

CONFERENCE ADVANCE

Getting to Know D.C. - A primer for the News Division

By JILL KONIECZKO
DIALOG

Almost 600,000 people call D.C. home (alas, not a state...yet). It's an electric city, with a mélange of people from different places. There are always a million things to do, see and experience. Here are some tips and tricks to getting the most out of the nation's capital while you're here for the SLA Centennial:

10. If you've mastered Dewey or LC classification, you'll get how D.C. is arranged (<http://map.mapnetwork.com/destination/dc/>). The city is laid out in a grid, with numbered streets running north and south, and streets designated with a single letter running east to west. Independence and Constitution avenues line the National Mall. Lost your way between Point A and Point B? No problem. A number of the neighborhoods, including Penn Quarter, offer guidance from friendly Ambassadors, who can help you find your way again.

9. From its broad avenues to cobblestone streets, Washington is a great place to explore on foot. Washington Walks (<http://www.washingtonwalks.com/>) offers over a dozen walking tours around historic



Cherry trees in blossom line Washington, D.C.'s Tidal Basin.
Courtesy Jill Konieczko

sites and in the city's neighborhoods. Tours last about two hours, and are conducted rain or shine. For those who would rather leave the driving to someone else, two unique options for bus tours include the hop-on, hop-off open-top double-decker

bus tours (http://www.dctours.us/tours/tourDetail.cfm?tour_id=8827) and the DC Duck (<http://www.dcducks.com/>) tours, which give you a tour of land and water by way of a vintage WWII era amphibious vehicle.

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By JULIE DOMEL

I have to admit that I don't feel very Spring-y. Sure the flowers are blooming, and it has even rained a bit here, but I am still dealing with the vestiges of survivor's guilt. You know, I'm here when so many of my colleagues aren't.

I am thankful that my department emerged from our newspaper's round of layoffs relatively intact. We lost our part-time photo archivist, and her duties have fallen on my shoulders. Our research staff remains hard at work, but we have fewer reporters and editors needing our help.

It feels more like winter as we look around the newsroom and see row after row of dusty, barren cubicles, the evidence of departed colleagues. Those empty desks have led to discussions of facility consolidation, and I am soon going to find myself in a new location.

My cubicle mate (my desk is upstairs from the library) left a couple of buyouts ago, and I have had my quiet corner to myself for a couple of years. I have been able to get a lot of work done without the disruptions, but the solitude comes with being perhaps too separated from the rest of the reporters on my floor.

I recently found out that I'll be moving to the middle of the newsroom—about as different from my current location as night and day. I'm a little sad about losing my corner (not so much about its proximity to the men's restroom, but that's another column!), but I'm getting excited about being

near the website staff and our crime team, two groups that are constantly busy.

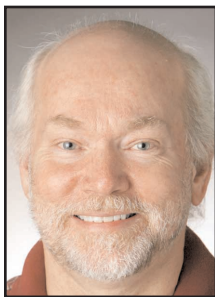
Personally, I'll admit I'm set in my ways. Sure, I like to put on my socks the same way every day, but professionally, I try to embrace change. In our profession, how can you not? With our industry trying to figure out where to go from here, we need to make ourselves part of the mix. The library might not be trendy, but librarians and researchers can be. We can broaden our horizons and take on new tasks. A great example of that is Angie Holan's work with the now-Pulitzer-prize winning PolitiFact.com, which was being discussed on the NICAR listserv as being the first winner for "pure online journalism."

“With our industry trying to figure out where to go from here, we need to make ourselves part of the mix.”

I'm not saying we're all going to be winning Pulitzers in the future, but, again, we can be in the mix.

I look at any discussions about the upcoming SLA conference with twinges of jealousy, as I am unable to attend this year. I hope everyone attending learns a lot and has some fun, too. I look forward to hearing the results of the Veranda Conference and seeing the reports and presentations on NewsLib and the Division website.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



BY RON LARSON

There is certainly no better quarter of the year, in my opinion, than the three months of April, May and June. The months represent a return of warm temperatures, songbirds and color, replacing a cold, silent, gray and white landscape that, at times, seemed to be unending.

However, the cold grip of winter did end and the seasons changed. It is such an uplifting feeling to see the transformation of nature right before your eyes. I have had a wonderful vantage point this spring, looking out my large south-facing windows every day. Behind my house is a large conservancy area, a prairie-like field going back a hundred yards to a small wood and lake.

This year, my village decided to do a controlled burn of the field area as part of a management technique to keep out unwanted plant species. I had quite the range of feelings as I watched the flames turn the tall grasses into a field of charred-black ash. Within days, however, a tinge of green could be seen, and within 10 days, the most lush-looking spring-green grass had erased the blackness. My feelings of concern had quickly been replaced by feelings of renewal.

