

NLN FEATURE

High-powered Web pages for the newsroom

By JOHN MAINES, *SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL*

If you're already building Web pages for your newsroom, why not try something with a little more kick?

Many of us have tinkered with building Web pages out of Microsoft FrontPage or similar programs. Others have probably played around with personal Web pages at home, perhaps building a family photo album.

With a little ambition, practice and patience it's not that difficult for an eager learner to move to the next step: the construction of dynamic, database-driven Web pages that can be real workhorses for the newsroom. Although they look like a simple Web page, these powerful tools can generate tables, maps and graphics supplied by databases on the newsroom network.

Is your library's electronic card catalog running on expensive proprietary software? Maybe you can ditch it. Are you collecting electronic records, such as voter registration information, census statistics, or crime data, that remain hidden in databases that only a few people know how to use? Consider building a Web page that allows anyone in the newsroom to search by name, type of crime or demographic feature.

The best part: It can be done for very little money.

ASP.NET

All of the projects mentioned earlier — electronic card catalogs, criminal history search engines, census data tools and many more — have been built over the years by the Editorial Research Center at the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale. In some cases it's saved a considerable amount of money. When we created a Web page that allowed users to retrieve old newspaper clips on the Web, we replaced a cranky old Bell & Howell Image Search system that was costing \$7,000 in annual maintenance fees.

It took only two days to build our own system, which we control and which has no fees whatsoever.

Our software for building these pages has changed as technology evolved, and today we're using Microsoft's ASP.NET. The latest version of ASP.NET is part of Visual Studio Express, released by Microsoft in November and available for free at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express>. After Nov. 6 of this year, Microsoft plans to charge \$49 for the soft-

ware, but until then there's no charge.

Microsoft bills the "Express" version of Visual Studio as "lightweight, easy-to-use, and easy-to-learn tools for hobbyists, students, and novice developers who want to build dynamic Windows applications, Web sites, and Web services."

Why is it free? Probably because Microsoft saw a need to compete with "open source" Web development software that also can be downloaded at no cost, such as Perl and Python. Those are excellent programming languages and very popular, and they can run on Macintosh and other operating systems besides Windows. But because the *Sun-Sentinel* is a "Microsoft shop," our Web development has revolved around Microsoft products.

FrontPage vs. ASP.NET

Users of Microsoft FrontPage quickly learn that it's easy to build nice-looking Web pages without much knowledge of HTML. A novice FrontPage user simply drags and drops buttons, text boxes, labels and other features onto a page, adjusts fonts and colors, and calls it a day. FrontPage automatically creates the HTML that works behind the scenes.

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View the 2006 SLA Conference information online.

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News Library News
Winter 2006
Vol. 28, No.2

News Library News (ISSN 1047-417X) is the bulletin of the News Division of the Special Libraries Association. SLA Headquarters address is: SLA, 331 South Patrick St., Alexandria, VA 22314. The phone number is: 703/647-4900. **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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KATHRYN PEASE

Welcome 2006 and good riddance 2005! We leave behind another tough year of disasters. While some were natural, others were of a more corporate nature. Many of us survived downsizing; others, despite their best efforts, did not.

What can we do to make us a more valuable part of the newsroom?

For every library that does a wonderful job of marketing themselves, there are those that are just getting started or do not have a plan in place.

For those considering attending this year's SLA conference in Baltimore, I would ask you to look at the News Division program, which is printed in this issue. Among other offerings, the division is featuring sessions on collaboration; protecting, strengthening and growing your library; and keeping ahead of the curve.

If you can't attend this year's conference, read up on the library literature geared towards marketing and promoting your library. Talk to other librarians with successful marketing programs.

We need to look for opportunities to train ourselves.

Take a look at John Maines' cover story on creating databases using ASP.NET. It's FREE software! We also need to train the newsroom to efficiently use online databases and effectively search the Internet. Training reinforces our position as experts and "go-to" people. We are not training ourselves out of a job.

Consider joining other professional organizations, such as Investigative Reporters and Editors. Just recently, a reporter noticed the IRE Journal on my desk and asked me why I had a copy. He seemed surprised to find out I'm a member. A lot of folks don't realize that news librarians are behind some of the great stories that appear in our papers.

Finally, preach the bottom line. News libraries generate revenue for the company.

Now, I'm aware that we can be highly visible and still fall victim to the corporate ax, but we should still seek to improve our viability in the newsroom any way we can.

Here's hoping our profession stays strong in the coming year.

CONFERENCE ADVANCE

Wikimania comes to America

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

“Are wikis just another technology fad?” “What’s so useful about Web pages anyone can edit?” “What’s the value of Wikipedia?” If questions like these keep you awake at work, a conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from Friday, August 4, through Sunday, August 6, might be for you: the 2006 Wikimedia Conference.

