewsCan are utilized for 75% of research requests. Both the Getty and Corbis digital photo archives also see frequent use.

The library's staff includes head librarian Amanda Valpy, as well as two researchers, a photo librarian, a technical services librarian (who also spends part of the day performing research) and a part-time student researcher. In addition, there



The *Globe and Mail* staff (L-R): Johanna Boffa, Amanda Valpy, Francine Bellefeuille, Paula Wilson, Celia Donnelly and Rick Cash

are five staff members who work full time enhancing stories for inclusion into the database. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday. The enhancing staff typically begins their evening shift at 8 p.m.

The staff regularly gives presentations on the use of Factiva and also offers sessions on other library services, "such as property, corporate, court and lien searches." In addition to having "an MLS or equivalent experience," working in the library requires someone with a "broad background, eclectic interests and a strong grasp of current events." Most importantly, they must have "a strong grounding in online searching and a free-wheeling mind."

The staff notes that they "foresee — and welcome — constant changes in technology. As reporters get more and more access to online

resources, we see our job as information coordinators, trainers, finders of those impossible to find nuggets and, above all, as newsroom team members." They also hope to never encounter a typical day on the job. "A typical day! There isn't one and that's what we love about it."

Toronto Star Library

The *Toronto Star* library and its staff provide a variety of services to reporters, editors and the newsroom at large. This includes training courses, the writing and compiling of about 200 graphics and sidebars per year, working on computer-assisted reporting projects, maintenance of the newsroom research intranet and the answering of an average 6000 reference questions each year. Staff members are also present at the daily news meetings, where they offer story ideas

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By ANGELICA CORTEZ

What a lively discussion that occurred on NewsLib several weeks ago when the question of how one becomes a news librarian was asked. Indeed, there are many people who are interested in the profession, and unfortunately the jobs are rather difficult to obtain.

As you may remember, I started this column when I, too, was a frustrated candidate seeking employment in a news library, and I was asking the same question: Just how does one land a position in a news library? I felt I had done everything I could to prepare myself to enter the profession, and yet the rejection letters kept piling up.

I wish there was some magic solution I could give to those of you out there who are experiencing the same frustration that I felt while seeking a full-time position in a news library. An answer to make you thump your forehead with your palm and say, "Doh! Why didn't I think of that?" would be nice, wouldn't it? I don't have such a solution, but I can offer a few tips to help those of you trying to enter the field:

1. **Great job!** If you are reading this column, you are already off to the right start. Why? Because it means you are at least interested enough to become familiar with the News Division. Now, before you start patting yourself on the back, move on to tip number two.

2. **Get involved.** It's not really enough to simply scan over this newsletter, read NewsLib and/or browse the News Division's Web site occasionally. Although that's a great way to learn what news librarians do and to become familiar with some of the issues in the profession, take it a step further and get involved. There are many opportunities: attend local SLA meetings, volunteer to help with the News Division Web site, apply for scholarships to attend the annual SLA conference—do whatever you can. These are excellent ways to network and to spice up your résumé as well.

3. **Walk the walk; don't just talk the talk.** If you want to be a news librarian, don't just say you do; show that you do. It takes a little more than reading the newspaper every morning to show your interest. Get an internship, and if you can't, ask a library if you can volunteer. For those of you still in school, most MLS programs require some sort of work experience. Take advantage of this. The message I'm trying to get across is this: Do whatever you can to get in there.

4. **Tailor what experience you do have.** Maybe you've been an administrative assistant, a teacher or a paralegal for the past twelve years. That's okay—in fact, it's great! Take whatever experience you do have and relate it to the job you want. Librarianship encompasses a variety of skills, and virtually any job you have had can somehow correlate to the responsibilities of being a librarian. Be creative and show what you have to offer.

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Created by Librarians For Librarians
for news libraries

**EOS.Web Award Winning
Web-based Library Automation
Work Anywhere, Anytime**

*"The EOS system as a whole
has revolutionized work
methods within the library"*

- Sarminah Tamsir
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Toronto Rich in Media Outlets

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and research suggestions and are involved in the early development of feature news stories.

Library manager Joan Sweeney estimates that the library's collections are split at 70% electronic and 30% print. Within the latter category are 7,000 books, 40 print journal titles and 15 newspaper titles, as well as "a small ready reference collection that is still invaluable." The clip files go back to the 1890s, and microfilm of the paper is available from its beginnings. There is also a "Pages of the Past" product which offers the paper in PDF format. The photo collection is both print and electronic; however, prints are no longer retained and valuable historical images are digitized for future use.

The library has nine full-time and two part-time staff members. Library supervisor Andrea Hall says, "We all do a variety of tasks." The library is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Library manager Sweeney's background includes an internship at *The Globe and Mail* library while she was in library school and work as a radio, television and film specialist for the Toronto Reference Library. She says that if looking for a new staff member, "I would look for someone interested in new trends, well versed in current affairs and with an investigative mind." A comfort level with and adaptability to new technology, a team player and a sense of humor are also invaluable.

Sweeney states that "more and more we are becoming the gate keeper to the information world" and that includes constant questioning. "What's out there? Is it any good? How do we adapt it to our newspaper's needs?" She adds that she envisions a future where "the library manager will become more and more like an editor ... following a story closely from conception to completion," as well as "greater partner-



Toronto Star staff (L-R): Rick Sznajder, Tony Yeung, Andrea Hall, Deborah Wingate, Joanne Madden, Virginia Doig, Kathleen Power, Astrid Lange, Joan Sweeney Marsh, Andy Murdoch and Peggy Mackenzie



Toronto Sun staff (L-R): Roxana Rezavand, Adam Bishop, Clarissa Feliprada, Julie Hornby, Joyce Wagler and Julie Kirsh

ships between researchers and reporters."

Toronto Sun News Research Centre

The *Toronto Sun* news research centre has an impressive number of holdings comprising its collections, including 550 general reference books, 65 journals, 250,000 clip files (including those of *The Toronto Telegram*) which date to the turn of the century, 15,000 photos and 200,000 negative

envelopes. As has been seen with other news libraries, the majority of questions are answered using electronic sources.

The news research centre, headed by director Julie Kirsh, has 8 full-time staff members and 2 part-time enhancers. The enhancers work exclusively on the archiving of *Sun Media's* French language newspapers, but the rest of the staff does a bit of everything.

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2005 News Division Programming

As if the multicultural excitement and mild temperatures weren't enough reason to attend this year's SLA conference in Toronto, just take a look at the News Division's programming.

In addition to informative and practical daily sessions and two very interesting CE courses, you won't want to miss touring the *Toronto Star* Library on Saturday or the Thursday luncheon at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Tuesday's awards banquet, in a castle no less, promises to be as memorable as ever.