From our vantage point as news librarians, it appears that our industry and Division have been set afire, leaving in its wake a blackened and smoky landscape. And the fire is still burning. For many of us, it has resulted in a loss of a job, and for all of us, it has created a huge concern for our future, both individually and collectively.

Will the Division recover and flourish after the fire like the prairie field? Being an optimist, I believe that the Division will rebound, one way or another, from the current state of affairs. It still remains to be seen if SLA will continue the division format or,

if it does, if the News Division will remain a strong, single entity, or if it will transform itself by encompassing a larger array of information professionals or even merging with another division.

The answers to those questions rely, in part, on your participation in the future of the News Division. I am hopeful that a number of you will be attending the annual SLA conference in Washington, D.C. If you are fortunate to be attending, I encourage you to attend the News Division business

meeting on Monday, June 15, to discuss the future of the News Division as part of our ongoing Veranda Discussion. If you are unable to attend, please e-mail me your

thoughts about the future of the News Division.

The News Division's chair-elect and program planner, **Amy Disch**, and our professional development chair, **Jessica Baumgart**, have been working hard since last summer to put together an educational, informative and enlightening set of programs. There will be some changes due to financial considerations, but the valuable program sessions, the ability to network and the opportunity to celebrate our profession and colleagues will continue to be important aspects of our annual ritual.

It is appropriate that the annual SLA conference is held in the spring (albeit late spring). Attending the annual conference allows for participants to be rejuvenated, renewed and refreshed. This year, more than any of our previous 85 years, it is very important that we allow ourselves the opportunity to celebrate and to replace our feelings of concern with feelings of hopefulness and renewal.

“From our vantage point as news librarians, it appears that our industry and Division have been set afire, leaving in its wake a blackened and smoky landscape.”

13 ways journalists are using Facebook (for purposes relevant to their jobs)

By LINDA DEITCH
COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Earlier this year, the librarians at the *Columbus Dispatch* hosted a drop-in, “lunch-and-learn” type of session for our newsroom about Facebook.

We found that our newsroom had a mix of seasoned Facebook users, those new to the platform and plenty of colleagues who had not yet signed up but were interested in learning more about it.

We showed off the (then new) Facebook fan page for our own newspaper, reviewed various FB applications that could be useful and drilled the importance of knowing your privacy settings — and how to change them. We also touched on some practical uses for the tool. Among them:

1. Journalists can use Facebook as a publishing platform to showcase their best work.

By posting web links on FB to their bylined stories on their newspaper’s web site, it drives ‘hits’ to the paper’s site and gets more eyeballs on their own great content.

Why is this successful? When friends filter the news for their friends and contacts, they are giving their personal stamp of approval on a piece of content. Facebook has become a primary portal to the Web for many people; since they are already online connecting to their Facebook Friends, playing word games on FB and using other FB applications to get content, they may be more inclined to read a story from within the Facebook platform than by going out to another web site as the “point of entry” to that story.

2. They use FB to check names, affiliations and activities, or to put a face to a name.

Most articles out there about journalists using Facebook as an information source boil down to knowing how to use the tool wisely, being wary of the veracity of something that you see on it, and the old-fashioned journalistic principles of finding the truth behind a story and checking your facts.

3. They can get better interviews.

They check to see if someone they are about to interview has a Facebook page that is open for viewing. If so, they can look at the page and come up with relevant interview questions.

4. They can monitor people and events in the news.

After the Virginia Tech shootings, for example, journalists trolled FB to request and get comment from students. (You can

send messages to people directly through Facebook — without having to be Facebook Friends with them first. You can send messages to ask for comment or set up an interview without knowing a user’s e-mail address: FB makes it easy to contact people who have allowed communication in this way.)

5. They can see what FB groups have been formed about a person (such as a memorial page to a murder victim, or a fan page).

Limiting a search to the “Groups” tab will expedite this.

6. They can get story ideas by monitoring their FB friends’ status updates to see what people are talking about.

Perhaps someone will mention a topic that can be turned into a feature story or a trend piece, or maybe someone is even doing something newsworthy. (Note: Facebook Friends’ Status Updates are available as an RSS feed. You can read updates without logging in to FB.)

7. They use FB as a tool for generating story ideas.

They are using it to monitor trends and groups, search for local groups and see what people are buzzing about on a local level.

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PEOPLE



BY AMY DISCH

On the move

Steve Gietschier, formerly with the *Sporting News*, started a new job as University Curator and Assistant Professor of History at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., on April 15. Steve will also be teaching one course per semester beginning this fall. His job will be to “make sense” of an “enormous amount of historical artifacts, scattered all over the campus and never inventoried or catalogued or controlled in any way” and then “exploit these artifacts for all sorts of value.” Congratulations Steve!