Sometimes referred to as Wikimania, the conference will feature several tracks, like law and technology, and many sessions about all things wiki. Because of the number of Boston area librarians interested in wikis and

Wikimedia Foundation projects, planning is underway for many presentations and activities directly relevant to librarians and information professionals. Last year's conference in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, was a big success and brought people together from around the globe.

Learn more about the conference on its wiki at: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimania_2006.

There are still lots of opportunities to get involved to help with the planning, session organizing, translating, publicity and more.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



BY DENISE JONES

Last issue I asked for your thoughts on the benefits of membership. I did not receive many responses, but if you have ideas or comments I still welcome them. Let me share a recent experience I had that illustrated the value of SLA and the News Division.

A reporter requested confirmation of statistics that a source had mentioned to him. The source said that the statistics were on an association's Web site "so they should be easy to find." (We have all heard that one before haven't we?) I checked the association's extensive Web site. I checked for articles that might mention the statistics. Nothing. Then because the association is a large organization I suspected they might have librarians or researchers that are SLA members. I went to SLA's online membership directory and typed part of the name of the organization and got not one name, but three! I was talking with someone in the association's research center a few seconds later. After briefly explaining that I, too, was a member of SLA and in the News Division, I told them what I was working on and what I wasn't finding. The researcher said he would look for the information and get back to me soon. Within an hour he emailed me that their organization did not nor had ever compiled statistics of those sorts, but he did include in the email a useful document from the UK. The document was not something available on the Internet, but it was something he had in his collection and was willing to share.

The News Division directory is often mentioned as being a big benefit of the membership and it is. But don't forget some of the other benefits of SLA. The organization is so much more than annual conference if you

will make use of its resources and its members. At a conference several years ago I happened to sit with a librarian who worked for a convenience store group. She and I chatted for a while after the session ended and exchanged business cards. Several months later when a local convenience store chain was being sold I found her help invaluable.

You will see the program for the Baltimore conference included in this issue. **Jim Hunter** has been working hard to put together the most informative and timely sessions possible. In fact when Jim saw all the discus-

sions on wikis on listservs last fall he decided that a session on wikis was needed. SLA's official deadline for making changes had already

passed, but Jim was able to "move the mountain" and insert the wiki session you see on the program.

A change to be aware of: This year's CEs are being held Saturday (Graphics Research) and Sunday (News Futures) mornings from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. as Sunday afternoons are not available for CEs this year.

Another opportunity I am excited about is a seminar for news researchers that will be offered at Poynter Institute September 17-20, 2006. This seminar is aimed at researchers and will offer researcher training for beginning/intermediate news researchers, often the people who do not get to come to annual conference. **Dana Gordon** is developing the curriculum for this Poynter program. If you have ideas on what specific areas of research training should be included at Poynter please send email to Dana.Gordon@newsweek.com. When details on the seminar are set, we will send notices to News Division members.

"Another opportunity I am excited about is a seminar for news researchers that will be offered at Poynter Institute September 17-20, 2006."

Charm City welcomes SLA

Make your plans now to attend what promises to be a great conference. Whether your interest lies in digitizing your collection or working more efficiently on the ubiquitous graphics question, the News Division has something for everyone at this year's event. The spotlight is on some of the hottest topics right now: wikis, technology trends, and strengthening and promoting your library to the newsroom.

But there's more to this year's conference than sitting in a classroom. A walkable city, Baltimore beckons you to explore its neighborhoods. From Fells Point to Federal Hill to the Inner Harbor, there are plenty of opportunities for taking in the sights and sounds of the city.

Unfortunately, the Orioles will be away that week, but you'll find a wealth of activities, from museums to Edgar Allen Poe's grave to the National Aquarium - the location of this year's Awards Banquet.

If you have any questions on the program, please contact Jim Hunter at jhunter@dispatch.com. For general conference and lodging information, see <http://www.sla.org>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Graphics Research: Timelines and Deadlines
Ticketed Event #140

Price: \$199 member/\$299 non-member

With print, broadcast and online media using more visual information than ever, what's the best way to conquer graphics research on deadline? This session will provide participants with tips for getting the data they need. It also will look at the latest conceptual approaches to information graphics.