If you have any questions on the program, please contact **Denise Jones** at djones@newsobserver.com. For general conference and lodging information, see <http://www.sla.org>.

Come join us!

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

2:00-5:00 - Tour of the *Toronto Star* Library

This tour is free. Please email Peggy Mackenzie for directions at pmackenzie@thestar.ca.

6:00-12:00 - Networking in Suite

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

8:00-12:00 - Blogging for News: Creating and Managing Weblogs and Newsfeeds CE Course

In this weblog workshop for beginners, the class will be divided into small groups, each using a laptop to create, post to and manage a weblog. Small class size is very desirable to accomplish the objective and provide each attendee with hands-on blogging experience. There will also be an introduction to RSS feeds. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops with wireless capabilities or ethernet cards, if possible.

Speakers: Jessica Baumgart, Harvard University; Liz Donovan, The Miami Herald

1:00-4:00 - Design for News: A Live Tour of Five Newsroom Intranets CE Course

Design for News will explore five newsroom intranets using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to gain real time access to these Web sites. Library managers of the presentation Web

sites will offer a description and explanation of the hardware and software that supports the intranet and discuss design and usability issues as well as the degree of difficulty involved in creating high-powered intranets. Each intranet webmaster will discuss the technology used, development cycle and plans for future development.

Speakers: Dana Gordan and Madeline Cohen, Newsweek; Mike Meiners, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Denise Jones, The News & Observer; Liz Donovan, The Miami Herald; Jennifer Ryan, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:00 - Board Meeting in Suite

6:00 - Networking in Suite

MONDAY, JUNE 6

7:30-9:00 - Vendor roundtable - public records vendors

Moderator: Leigh Poitinger

A chance to meet and talk with representatives from ChoicePoint, LexisNexis and ReferenceUSA. This will be a Q & A session, so bring your public records questions such as: What's on the horizon for privacy concerns? How does "newsgathering" fit in to allowable use definitions and disclaimers? How is the data compiled? How do vendors ensure accuracy or do they? What is "credit header" data?

11:30-1:00 - Mary Ellen Bates - The Next Information Revolution, and Our Role as Revolutionaries

Looking ahead at the impact of technology and the Web on our profession and how we can thrive on this change and turn challenging situations into new opportunities for professional growth.

3:30-5:00 - News Division business meeting

7:00 - Silent Auction and Networking in Suite
Sponsor: ProQuest

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

7:30-9:00 - Top Ten Tips: Ten ideas to make your library more effective

Moderator: Judy Grimsley

Great ideas that your colleagues have used to improve their libraries. Ten of the best are shared with you.

11:30-1:00 - Managing Copyright and Leveraging Revenue in Your News Organization
Moderator: Kathy Foley

A panel of seasoned copyright experts (not lawyers) will discuss copyright issues, including encouraging your newsroom to follow good copyright practices, managing reprint permissions and developing revenue by repurposing editorial content. If your news organization assumes you are an expert on copyright issues, come join the conversation.

Speakers: Sharon Clairmont, Orange County Register; Ginny Everett, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution; Peter Simmons, The New York Times

1:30-3:00 - Gary Price, Searcher extraordinaire
Gary's latest discoveries in Web searching.

3:30 - Board meeting in Suite

6:00 - Awards banquet at Casa Loma

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

7:30-9:00 - Ratios, Percentages and Statistics! Oh my!

Moderator: Megan Gallup

Do you have trouble balancing your check-book? Does looking at Census data give you a headache? You're not alone. As a librarian or information provider you may have assumed that you were done with math when you were done with school. But in a news organization, math skills are more important than ever. Researchers need to know how to calculate ratios and percentages and work with statistics. Come learn (or re-learn) these skills and more, then go back and teach your reporters!

Speakers: Stephen Doig, Arizona State University Cronkite School of Journalism; John Martin, St. Petersburg Times

11:30-1:00 - Enter the Matrix: Social Network Analysis

Moderator: Kathryn Pease

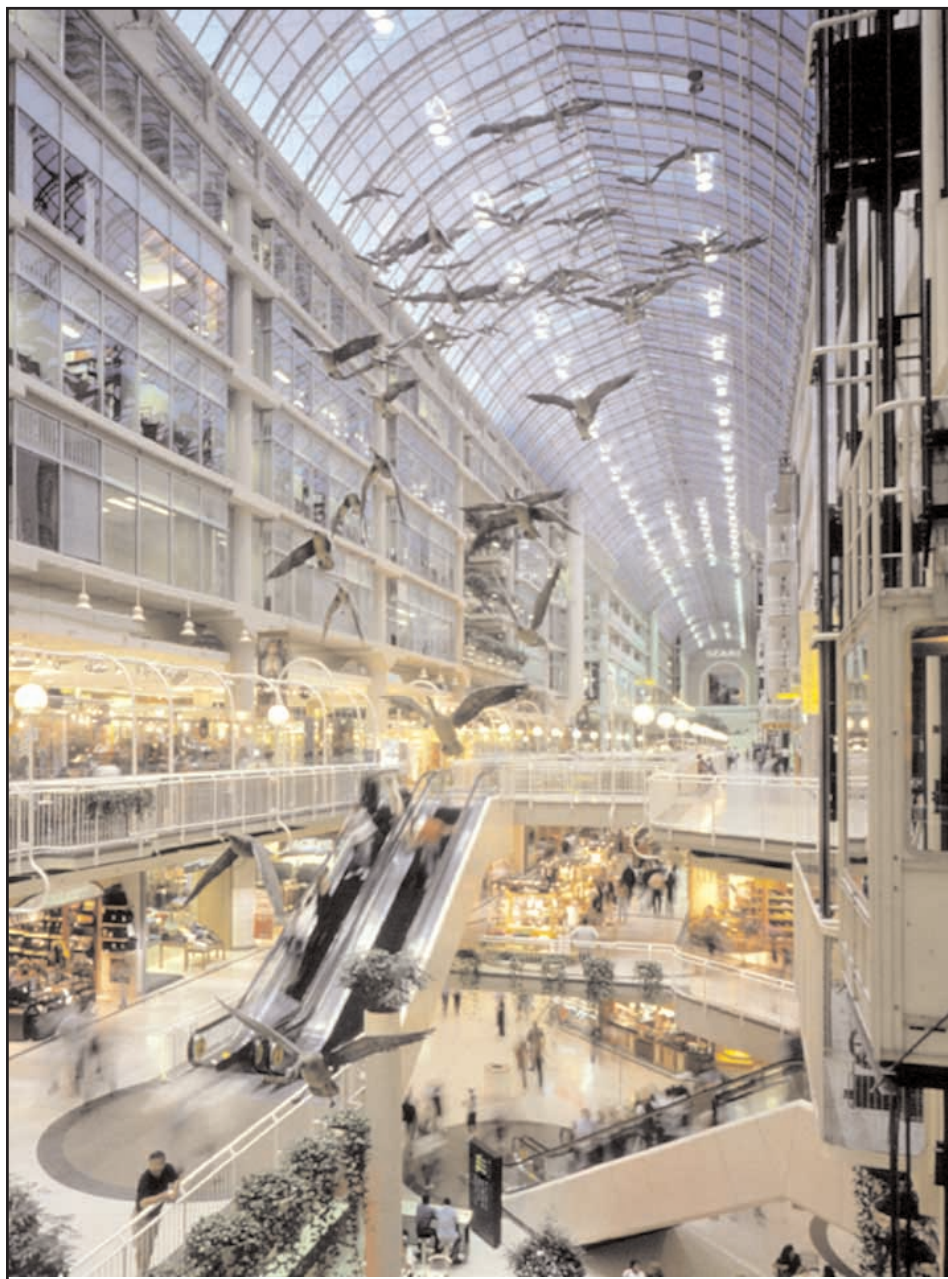
Learn how matrices and graphs can be used to unlock seemingly invisible relationships between people, companies and even terrorist organizations. Learn the concepts and techniques behind SNA. What type of questions should be asked? What type of software should you use? Join panelists as they explain how to create your own "matrix revolution."