Speakers: Jeanette Brown, *USA Today* library; Kelly Barry, *USA Today* assistant graphics editor, Money section

TBA

Tour of the The Baltimore Sun Library

8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. - Networking in suite

Sponsor: LexisNexis

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - News Futures: Navigating the New World of Journalism and News Research

Ticketed Event #400

Price: \$199 member/\$299 non-member

Moderators: Nora Paul, Institute for New Media Studies, University of Minnesota; Richard Geiger, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Disruptive technologies, new storytelling forms, multiple output

channels, citizen reporting—all of these trends are affecting the news business. How will they affect the news library? This panel will examine two key trends: the increased call for content from outside the news organization and the crafting of new forms of digital storytelling. Through discussions with newsroom practitioners and those creating content in this new environment, the issues and opportunities for news libraries will be outlined.

Speakers: Pablo J. Boczkowski, Northwestern University, author of "Digitizing the News"; Mark Potts, Backfence community journalism project; Steve Fox, *Washington Post Newsweek* Interactive

8:00 p.m.-11 p.m. - Networking in suite

Sponsor: *USA Today*

MONDAY, JUNE 12

7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. - News Division Vendors Roundtable

Moderator: Leigh Poitinger, *San Jose Mercury News*
Microfilm digitization.

Speakers: TBA

9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - Newsroom Oral History and Peter Drucker:
Ultimate Knowledge Worker

Moderator: Margret Neu, *Corpus Christi Caller Times*

Is the history of your newspaper walking out the door? As long-term employees retire, they leave with incredible stories about our news organizations, the news industry and the people they've met along the way. At the Chicago Tribune, a new effort to capture institutional knowledge is underway in the form of an oral history project that will incorporate written stories, questionnaires and video. There will also be a presentation focusing on applying the ideas and concepts of Peter Drucker, the management expert who died last year at 95, to the careers of news librarians and the operation of news libraries. Drucker had a deep appreciation of librarians, and he was the keynote speaker at SLA's annual conference in 2002. The centerpiece is a 20-minute video interview that Bruce Rosenstein conducted with Drucker last April, in Claremont, California. This program will give you the practical essentials of Drucker's thought, with ideas that can be put to use immediately.

Speakers: Debra Bade, *Chicago Tribune*; Bruce Rosenstein, *USA Today*

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Newsroom Wikis

Moderator: Michael Meiners, *St Louis Post-Dispatch*

Panel and demonstration of three newsroom wikis.

Speakers: Michael Meiners, *St Louis Post-Dispatch*; Jim Hunter, *Columbus Dispatch*; TBA

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

News Division Business Meeting

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PEOPLE



BY JENNIFER O'NEILL

Awards and Acknowledgements

Congratulations to **Ander Murane**, from the *Rocky Mountain News*, who won the "Unsung Hero Award" for 2005 as voted by members of his newsroom.

On the Move

News Division members **Vicky McCargar** and **Peter Johnson** have decided to capitalize on their combined 60 years in journalism, news libraries and archiving, and form a digital assets management consultancy. Preservati Partners will focus on Data Preservation & Archives, Metadata & Knowledge Management, and Digital Assets Management (DAM) strategies. Current and potential clients include: DAM vendors, news and other digital libraries, and third-party repositories. Services include systems & personnel integration, metadata development, taxonomy strategies, and project & knowledge management.

Vicky is a veteran journalist and digital archivist who focused on the preservation of newspaper content in digital formats. She worked for the *Los Angeles Times* for more than 25 years in journalism and access technology, and participated in numerous innovative digitization projects in various media. Her consulting work is the area of digital asset management systems, news vocabularies, metadata standards and digital preservation. She holds master's degrees in library and information science from the University of California at Los Angeles, and in science and medical reporting from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She also has taught Issues & Problems in Cultural Heritage Preservation at UCLA.



VICKY MCCARGAR



PETER JOHNSON

Peter also is a veteran journalist and librarian. His résumé includes writing and photography, managing copy desks and news and feature sections, and graduate-level instruction in community journalism. He spent more than 18 years in news research and digital archiving at the *Los Angeles Times*, and he teaches electronic research techniques as a faculty member in the library at California State University at Los Angeles. He holds a master's degree in library and information science, and bachelor's degrees in journalism and in radio-television production, all from the University of Arizona.

Vicky and Peter, both dedicated members of the News Division, can be reached via e-mail at preservatipartners@yahoo.com

The Baltimore Sun editorial library staff of ten was reduced by five during the latest *Tribune* cost cutting buyouts. Leaving news librarianship are **Sandy Levy**, **Jean Packard**, **Shelia Jackson**, **Diana Stratton** and **Antonieta Crowl**. The new *Sun* library director is **Elizabeth Lukes**.

Judy Grimsley, editorial research manager of the *Orlando Sentinel*, retired on the last day of 2005. Judy had worked there since 1981. Before working in Orlando Judy had been a library associate at *The Tampa Tribune* from 1973-1980. She says, "It's been a wild ride and I enjoyed it. I am retiring to be a full time foster mom and grandmother to my first grandchild born 12-13-05." She is going to be especially missed by her colleagues in Florida.

David Dwiggins has left his position as systems editor/library manager at *The Tennessean* in Nashville to begin studies in the archives/history program at Simmons College in Boston, MA. This is a dual degree program leading to an MLS with a

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Charm City welcomes SLA

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. - Managing Research Information in the Newsroom

Moderator: Lucy Shackelford, *The Washington Post*

Newsrooms are particularly bad at organizing and managing information derived through the process of reporting and researching. But news librarians and researchers are the best people to serve as the guardians and tenders of a newsroom's knowledge. In this presentation, Derek Willis of *The Washington Post* will lead a discussion on Web technologies that can help track research, encourage collaboration and distribute the results across the newsroom.

Speaker: Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - What's on the Info-Horizon

Moderator: Claire Wollen, *Toronto Star*

Mary Ellen Bates will talk about the most significant challenges facing special librarians in 2006, about what appear to be challenges but aren't, and how we can best address the changing needs of our profession.

Speaker: Mary Ellen Bates, Bates Information

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. - Pumping Iron: How to Preserve, Strengthen and Grow News Libraries

Moderator: Ginny Everett, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Three panelists from large, medium and small news organizations survey their peers, gather insights and share how the best in the news business protect, strengthen and grow their libraries. The focus is on how smaller libraries can create opportunities for growth.

Speakers: Anne Holcomb, *Kalamazoo Gazette*; TBA

6:00 p.m. - Awards Banquet at the National Aquarium in Baltimore

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. - Digital Archives and Preservation

Moderator: Peter Johnson, *Preservati Partners*

The preservation of digital materials is creating concern on the national and international levels, but it is still very much the realm of academic libraries and national archives. Over in the for-profit world, how are news organizations doing with their own historic materials? As repositories of "the first draft of history," how thorough a job are news archivists doing at retaining their digital legacy? In this era of dwindling budgets, what are the biggest challenges and constraints facing them in this important task? Digital preservation consultant and former Los Angeles Times technology strategist Vicky McCargar will present the results of the inaugural, 2005 survey of Newslib members and tell us what trends she'll be watching—including threats, opportunities, and emerging best practices. McCargar's survey was done under the auspices of InterPARES, the international digital preservation consortium based at the University of British Columbia.

Speaker: Vicky McCargar, *Preservati Partners*, frequent lecturer with UCLA Department of Information Studies, Center for Research Libraries consultant

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. - Smartest Guy in the Room

Moderator: Kee Malesky, National Public Radio

Doing research for the Sunday morning network and cable talk shows is a unique sort of challenge. Often the hosts are some of the most knowledgeable pundits inside the Capital Beltway with firsthand political experience of their own. They must be thoroughly prepared as they challenge national and world leaders. This session will explore how librarians and show researchers tackle this special challenge.

Speakers: TBA

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. - Keeping Current

Moderator: Shira Kavon, CNN Library New York

Paula Hane, bureau chief for *Information Today* and editor of *NewsBreaks*, covers the world of information technology and how to gain knowledge and stay informed. Two other speakers, a library science professor and a journalism professor, will provide resources and techniques to stay ahead of the curve and keep news librarians and newsrooms ahead of the curve.

Speaker: Paula Hane, *Information Today* bureau chief and editor of *NewsBreaks*, *Information Today*; TBA

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Sports Illustrated library's all-star team



BY AMY DISCH

Research librarian **Helen Stauder** has found her position with *Sports Illustrated* to be an interesting conversation starter. “Women ask me if I get to meet the athletes, and the men ask me if I ever see any swimsuit models.” (The answer is no on both counts.)

Stauder and her three colleagues, library manager **Joy Birdsong**, research librarian **Linda Levine** and research assistant **Natasha Simon**, support the reference and research needs of the magazine’s reporters, editors and writers. As expected, many of the requests are sports-related, but Stauder is quick to point out that “even though it’s a sports magazine we do so much more than just sports research.” She adds that having a “knowledge of sports is helpful” for her position, but having “a natural curiosity for many different subjects” is equally important.

The library’s holdings include 5,000 circulating books that can be checked out by staff for in-house use, 4,000 non-circulating reference works and 235 magazine and journal titles. Also available are a variety of newspapers, encyclopedias, maps and atlases, as well as sports videos, DVDs and fiction.

There are 18,500 biographical folders, 11,800 subject folders (spanning the Abidjan Games through Wrist Wrestling) and 500 college and 300 professional team media guides. Of particular note is an impressive Olympics collection consisting of “team media guides, country guides, Olympic reports, results, clips and books” dating to the 1896 games.