Speakers: Jaimi Dowdell, St. Louis Post-

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A Wealth of History, Culture and Entertainment is Waiting in Toronto

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The inside of the Toronto Eaton Centre, a multi-level shopping complex that is one of Toronto's most visited attractions. Photo Credit: Tourism Toronto

In 1867, Canada was born and Toronto became the capital of the newly created province of Ontario. Between 1908 and 1915, arts and culture flourished as the new nation established its identity, and the

Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum were all established.

Waves of immigration to Canada continued and the diversity of immigrants

grew, particularly in the periods following World Wars I and II. Toronto continued its transformation into a manufacturing and industrial powerhouse, thanks to its close proximity to natural resources, agricultural land, inexpensive energy and the nearby markets of the American heartland.

With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1950s, Toronto became a viable port and a surge of investment flowed into the city. In 1954, Canada's first subway system was created by the Toronto Transit Commission.

Since the 1960s, immigration from Europe has slowed, to be replaced by an influx of people from Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. With the opening and subsequent expansion of Lester B. Pearson International Airport (one of three in the city), Toronto has become Canada's major gateway and entry point.

In 1998, the downtown core and five surrounding suburban cities were merged into a single "Greater Toronto Area." The city is governed by a mayor and 44 full-time councilors, and Toronto's economic and cultural influence continues to extend throughout the "Golden Horseshoe" of communities wrapping around the western end of Lake Ontario.

City Highlights

The CN Tower

Defining the Toronto skyline, the CN Tower is Canada's most recognizable and celebrated icon. At a height of 553.33m (1,815 ft., 5 inches), it is Canada's National Tower, the World's Tallest Building, an important telecommunications hub, and the centre of tourism in Toronto. Each year, approximately two million people visit the CN Tower to take in the breath-taking views and enjoy all the attractions it has to offer.

The CN Tower was built in 1976 by Canadian National (CN) who wanted to

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A Wealth of History, Culture and Entertainment is Waiting in Toronto

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Trinity Street in the heart of the historic Distillery District. Credit: Lucas Digital Art

demonstrate the strength of Canadian industry by building a tower taller than any other in the world. In 1995, the CN Tower became a public company and ownership of the Tower was transferred to Canada Lands (CLC) Company, a federal Crown corporation responsible for real estate development. The CN Tower, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, is situated on Front Street, which is located in the heart of the Entertainment District. The CN Tower is easily accessible from Union Station as well as many major streets and highways.

The Distillery District

Founded in 1832, the Gooderham and Worts Distillery eventually became the largest distillery in the British Empire. Set on 13 acres in downtown Toronto, its 44 buildings constitute the largest and best-preserved collection of Victorian industrial architecture in North America. The Distillery is now a pedestrian-only village

entirely dedicated to arts, culture and entertainment. Internationally acclaimed galleries, artists' studios and workshops, restaurants, bars and cafes, as well as live music, all form part of this new landmark cultural centre.

In addition to the history, arts and culture, The Distillery has been the location for over 800 film and television productions in the past decade, including "Chicago," "X-Men," "Against the Ropes" and "The Hurricane," making The Distillery District the most popular film location in Canada. Numerous festivals and special events attract tens of thousand of people each month. The Distillery District is quickly becoming one of Canada's top destinations.

The Entertainment District

You'll find some of the city's best the-

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2005 News Division Programming

Continued from page 8

Dispatch; Brant Houston, Investigative Reporters and Editors

1:30-3:00 - The Urge to Merge

Moderator: **Shira Kavon**

Consolidation of graduate library schools and schools of communication, information technology and other disciplines has become a fact of academic life in the 21st Century. Often as a result of these mergers, graduate library programs and journalism schools coexist under the same academic umbrella, a development that should benefit News Division member libraries. Have these mergers helped to build a better-skilled, more news-library-ready MLS holder? If not, have library programs merely become the "silent partner" of the new model graduate programs?

Speakers: **Michael Koeing**, Palmer School of Information Science of Long Island University; **David Spencer**, University of Western Ontario

3:30-5:00 - Research Management Trends: Getting ahead of the questions

Moderator: **Donna Scheeder**

What happens when you combine research management software, including virtual reference applications, and knowledge management techniques in order to respond to the conflicting demands of newsroom research projects? What best practices are colleagues employing to facilitate knowledge sharing among de-centralized research staff? Is the investment worth it? The speakers for this session will attempt share techniques, evaluations of software and provide time for best practice sharing among the attendees.

Speakers: **Jody Habayeb**, The Tampa Tribune; **Michael Jesse**, The Indianapolis Star

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

11:30-2:00 - Lunch on the 10th floor of the CBC Building.

The speaker will be **Evan Solomon**, co-host of CBC News Sunday and host of Hot Type, a book show in which he interviews fiction and non-fiction writers. Lunch will be followed by tours of CBC libraries. This tour will be handled by the News Division and pre-registration will be required. Lunch and tour will be limited to 50 people and cost will be \$20.

Please email Michele Melady at Michele_Melady@cbc.ca for registration information.

A Wealth of History, Culture and Entertainment is Waiting in Toronto

Continued from page 12

atres, bars and dance clubs in this area of town. The undisputed entertainment capital of Canada, the Entertainment District is a lively concentration of theatres, restaurants, nightspots, retail shops and visitor attractions - located in the vibrant city core.