The staff utilizes a variety of general electronic resources, including LexisNexis, ProQuest, Dialog, Factiva, Autotrack and Accurint and they “regularly use PACER, IMDbPro.com and sports-related databases such as SABR (Society for American Baseball Research), Equineline and SBRnet.com (Sports Business Research Network).”

Stauder states that she and her colleagues “have not migrated to using entirely electronic resources.” Databases are primarily used for article and people searches, “but we prefer to use print sources for statistical searches and historical data.” She adds that “the reporters are encouraged to use print sources ... and not to rely on the Internet.”

The library is open six days a week, and library staff



Top Photo: *Sports Illustrated* reference desk
Bottom Photo: L-R, Helen Stauder, Joy Birdsong, and Natasha Simon

are available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Stauder and Birdsong work the “Edit schedule,” which includes Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday, while Simon and Levine work Monday through Friday. The magazine’s deadline and publication schedule is such that “Sundays and Mondays are generally busier with fact-checking for the upcoming issue” and Tuesdays and Fridays are spent doing “more background research for the writers.” The majority of that research is for *Sports Illustrated*, but “we also do work for SI.com, *S.I. for Kids* and the swimsuit issues.” In addition, sports-related questions are received from “other Time Inc. magazines, such as *People*, *Time* and *Fortune*,” and on occasion from the HBO cable network. “And of course,” Stauder adds, “we try to help our fellow news librarians whenever we can.”

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SLA 2006 Online Planner now available

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) announces the opening of the online conference planner for its 2006 Annual Conference, which will take place 11-14 June in Baltimore, Maryland USA. Prospective conference participants may access the planner and review the programming schedule at www.sla.org/baltimore2006. The online planner is made possible through the support of LexisNexis, one of the Major Conference Partners for SLA 2006.

Registration for SLA 2006 is open and, less than one month into the cycle, SLA is about 20 percent

ahead of target for hotel reservations made by conference participants. Some hotels are already sold out, so prospective attendees should make plans now.

“Baltimore is a great conference town, and our conference planners have developed an evolved format that will allow attendees to maximize their time and participate in more sessions and events,” said SLA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Janice R. Lachance. “We are very excited about the prospects for a lot of buzz during and after SLA 2006.”

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Sports Illustrated library’s all-star team

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The library staff all fulfill ready-reference and research requests, but the majority are handled by the two research librarians, Levine and Stauder, who “each work three days at the reference desk.” Each staff member has individual duties as well. Simon is responsible for ordering and cataloging the circulating books, media guides and Olympic materials; Stauder catalogs and orders the reference books and orders and tracks the magazine subscriptions; and Levine works on special projects. Additionally, they all do their share of filing.

Stauder says that when new reporters and writers are hired, they are given a tour of the library, but “aside from that we don’t really need to market ourselves. The editors really encourage the reporters and writers to use our sources for research and fact-checking ... and the writers regularly call us for research as they are writing their stories. I really do think we’re considered an integral part of the Edit department and everyone - the writers, reporters and editors - feels very comfortable using us.” She adds that “it also helps that we’re centrally located in the middle of all the reporters, so there’s no excuse to not use the library!”

Stauder admits that the staff spend a lot less time clipping articles for the obvious reason that much of that material can now be found online, but adds that “our library is still growing with books and media guides.” One major project the library is beginning to undertake is the conversion of its old clip files - many of which are showing signs of disintegration - to electronic format. Besides relieving space issues Stauder says, “We’re looking into ways of scanning these into searchable files in order to make them more accessible, easier to search and to send out to writers and reporters.”

The remainder of the print collection is not a priority for preservation, Stauder says, “because we’re not in the business to be an archive.” Rather, the goal is to make this part of the library’s collections more available to its staff and users.

Prior to joining *Sports Illustrated*, Stauder worked for four years in the New York Public Library’s Research Division. “I was happy there and not really looking to change jobs,” she says, but one day she was browsing the job openings on the News Division’s Web site, saw the posting for the *Sports Illustrated* position and decided to apply. “My husband was a subscriber so I read the magazine now and then. I really liked it, and I’m a pretty big sports fan so I thought it would be a fun job.”

When she began the position, Stauder was “worried about how I could possibly learn where to look to answer questions like ‘What is the all-time NFL win-loss record for the Cleveland Browns?’ and ‘Who holds the college football record for most passes caught in a game by a tight end?’ [See below for the answers.] But now it’s become second nature and I’m really proud of that.”

“I think what I really love about this job is that it’s a weekly magazine which means that every day we’re working on something new,” she says.

Stauder is also pleased that her initial thoughts about the position proved correct. “I was right. This is a fun job with a great work environment and great co-workers.”

* The all-time NFL win-loss record for the Cleveland Browns: 410 wins, 348 losses

* The college football record for most passes caught in a game by a tight end: Brian Forster, Rhode Island vs. Brown, September 28, 1985, 18 passes for 327 yards (Answers courtesy of Helen Stauder)



By ANGELICA CORTEZ

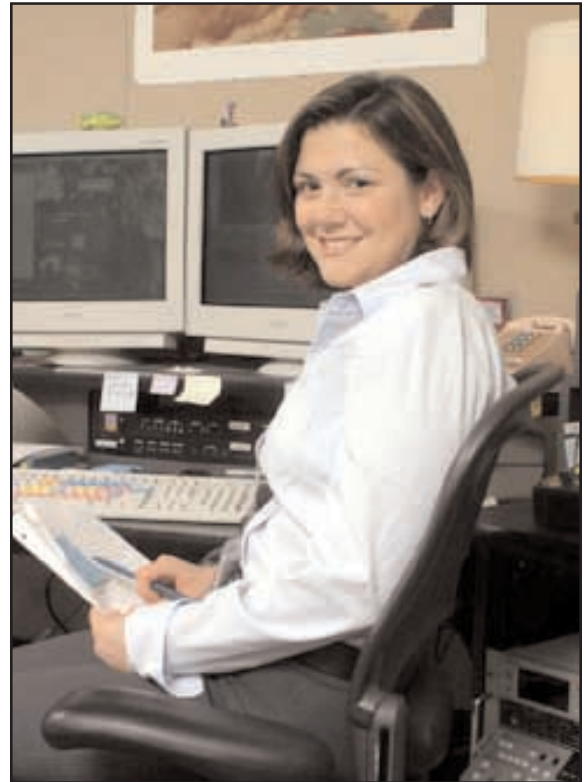
Anne Ledford has quite the impressive résumé. Although she has been busy with her education - she recently graduated with a BA in May 2004 and is currently working on her MLS - she has obtained several internships in news organizations and is excited to enter the world of news librarianship.

Ledford has interned at a variety of news organizations, including CBS News, Inc., and Louisville, Kentucky's KET2. At both of these organizations she earned several Assistant Producer credits for her work on documentaries. She also seized the opportunity to work at her college newspaper, beginning as a staff writer and working her way up to *Opinion* editor.

Through her experience in working at various news organizations, Ledford has learned that what she enjoys most is digging for information.

"I have always been interested in the research side of journalism, and it was exploring this research aspect that led me to looking at library schools and considering getting my MLS," Ledford says.

Not only does she have experience in news organizations, but Ledford also has experience working in a library. She is currently working at the King Library at the University of Kentucky where she has helped digitize photographs and catalog negatives from the *Lexington Herald-Leader* newspaper.



Ledford

Ledford says her dream job would be working as a librarian for NPR. She is currently applying for summer internships at several news organizations.

SLA 2006 Online Planner now available

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SLA 2006 will feature two keynote sessions, the first taking place on Sunday, 11 June at 6:30 pm EST. That event will feature political and issues analyst Gwen Ifill, the host of the PBS show "Washington Week" and a regular contributor to the Jim Lehrer Newshour. The second keynote will take place on Wednesday, 14 June at 11:00 am EST, and will feature Walt Mossberg, author of the "Personal Technology" column for the Wall Street Journal.

SLA 2006 takes place in the Baltimore Convention Center and nearby hotels - all very close to the famous Inner Harbor. Shopping, dining, entertainment and cultural options are only blocks away. Baltimore's "Little Italy" restaurant district and the historic Fell's

Point neighborhood are a short walk or cab ride away and feature the best of local and ethnic experiences.

"Baltimore offers ample hotel room availability near the Inner Harbor," said SLA Events Director Kristin Foldvik. "We are prepared to add room blocks to meet demand, if necessary."

SLA 2006 will again feature the INFO-EXPO, the largest information management exposition in North America. Already more than 230 exhibitors have contracted for more than 400 booths. INFO-EXPO will feature more than 30 new exhibitors.

For more information about SLA 2006 participant or exhibitor registration, visit www.sla.org/baltimore2006.

People

Continued from page 6

concentration in archives management and an MA in history. While doing this, he will also be working for the college as a Technology Fellow.

David says, "Leaving *The Tennessean* was a difficult decision, and it has been a long time in the making."

I came into the library field through the back door, but it is now my favorite part of my job."

He adds that on his way out he set up a copy of MediaWiki on their intranet and created "Dwiggipedia", an online encyclopedia where he attempted to document everything he knew about his job. He wishes he had done this years ago. It's easy to add new topics to the searchable knowledgebase, and others can also chime in by simply clicking edit. While it was intended for those who come along after him, he used it to quickly locate information he needed while he was still there. What a wonderful gift. David can be reached at david@dwiggins.net or via <http://www.dwiggins.net>.