Since the mid-19th century, the area now known as the Entertainment District has been animated with music halls, theatres and entertainment palaces. However, by the 1950s, many of these venues had closed, deteriorated or been transformed into warehouses or office space.

With the 1977 opening of the Eaton Centre shopping galleria and the renovation of the Royal Alexandra Theatre, life was breathed back into the area. The final catalyst for rejuvenation was the 1989 opening of the SkyDome stadium, which brought crowds of up to 55,000 people into the area for baseball games and other events. Restaurants and entertainment spots began springing up overnight - and the pace hasn't stopped!

Each of the streets in the Entertainment District has its own flavor and its own specialty. For example, Queen Street West is a funky retail street; King Street West is lined with theatres, a concert hall and dozens of restaurants. Front Street West features the SkyDome, the CN Tower and large, lively eateries, while Richmond and Adelaide Streets are home to massive, three-storey nightclubs and smaller, high-end restaurants. And that's just the start.

Places & Events of Interest

❖ **Theatres** - The area is home to lavish Broadway musicals, traveling road shows, homegrown productions and classical concerts. Theatres include the Pantages, the Royal Alexandra, the Princess of Wales, the Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre



The Olde Town trolley takes visitors on a tour of the city. Photo Credit: Tourism Toronto

Centre, Roy Thomson Hall and Massey Hall.

❖ **SkyDome** - The first stadium in the world with a fully-retractable roof, the SkyDome is home to the Toronto Blue Jays, the Toronto Argonauts football club and an exciting roster of big-name concerts, sporting events and trade shows.

❖ **CBC Broadcasting Centre** - The home of Canada's national TV and radio networks. Regular tours are offered in this state-of-the-art broadcasting facility, as are concerts at the Glenn Gould Studio.

❖ **Dining** - One of the most challenging aspects of dining in the Entertainment District is deciding where to go. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of choices. And the restaurant scene evolves so rapidly that hot new opportunities arise overnight.

Toronto Islands

The Toronto Islands boast a lovely boardwalk, tennis courts, picnic areas, an amusement park, beaches, yacht club, restaurants and much more. The Toronto Islands exist just mere minutes from busy downtown Toronto. Centre Island offers bike rentals for those who wish to cover

plenty of ground in only a few hours.

The only access to the Islands is via a 15-minute ferryboat ride. The Toronto Ferry Docks are located at the foot of Bay Street and Queens Quay, just west of the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

The ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum is the largest museum in Canada with an internationally renowned collection numbering more than five million objects. Located on one of the most fashionable corners in Toronto and next to the University of Toronto, the ROM is a popular destination. From galleries of art, archaeology and science, showcasing the world's culture and natural history, to exciting public programs and events, the ROM offers a truly engaging museum experience. During the conference, ROM is featuring, "Feathered Dinosaurs and the Origin of Flight," a special ticketed event.

Editor's note: For more information on what Toronto has to offer and getting around town, please see the SLA Toronto Chapter's Web site at <http://www.sla.org/toronto/2005/>

Toronto Rich in Media Outlets

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A typical day includes the archiving of all of *Sun Media* newspapers' stories in preparation for their inclusion in the SAVE database, the *Sun Media* Web site, which is known as CANOE (Canadian Online Explorer) and various online databases. In addition, the photo librarians archive approximately 250 images—in print, digital and negative formats—a day.

The library staff assists editors, reporters and other employees with reference and research questions and serves the public in a variety of areas including "photo resales, commercial usage, copyright clearance and usage permissions, back edition and tearsheet requests, and book and calendar sales." They also are involved in the creation of advertisements for the products sold from the news research centre, which include books, photos, front pages, sports memorabilia and "Sunshine Girl" items.

Director Kirsh cites a variety of skills necessary to work in the news research centre, among them "curiosity, attention to detail, perseverance, communication, computer skills, a quick study and a good memory." In addition, one should possess an "interest in popular, news, sports and business culture, and a love for current and historical facts and events."

CBC Reference Library

The CBC reference library is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's main source for reference and research assistance. Reference questions, which average 500 to 600 a month, run the gamut, from "straightforward requests such as 'Who was Minister of Justice when Diefenbaker was Prime Minister?' to more in depth queries such as 'What are some of the longest jury trials in recent Canadian history?'" Michele Melady, who has served as the library's manager since 2003, says she and her staff "are busier than ever ... many employees are



CBC staff (L to R): Louise Goldberg, Stacie Egerton, Cathy Ross, Anne Mercer, Michele Melady and Tyana Grundig

either too pressed for time to do their own searching or not confident enough in their searching abilities. They come to us because we can provide them with thorough, professional, prompt service."

In addition to Melady, the library is staffed by three reference librarians, a library technician, a subscriptions clerk and a generalist clerk. Each position has its specific duties, with the librarians handling research requests, arranging interlibrary loans and indexing newspapers for the clip files. The library technician is responsible for maintaining the library's intranet, acquiring and cataloging book titles and troubleshooting the Inmagic databases; the subscriptions clerk for managing the various newspaper and magazine subscriptions for all departments; and the generalist clerk for book circulations, overdues, shelving and filing.

The library operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with each of the three reference librarians working a shift from either 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The typical practice is for one librarian to spend half a day answering phone questions, while another responds to e-mails and walk-ins. Then the two switch. At around 4 p.m., the librarian who begins with the noon shift then assumes the phone and e-mail questions to allow the other librarians to finish their work for the day.

The library's collections include over 12,000 book titles, mainly concentrated in the areas of "history, politics, biography, true crime, Canadiana, broadcasting and media." Several "core reference works, such as *Who's Who*, *Europa World Year Book* and various almanacs, atlases and directories" are available. Trade publications, such as *Broadcasting & Cable*, *American Journalism Review* and *Variety* are represented, as are 100 magazine and 12 newspaper titles.

Responding to their journalists' preference to have articles e-mailed to them, the library "recently bit the bullet and decided to drastically reduce the amount we clip.

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Toronto Rich in Media Outlets

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Generally the librarians select only 15 articles a day from both the *Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail*, whereas previously the entire paper, excluding wire stories, was indexed."

At present the library is "redirecting more of its money into the purchase of electronic products." These include "a number of newspaper and magazine databases from Gale, Ebsco and ProQuest ... and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, *Oxford Reference Online* and *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*," all of which can be accessed through the library's intranet.

Marketing practices of the library involve publicizing new resources on its intranet and presenting training sessions for small groups of new users. Melady states that "we need to do more of this type of outreach," and notes that "in the next couple of months, we are planning on attending morning story meetings and giving brief presentations on the services we offer."