After 20 years with the *San Jose Mercury News*, researcher **Marcia Gordon** took an early retirement in November 2005. She's now spending her days volunteering and taking hiking trips with the Sierra Club.

Kelli Cronin, an LIS graduate student at the University at Buffalo will be working in the NPR library as an intern this coming spring semester.

Happy Blitt (yes, that's her real name) came to *The New York Times* as a researcher from The Jewish Theological Seminary in NY where she was systems librarian for the past three years. She worked primarily on a project to digitize ancient manuscripts to make them available to scholars and students at the Seminary and around the world. She was responsible for overseeing the digitization initiatives and digital asset



The Palm Beach Post editorial library staff wishes everyone in the News Division a very excellent New Year. Since many of our members don't know all of their staff, they are, front row, left to right: Melanie Mena (research), Sammy Alzofon (director), Angelica Cortez (research), Lori Lambert (database manager), Michelle Quigley (research). Back row, left to right: Mary Dixon (database editor), Alan Wolfson (photo archivist), Chelo Keyes (photo archivist), Michele Smith (database editor), and Krista Pegnetter (research). Not shown is Johanna Hunt (database editor).

management programs. She also developed the classification and organization scheme for the library's web content. She cut her research teeth on due diligence and investigations at the fraud unit of PricewaterhouseCoopers where she was a research associate. Working with forensic accountants and investigators she conducted in-depth research on business entities and individuals. Her personal interests are varied. She has an undergraduate degree in art and art history, and has tales to tell about what goes on behind the walls of the Frick Museum. She is fascinated by the culinary arts and by technology. Last October she competed in and completed the New York City Biathlon. Happy received her MLS from McGill University in Montreal, her home town.

Cheryl Kugler has joined the staff of the CBS News reference library as research librarian. She was previously a research analyst in the Office of Development at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Cheryl will be responsible for providing

research assistance to various departments within CBS News, including The Early Show and News Productions, a unit which produces for cable outlets such as A&E, The History Channel, and The Discovery Channel.

Barrett E. Osborne joined the staff of *The Denver Post* research library in September. Barry has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He had been a librarian with CollegeAmerica, a private professional college in Fort Collins, Colo. prior to joining *The Post*. Barry has worked at several libraries, including the William S. Middleton Health Sciences Library and Special Collections at the University of Wisconsin. As an undergrad, Barry was on the arts desk as an editor and columnist for the student-run *Daily Cardinal*. His first short story was published this summer in "Matter Journal," a Colorado literary magazine.

High-powered web pages for the newsroom

Continued from page 1

Sun-Sentinel SUNSPOT Editorial

TEXT ARCHIVES NEWSROOM NOOK WIRE SERVICES PHOTO SERVICES STYLEBOOK SOURCES DATABASE TRIBUNE PAPERS TRIBLINK DIRECTORIES SEARCH THE WEB SEND TO CCI FEEDBACK

BEATS CATEGORIES ERC EXTENSITY NEXIS ONLINE MEDIA OUTLOOK SCHEDULE TRACK TECH SUPPORT WXEL

Pre-1985 Archives Page

Scanned clips from the old S-S and FLN Archives

Search For:

Ronald Reagan

To search for all articles in a date range, type % in the Search For box and enter the dates below.

Date Range (Optional)

Start Date: MM/DD/YYYY End Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Records Found: 2263

	Headline	Date	Source	Name	Subject	Keyword	News
View	CALIF.	1/10/1966 12:00:00 AM	AP	REAGAN OFFERD HELP	RONALD REAGAN	JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY	FLN
View	BARRY URGES	10/26/1966 12:00:00		RONALD			FLN

Archives 2

Some features of Visual Studio Express work exactly the same way. Drag the image of a button onto a page, and the program draws it and creates the related HTML. Most of the “pretty” part of the pages, those that the user will see, can be done with very little work.

But Express has another feature that adds horsepower to the page. The Express user adds software code, in one of four programming languages — Visual Basic, C#, C++ or J# — that performs the extra magic involved in hauling data back from databases, analyzing it, and posting it for display.

Oh, Brother

Programming? The idea of learning a

programming language might scare many. Doesn't such voodoo require a computer whiz kid? Not really. Many people with no formal computer training have become “hobbyist programmers” simply because they enjoyed the challenge and satisfaction of the work and the ability to build new Web tools.

Perhaps the potential hobbyist programmer is a young person who grew up with computers and is already comfortable with some forms of programming. Or maybe he or she is an older employee looking for a new challenge.