CBC Library

She adds that "we always endeavour to be as welcoming and helpful to each and every user as we can. The best advertising for the library comes from satisfied customers who will spread the word to others about how fabulous we are."

In addition to continuing to designate a larger portion of its budget for electronic products, the library "will continue to work

on building relationships with new users through training and marketing of our resources, as well as strengthening our departmental ties to other CBC libraries and archives which house our television and radio assets." It will also "continue to be a relevant and vital partner in the CBC research process."

Who wants to be a news librarian?

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5. Be open. News librarian jobs are hard to come by. So many people do "just fall into it" somehow, and then they stay for decades. (Frustrating, I know, for those of us who do the internships, get the degree, get involved in the News Division and still get turned down. Trust me, I've been there.) Be open to relocation, as well as to other types of libraries. The beauty of earning an MLS is that there are so many possibilities out there. Yes, I know that the thrill of being involved in the news gathering process is very enticing. Remember, there are numerous opportunities out there, so don't

limit yourself to something too narrow.

My last piece of advice: Keep your chin up! Job-hunting can be a long, frustrating, Ramen noodle-filled process. Don't give up. Like most things in life, it takes hard work and patience to reach the desired goal.

I sincerely want to help those of you seeking to become news librarians. I would like to start spotlighting anyone out there who wants to enter the profession. Whether you're in school, out of school, never went to school or you're working as a copy editor but dreaming of becoming a news librarian—whatever your current situation is, write to me and let me know. I hope to feature a different person in each issue of *News Library News*. Hopefully, this will be beneficial in that it will help those seeking to enter the profession to "get their name out

there." I'm kind of a "reach for the stars" type of person who always dreams big. But who knows? Maybe an individual who is profiled in this column will apply for a position and stand out from the rest of the applicants because of it.

There are two qualifications I must ask for those of you who would like to be featured here:

1. You must have an earnest interest in becoming a news librarian and be able to demonstrate it somehow.
2. You must be a member of SLA and the News Division.

So, who wants to be a news librarian? Send me an email at amcortez@gmail.com and tell me about it. I look forward to communicating with several of you and sharing your experiences.

Join us at Toronto's "House on the Hill"

BY LINDA HENDERSON

The 2005 News Division Awards banquet will be held Tuesday, June 7 at Casa Loma, a restored "castle" that was built by one of Canada's leading citizens. We will be honoring award winners **Richard Geiger** (Kwapil), **Ron Larson** and **Alice Pepper** (Henebry) and **Andrea Nemetz** (Vormelker-Thomas). This year we will also be instituting a new award to honor the late **David Rhydwen**. It is meant to acknowledge an outstanding scholarly contribution to news librarianship. The inaugural winner of the Rhydwen Award is **Kathleen Hansen** of the University of Minnesota.

Casa Loma was the vision of Sir Henry Pellatt, a financier of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was built at a cost of \$3.5 million and was completed in 1914. Sir Henry started out as a stockbroker with his father, but he built his fortune by starting and investing in many businesses. He was an early proponent of electricity and founded the Toronto Electric Light Company in 1883, which gave him a monopoly on electricity in the Toronto area. He also anticipated the emigration to Canada's western frontiers by investing in the Canadian Pacific Railroad and the North West Land Company.

Unfortunately, after losing his electricity monopoly to public ownership and suffering other losses due to unwise land speculation and increased debt, Sir Henry and his wife, Mary, were forced to sell the magnificent castle merely ten years after it was completed.

Casa Loma fell into disrepair until the 1930s when the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto asked the City of Toronto, which had come to own the property, to lease it to the club to use as a tourist attraction. Casa Loma was restored and opened to the pub-



Casa Loma

lic in the late 1930s. The five acres of gardens at Casa Loma were restored in the late 1980s by the Garden Club of Toronto and were opened to the public in 1990. The castle is currently undergoing more extensive restoration work, so you will see scaffolding and other signs of ongoing work. For more information, go to <http://www.casaloma.org>.

The reception, which is once again generously hosted by ProQuest, starts at 6 p.m. and the dinner will follow. Tickets are necessary for both the bus transportation and the dinner. Because it is the policy of the management of Casa Loma to allow only one function at a time, we will be treated to an exclusive evening at the castle. A limited self-guided tour of the upper floors will be available during the reception.

The Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award Winner



Richard Geiger

Richard Geiger of *The San Francisco Chronicle* will be this year's recipient of the Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award.

Richard has been library director and

research director at *The Chronicle* since 1984. He previously was library manager of the *San Jose Mercury News*, 1980-84, and was a librarian at *The Chronicle*, 1976-80. He received a master's degree from the UCLA School of Library and Information Science in 1975. He has worked in libraries since 1969.

Richard has been a member of SLA since 1974, and his first SLA conference was in Washington, DC in 1980. His wife, Susan, and their babe-in-arms Brendan also attended. Brendan is graduating this year in computer science and engineering from UC Davis.

Richard served as chair of the News Division, 1988-89, planning the 1988 Denver conference. He also served as treasurer, 1985-87. He was president of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, 1991-92.

He served two terms on the SLA Board of Directors, as a director, 1993-96, and as SLA treasurer, 2000-03. He chaired several SLA committees for the organization including Public Relations, Strategic Planning and Finance. He was named a Fellow of SLA at the Nashville conference.

His professional activities have included program planning, speaking and moderat-

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Join us at Toronto's "House on the Hill"

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ing at SLA, KM World/Intranets and Internet Librarian conferences.

Richard is known for enjoying a good time, so when News Division members were in town at the SLA winter conference in 1989 and the annual conference in 1992, he and his wife invited them ALL over for dinner. In the latter case, that turned out to be dinner for 75!

He also has a reputation for bursting into song whenever he has an opportunity. So be prepared in Toronto!

He met his wife Susan in the Art Library at UCLA where she was working before entering library school. Richard was so smitten that he went to library school, too! They spend their free time together boating, gardening and traveling.

The Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award Winners

RON LARSON

Three weeks after receiving his MLS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 1978, Ron Larson began his news career as the librarian for the *Wisconsin State Journal*. After 27 years, he has not left.

One of Ron's first duties as news librarian was to become a member of the News Division, soaking up as much knowledge and information from the division's newsletter and by reading "Guidelines for Newspaper Libraries." It was in 1981 when Ron discovered the true definition of news librarian when he attended his first SLA conference and News Division programs.

Since then, Ron has served on numerous division committees; written several articles for *News Library News*; has been a speaker

at News Division programs; served as Education Director, 1996-1997; the Bylaws Chair, 2000-2003; and managing editor of *News Library News*, 2003-2004. He also organized a regional news library workshop in 1988 and two regional image archive workshops in the 1990s.

In 1987, the *State Journal* merged its library with *The Capital Times* library, and Ron was named library director of the merged library serving both newsrooms. The library grew and evolved with the addition of text and image databases, access to multiple online services, the Internet and the creation of an intranet.

During this period of technical growth, Ron made the library an integral part of the newsroom by assisting in gathering information, research and writing sidebars and timelines. Ron has won numerous awards as part of newsroom reporting teams, including the Milwaukee Press Club award in 1991, 1993 and 2003; the Inland Press Association award in 1991 and 1994; the James K. Batten award in 2002; and the Lee President's Award for Excellence in News in 2004.

Ron grew up in McFarland, Wisconsin, a small town 15 minutes from the *State Journal* and *The Capital Times*, and he has not left there, either. Ron has been very involved in local history, serving on his hometown's historical society's board of directors for 15 years (9 as president), and by leading in the creation of a village landmarks commission. He has written three publications on McFarland's history and received the Local History Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1991. Ron is currently leading the planning for McFarland's 150th anniversary in 2006.

Ron also published a perpetual calendar in 1998 in celebration of Wisconsin's sesquicentennial. The daily historical facts were published throughout the year in the *State Journal*. He has now turned that information into a Web site that he markets to schools throughout Wisconsin. The Web site, Wisconsin History Day by Day, can be

found at <http://www.wishistory.com>. The site is currently password protected but will have free access beginning in June. (For now, use mcf for the user name and password).

Another publication of Ron's is "Little Visits with a Journal Reporter." It is a compilation of columns written in the 1930s by *State Journal* reporter Iver Kalnes, who is Ron's grandfather. Kalnes finished his journalism career as a reporter/columnist for *The Capital Times*, so it is fitting that Ron now works for both newspapers as his grandfather once did.

Ron received his bachelor of arts degree in 1976 from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, majoring in history. He also played percussion in the Luther College Concert Band where he met his future wife, DeAnn, who played the French horn. They have been married for 23 years and have three fantastic sons, Karl, 20, who is currently a percussionist in the Luther College Concert Band, Lars-Erik, 17, a percussionist in the McFarland High School band, and Leif, 12, a percussionist in the Indian Mound Middle School band.

ALICE PEPPER

There are still two major daily newspapers competing in Detroit.

Ironically, a librarian at the other newspaper helped Alice Pepper get a job with the competition: the *Detroit Free Press*.



Alice Pepper

Alice and Diane Dunn were both active in the Michigan Chapter of SLA. Diane worked for *The Detroit News*. She dropped Alice's name to Michelle Kapecky at the *Free Press*. Alice had met

Michelle earlier when Alice arranged a tour of the *Free Press* Library in her role as president of the University of Michigan student chapter.

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Vormelker-Thomas Award Winner a Team Player

BY REGINA L. AVILA, CHAIR OF THE 2005
VORMELKER-THOMAS STUDENT AWARD
COMMITTEE

This year's Vormelker-Thomas Student Award winner is **Andrea Nemetz**, a student at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, whose essay is titled, "Make Librarians Part of the Newsroom Team."

Andrea has been a reporter at *The Chronicle Herald* in Halifax for several years. In her award application she said that when she began her library studies she had intended to begin a different career. However, as she nears graduation, she feels that she's drawn to stay in the news business. "It's in my blood," she wrote. "Like most reporters, I thrive on the deadline pressure and like the feeling of being 'in' on the top news events of the day."

Now that her studies have shown her more about special libraries, she's feeling more confident about using her degree to

continue in journalism. "I find as my career progresses, that I enjoy the research more than the writing. I've always been considered a resource person at the paper, helping my colleagues to find information in the electronic archives or on the Web, and I would like to build on this."

Judy Dunn, Graduate Coordinator of the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University, recommended Andrea for the award. "Andrea has been an active member of the SLA Student Group since the group's inception," Dunn wrote. She touted Andrea's participation in a continuing education workshop, "Media Relations for LIS," that the school offered last year. "Andrea was one of three volunteer panel members who ran the event, and her presentation on writing news releases was outstanding."

The Vormelker-Thomas stipend honors Rose Vormelker, former *Cleveland Press* librarian and **Lou Thomas**, retired director

of the *State-Times Morning Advocate* in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is given to a graduate student or recent graduate interested in news librarianship and is to be applied toward the expenses of attending an SLA conference for the first time. The \$1,500 award is co-sponsored by ProQuest and the SLA News Division.

The award committee for this year included **Astrid Lange**, Library and Research Specialist at the *Toronto Star*; **Amy Disch**, last year's award recipient and news librarian with the *Wisconsin State Journal* and *The Capital Times*; **Maureen Clements**, a librarian at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C.; and **Regina Avila**, assistant library director at *The Denver Post*.

Of the eight applications received, Andrea's was selected unanimously by the committee as the best. Her award-winning essay appears below.

Make librarians part of the newsroom team



Nemetz

BY ANDREA NEMETZ

There's a library at the newspaper where I work as a reporter, a daily with a circulation of about 120,000 serving not only the city of Halifax, but the province of Nova Scotia.

Many of the reporters haven't visited the library since 1998, the year in which our stories began to be archived online. Now, if we're looking for the facts of a court case, background data on an entertainment or sports personality or the history of a particularly troublesome municipal development issue, we can enter a name, a phrase or the reporter's byline into the archives' search box on our desktop computer and the relevant information is available at our fingertips nearly instantaneously. The decline in use of the library's extensive hard copy filing system actually began before the Web archiving started. Between 1992 and 1997, news stories were archived on CD-ROM and were available (and still are) at a special (though now rarely used) terminal within the newsroom.

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Make librarians part of the newsroom team

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I occasionally get sent by the editors to the quiet confines of the library—separated physically from the bright, bustling newsroom by a long, dark hall—most often to look for hard copies of photographs of local and national celebrities archived alphabetically in vertical files. I remember searching for photographs of Queen Elizabeth II for a retrospective on the 50th year of her reign, pictures of Cape Breton fiddler Ashley MacIsaac as a boy at the beginning of his career, as well as shots of entertainers who had performed in plays, films or jazz festivals in days gone by. Even this is happening less often, as more and more of our interview subjects have access to digital cameras and computers and can send us current or historical photographs electronically.

Newspaper librarians need to remind reporters that they are not obsolete, that they cannot be replaced by the Internet and that they are a valuable resource, not just for locating past stories or photos, but for finding information for current projects—information reporters might not retrieve themselves or even think to look for.

Before I entered the library and information science program at Dalhousie University, I believed, like many other people (not just reporters) that anything I needed could be found on the Web. Sure, Google might retrieve 25,000 hits on a given subject, and many of those might bear no relevance to the topic I was actually researching, but I was convinced that with perseverance I could find what I was looking for.