I'm one of the latter. When I began learning Visual Basic, I was a 41-year-old reporter with absolutely no training in com-

puter programming. I was writing stories and working with computer databases, and I was frustrated that I was the only reporter able to use them.

How could I get the data to the entire newsroom? I needed training in Web design and programming.

Inexpensive Training

Paying top dollar for training doesn't necessarily mean the training will be good.

Back in 1997, the *Sun-Sentinel* shelled out \$750 to send me to a three-day course at the local branch of a national computer chain. The training was lousy. Most of the people in the class were IBM mainframe

Continued on next page

High-powered web pages for the newsroom

Continued from page 13

Fema Dollars

Getting Good at It

At the *Sun-Sentinel*, we've been doing this long enough that we've undertaken some advanced programs. We've added a plug-in to AspMap that draws maps, called AspMap, allowing us to post maps that we get from our local government agencies. AspMap draws the maps on a Web page, and it can be supplemented with information we supply, such as precinct-by-precinct election results. A reporter clicks on a precinct and receives the results in a data table. We've also built maps showing maximum wind speeds at the ZIP code level after the hurricanes of 2004.

This past summer we built a Web page especially for our investigative reporters who were working on analysis of FEMA

payments after Hurricane Katrina, as well as 27 other presidentially-declared disasters in nine states. Our AspMap Web page, called FEMABucks, links users to four million FEMA claims located on that same little PC in our library. Reporters sitting at their desks can perform simple queries to learn how much money was paid at the county or ZIP code level, and they can even see exactly how many of what was damaged: counts of television sets, microwave ovens, refrigerators, etc. This Web page can perform in seconds what might take hours for a data analyst.

Be Patient

All of this doesn't happen overnight. If you've got a staffer who's attempting to

learn how to build data-driven Web pages, it's probably not a good idea to put a deadline on them to finish their first work. Just find someone who's eager and offer encouragement.

"Learning a programming language is similar to learning French, German, Spanish or any other language," said Manny Alvarez, a Visual Basic instructor in Miami. "Some people will learn faster than others. The most important thing is that they're hungry for it. They'll eventually succeed."

John Maines is Assistant News Editor for Computer-Assisted Reporting at the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. He can be reached at jmaines@sun-sentinel.com or 954-356-4737.

To view a sample of John's FEMABucks database, see: <http://67.35.109.173/femasample.aspx>

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Allin

*Freedom Forum
Washington, DC*

Maryanne Basciani

New York, NY

Nelly Bendukidze

*The Associated Press
New York, NY*

Elizabeth Bogdanski

*ProQuest
Ann Arbor, MI*

Seth Bookey

*Student
New York, NY*

Anna Deborah Charin

*Jewish Chronicle
London, UK*

Monica Chattaway

*Student
Vancouver, BC*

Daniel Clark

*The ABIS Group
Evanston, IL*

Tim DeSoto

*Wall Street Journal Online
New York, NY*

Jason Felton

*Student
Seattle, WA*

Thomas Glad

*National Press Club
Washington, DC*

Paula Hane

*Information Today
Plano, TX*

Michael Hill

*Student
Seattle, WA*

Mary Jamieson

*Student
Washington, DC*

Steven Knowlton

*ProQuest
Ann Arbor, MI*

Adrienne Kreger-May

*LexisNexis
Chicago, IL*

Bonnie Lafazan

*Student
New York, NY*

Anne Ledford

*Student
Lexington, KY*

Kimberly Lomeli

*Student
San Diego, CA*

Carolyn Matlack

*Animal Legal Reports Services
Davidson, NC*

Theresa Moore

*Jamestown Properties Library
Atlanta, GA*

Lori Morse

*Free Library of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA*

Sara Nichols

*MIT Libraries
Cambridge, MA*

Tina Page

*Student
Torrance, CA*

Vasyl Pawlowsky

*Magister & Partners
Kiev, Ukraine*

Britton Perry

*AED
Washington, DC*

MaDonna Pierce

*Student
Columbus, OH*

David Polek

*Business Week
New York, NY*

Jennie Pu

*Student
Astoria, NY*

Alison Raab

Raleigh, NC

Tammy Salman

*Student
Seattle, WA*

Craig Schulin

*Free Lance-Star
Fredericksburg, VA*

Jean Simpson

*USA Today
McLean, VA*

Carolyn Soltau

*Pacific Newspaper Group
Vancouver, BC*

Ulla Visscher

*Student
Vancouver, BC*

Judy Jackson Whitesell

*Student
Durham, NC*

Heather Wilson

*Toronto Reference Library
Toronto, ON*

Palmer Yale

*CNN Library
New York, NY*

Taylor & Francis Group

New York, NY