Wrong.

While researching a presentation for my Resources For Business Intelligence course, I came across an April 2002 paper entitled, “Free, Fee-Based and Value-Added

Information Services,” prepared for Factiva with contributions from Mary Ellen Bates and edited by Donna Andersen, which says, “Of surveyed knowledge workers, 62 percent believe anything is available on the Web (Outsell, Super I-AIM study). But new research shows that more than two-thirds of publications used most often by knowledge workers either do not have Web sites or do not make their material available on the Web for free.”¹

While our reporters don’t have access to any outside databases, a librarian could make the case to the company to purchase an aggregator like Factiva, LexisNexis or Dialog Profound to provide reporters with information they can’t find for free on the Web. The librarian could also take a key role in educating reporters on the use of this type of product and situations in which it might be helpful. A librarian could point reporters to a fee-based government source like E-Stat (from Statistics Canada) and guide them through research which could be used in a variety of stories from crime to lifestyles features. The information could also be used for internal marketing purposes, such as discovering the number of Nova Scotians who have access to the Web (and who might read our product online), how frequently these citizens turn to the Web and for what purpose. Computer-assisted reporting (CAR) workshops are offered at most journalism conferences. A librarian could deliver such presentations in-house.

Most reporters, I suspect, will continue to want to do their own research as it is their name on the story, and they will be held accountable for the reliability of any information they include. Reporters aren’t alone in this desire to perform their own research. In the 2002 Factiva report, researchers conclude that “68 per cent of knowledge workers prefer to look for the information they need themselves.”²

Perhaps the key is to make librarians part

of the newsroom both physically and as an integral resource to daily operations.

Angela Edmunds and Anne Morris, writing in an article entitled, “The Problem of Information Overload in Business Organisations,” in a 2000 issue of *International Journal of Information Management*, discuss Helen Butcher’s suggestion that in the business world an information worker could be part of each team in an organization rather than part of a separate intelligence unit. Butcher, according to Edmunds and Morris, found that “managers often prefer to rely on verbal information and may also be wary of using information services if they believe this will just add to their information overload but if such a person were part of their team, there would be fewer barriers, and in addition, the information specialist would have a greater knowledge of the team’s information needs.”³

We reporters are already relying greatly on our colleagues for information. Questions of spelling, grammar, geography and history are frequently bandied around the newsroom as reporters seek information from their fellow writers and editors. By adding a trusted librarian/information professional to our immediate midst, the organization can gain a wealth of knowledge from a skilled resource person to put out a better product, more efficiently to the benefit of the readers and the newspaper itself.

¹ Andersen, Donna, editor. Bates, Mary Ellen, contributor (April 2002). “Free, Fee-Based and Value-Added Information Services.” The Factiva 2002 White Paper Series. p. 1.

² Andersen and Bates, p. 5.

³ Edmunds, Angela. Morris Anne (2000). The Problem of Information Overload in Business Organizations: A Review of the Literature by Angela Edmunds and Anne Morris.” *International Journal of Information Management* 20 p. 26.

Hooray for CAR in Hollywood

By JULIA FRANCO, TRAINING/COMMUNICATIONS
LIBRARIAN, *LOS ANGELES TIMES*

The 2005 Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference was held March 17-20 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Hollywood, California. The complex that contains the hotel, Hollywood and Highland, is also home to the Kodak Theater of Academy Awards fame, and while there were no glamorous activities during the conference, it was fun to walk past the theater on the way to get a Cupid's hotdog.

There were 359 registered participants, many news librarians and researchers among them. I counted at least nine panels on which a librarian or researcher was a speaker. People came from 26 states as well as Canada, Norway and Mexico. At least five of the major television networks sent representatives. The major western states' newspapers all had registrants, along with those from the other 20 or so states. Many of the western states' universities sent participants as well.

The first day, Thursday, was an "advanced" day that focused on serious tools, such as string functions in Access, SQL server, mapping and Web scraping. There were also myriad hands-on classes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, taught on three levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, as well as a mini-boot camp with a structured agenda. You could have learned almost anything here.

The panels on Friday through Sunday covered every kind of data resource a news librarian would use. Unfortunately, in the course of a month of reference work, we'll probably get asked about every one of them, and we would be hard pressed to be an expert in each. Attending this and similar conferences at least gives us some familiarity with concepts and techniques—and a place to start.

There were two tracks of panels: Feature

and Broadcast News. (The co-sponsors of the conference were KNBC-Los Angeles and the *Los Angeles Times*.) I attended panels that featured the new census (a major change is coming), Internet searching, finding data on the "invisible Web," and several that featured data from particular kinds of agencies (transportation, geology, weather, assessors, campaign contributions, licensing, etc.).

I actually attended two of the census sessions because the census is going to change. It's a challenge for researchers as it is, so hold on to your hats. Beginning in 2005, the American Community Survey will be released every year. Here is a quote from the handout of Paul Overberg (*USA Today*) and Danielle Cervantes (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*):

"There will be no 2010 Census long

form. From now on, most of the demographic data that journalists care most about - income, education, school enrollment, commuting, migration, immigration and housing - will come from the ACS each year. The 24-page ACS questionnaire is very similar to the 2000 Census long form."

The catch will be in the size of the places for which you can get information. Because of the rolling nature of the surveys, in 2006 you will be able to get an estimate for places with at least 65,000 people. In 2008 you will have a 2005-07 snapshot for any area with at least 20,000 people. In August 2011 the Census Bureau will offer a 2005-10 data snapshot of every census tract in the nation.

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What's the Buzz?

By MARGOT WILLIAMS, DATABASE RESEARCH EDITOR, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

For the advanced attendees on Thursday, the topics included using statistics in stories, social network analysis, mapping, upcoming census data, tools and techniques for sharing data in newsrooms, open source software and SQL.

For the general conference, hot topics again were census, mapping, social network analysis and numbers in the newsroom. Practical panels on using data on beats, Internet research and tips on keeping stories error-free drew crowds. The hands-on training sessions ranged from Web searching, Excel and Access to SPSS, ASP and SQL and handy tutorials on data cleaning with UltraEdit, VBScript and Perl.

The most innovative use of a computer tool at this year's conference: simulation software, used by Paul Parker of *The Providence Journal*, to help in investigating the 2003 Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, in which 100 people died.

The best angle: graphics and visualization of data - mapping, social network diagrams and visual simulations.

The best advice: Improve the use of basic math in the newsroom. (For an online course in math for journalists, check out Debbie Wolfe's new interactive tool at <http://www.newsu.org>.)

The most repeated warning: Get ready for the every year census.

Tip sheets from the panelists are available to IRE members at <http://www.ire.org> thanks to Beth Kopine, IRE's research director.

NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Agresta

National Geographic Society
Washington, DC

Jennifer Behne

Student, Brooklyn, NY

Mavis Belasse

Gleaner Co.
Kingston, Jamaica

Victor Black

The Columbus Dispatch
Columbus, OH

Joseph Bohren

Tampa, FL

Linda Butterfield

Kroll Associates
Oak Park, IL

Kathleen Collins

Student, New York, NY

Kathrin Dodds

Mississippi State University
Jackson, MS

Angie Drobic Holan

The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, FL

Kathleen Gardner

Student, Tucson, AZ

Shani Gentry

Student, Somerville, MA

Julie Graham

Student, Yakima, WA

Helene Hertzlinger

Levittown Public Library
Levittown, NY

Cecilia Hlatshwayo

Dept of Homeland Security
Washington, DC

Lisa Hyder

Student, Virginia Beach, VA

John Klem

Knight Ridder Digital
San Jose, CA

Rebecca Metzger

Student, Jamaica Plain, MA

Maureen Milne

Ifocus
East Grinstead, UK

Mary Molnar

Bank of America
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Moran

Student, Los Angeles, CA

Melanie O'Bannon

The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, FL

Stanislav Orlov

Student, Toronto, ON

Kathleen Quinn

Plaza Investment Managers
Rancho Sante Fe, CA

Ellen Ratchye

Burning Glass Consulting
New York, NY

Ingrid Redman

Student, Brooklyn, NY

Patricia Sharp

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

Jason Sokoloff

Student, Chapel Hill, NC

Christine Sorensen

Factiva
Princeton, NJ

Susan Szeliga

Newsweek
New York, NY

Ruth Tenenbaum

Newsweek
New York, NY

Karen Wierucki

Ontario Legislative Library
Toronto, ON

Joyce Yasner

Brooklyn, NY

Join us at Toronto's "House on the Hill"

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Alice ended up getting an interview at the *Free Press* and became a newspaper librarian.

"I am a poster child for SLA networking," she says.

Alice was born in Detroit and all of her special library jobs—at the *Free Press*, an auto industry trade association and a utility company—have been within a few blocks of where she made her entrance. That hometown experience has been very useful to her in newspaper research, especially when the out-of-town interns arrive each spring asking for the clips on Detroit.

When Alice started working at the *Free Press* in 1981, the library was moving those clips into an in-house electronic database. She has taken those e-clips through several different configurations since then and eventually followed them into the Internet. Now her job is Web Editor and, 20 years later, she helps the interns find clips on

Detroit on their Web site.

Alice's mother loved to travel and her family went on road trips across the United States every summer. That wanderlust has stayed with her. She doesn't try get away from it all because she loves to visit other news librarians (you know who you are), and she has checked the *Free Press* Web site from Amsterdam, Nairobi, London and Vancouver. Alice's latest sojourn was to Mexico.

The David Rhydwyn Award Winner



Kathleen A. Hansen

Kathleen A. Hansen is a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. She is co-author (with Nora Paul) of a leading text in information-gathering, *Behind the Message: Information Strategies for Communicators* (Allyn & Bacon, 2004) and of *Newspapers of Record in a Digital Age* with Shannon E.

Martin (Praeger, 1998). She has been conducting research about new information technologies in news work for 24 years. As director of the Minnesota Journalism Center since 1997, Hansen has organized numerous professional development workshops for journalists and news librarians in the U.S. and internationally. Hansen's work has been published in *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator*, *Special Libraries*, *Newspaper Research Journal*, *Editor and Publisher*, *Library Journal* and other scholarly and professional publications.

Hansen earned a master's degree in library science and a master's degree in English, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and she worked as a serials librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1981. She goes scuba diving in warm, tropical places as often as possible and tells her friends and colleagues that from now on, she is "working to dive."

PEOPLE

Continued from page 6

Beth Kopine is the new Eugene S. Pulliam research director for IRE. She is also the contest coordinator for IRE. Prior to arriving at IRE, Beth worked as the visual resources curator for the art history and archaeology department at the University of Missouri. She is new to the News Division and hopes to meet many of you virtually and perhaps in person at a future conference.

Leslie A. Norman is the new assistant librarian at *The Wall Street Journal* in Princeton, NJ. Leslie graduated in January 2005 with a master's of arts in library and information science from Rutgers University.

Awards and Acknowledgements

John Maines, database specialist at the South Florida *Sun-Sentinel*, was a 2004 IRE Awards finalist in the large newspapers category for his work on the story, "Cashing in on Disaster." This investigation revealed that some relatively unaffected parts of Florida received more disaster relief than many areas that were directly hit by hurricanes in 2004.

Associated Press researcher **Julie Reed** was credited on journalist Justin Pritchard's award winning series, "Dying to Work", for her contribution to the piece. The series, an investigation of the high rate of job-related deaths for Mexican workers in the United States, won a 2004 George Polk Award in Labor Reporting.

Amy Disch was nominated by the faculty of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for membership in Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society.

Suzanne Kincheloe has been invited to participate in a panel discussion at this year's Society of American Business Writers and Editors (SABEW) conference in Seattle. The discussion is for smaller circulation newspapers who are putting together top company lists and special sections. Suzanne has been the list researcher at the *Washington Business Journal* for nearly five years.



Kitty Bennett seen in the distance aboard the Equinox

Passings

Agnes Henebry Award winner **Virginia Carter Hills**, National Geographic Society Librarian from 1944 to 1983, died March 1, 2005. She served as an SLA consultant, was joint chairperson of the SLA conference held in Washington, DC in 1979 and was a delegate to the White House Conference in 1980. She was also honored as one of Catholic University's Outstanding Alumni in Library and Information Science in 1983 and in 1984.

Hooray for CAR in Hollywood

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The advice from the folks presenting the sessions was: Get familiar now with the new format if you want to be one step ahead of your newsrooms. There is a link at the top of the page at <http://www.census.gov> for the American Community Survey. Check out the multi-year profiles for some quick comparisons.

On Friday night, after the CAR Reception, the news library group repaired across the street to the Hollywood Hamburger Hamlet, where at least 20 of us dined under a very large mural of Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones, and Steven Spielberg. There were

librarians from, among other places, Canada, Washington, DC, New York, Florida and Missouri, as well as Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, California.

Even Sunday, the last day, was well attended. With the opportunity to learn from the best practitioners of computer-assisted reporting, it behooved all who had come to the conference to get the most out of it, and I believe we all did. I returned to work with a sheaf of resources, many of which I've now added to our library's intranet. I also came back inspired to expand our training program and with more confidence to do it. If you have a chance to attend the IRE conference in Denver in June, please take advantage.