Amy DeCicco left her position as Broadcast Librarian at National Public Radio and on April 20 began a new job as Taxonomist for the e-commerce site Etsy.com. In her new role, Amy will be working on improving the site’s user experience through taxonomy and controlled vocabulary construction and maintenance. She can be contacted at amydecicco@gmail.com

Barbara Semonche reports that **Stephanie Willen Brown** will be the new director of the Park Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication effective June 1. Willen Brown is currently an Electronic Resource Librarian at the University of Connecticut and serves as a liaison to the school’s psychology and communication departments. She is also an adjunct professor at Simmons Graduate School of Library & Information Science at Mount Holyoke College.

Ginny Everett, Senior Editor/Information, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, announced that she has accepted a buyout offer. In her message to NewsLib, Ginny said “a few job categories, including news researchers, were eliminated in the new organization structure” and “archiving is being outsourced” beginning in May.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer published its final print edition on March 17. **Lytton Smith**, the paper’s former Chief Librarian and Team Leader-News Research & Archives, said in a message posted to NewsLib on March 16: “I would like to thank the many role models I have met over the years in SLA who have shown me that there is much more to working in a newspaper library than managing the morgue. I have learned entrepreneurial skills as well as high-end research skills at conferences and met a lot of really cool people. I feel lucky to have bridged a number of generations of News Librarians and I will continue to follow your conversations.”

The Wall Street Journal Library ceased operations March 13. Former Assistant Librarian **Leslie Norman** can now be contacted at lanorman1@comcast.net. In her message to NewsLib, Leslie said “(News Assistant) **Ed Ramos** and I wish to thank you for your incredible support and patronage. We are honored and privileged to have contributed to such a venerable and esteemed publication and to have worked with extraordinary colleagues.” Leslie will be attending the SLA conference in June and will be moderating the “More with Less: Successful Time Management Practices” program with Pat Wagner.

Honors

News Division Past Chair **Justin Scroggs** announced the 2009 News Division award winners. **Theresa Lepine**, an MLIS candidate in the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Chicago, Illinois has been chosen as the Vormelker-Thomas Student Award recipient. Theresa’s essay, “A Critical Time for News Librarians,” is featured in this issue. **Sammy Alzofon**, former Library Director of the *Palm Beach Post* and **Mona Hatfield**, formerly with the *Contra Costa Times*, are the recipients of the Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award. **Jim Hunter**, former Library Director at the *Columbus Dispatch*, is the recipient of the Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award. Theresa, Sammy, Mona and Jim will receive their awards at the News Division Awards Banquet June 15 in Washington, D.C.

Linda Deitch writes with the following news: “**Jim Hunter**, retired library director at the *Columbus Dispatch*, received a standing ovation when he was given the “Alumnus of the Year” award on April 8 by the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. The award honored Jim for making a significant contribution to the library profession through years of leadership, service, mentoring and teaching. Jim received his MLS degree from Kent State in 1973 and led the *Dispatch* Library from 1974 to 2007.”

Sharon Stewart Reeves, retired Library Manager at the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, has been named the Distinguished Alumna of the year by the Information School (formerly the Library School) of the University of Washington. Sharon, a 1969 graduate, will be presented her award at a convocation on June 12 in Seattle.

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Archiving Web Site Material: Lists and Special Projects

BY DEREK WILLIS

If this hasn't happened to you yet, it probably will soon: an editor will want to know what the most popular item was on your news organization's website 30 days ago — or 6 months ago. Or, even better: which reporter's stories/reports are on those “most-[emailed|popular|commented]” lists the most? On the face of it, it seems a fairly simple request, just one item from a single day. But at most news organizations, it's often not that simple.

If you're lucky, your organization provides RSS feeds of its “Most” content. *The Los Angeles Times*, for example, provides a feed of its Most-Emailed stories. You could then use an RSS reader to save the content locally or have the feed converted into a format that could be put into a spreadsheet or database, but that might not always be the case. Take the most-popular list on [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), my former employer. That page is updated at midnight every day, so the previous day's list disappears from the site. What to do then?

You could build yourself a crude archive of those pages using a free tool called Wget. Wget retrieves Web pages, even recursively if you want, and thus makes a great tool for automated downloading of Web content. Wget is pretty smart; you can tell it to only download files that have changed, so you're not getting copies of the same file. This is also a way to create a local copy of almost any Web site or portion thereof. Be careful: recursive downloading on very large or busy sites can tax the resources of the server, and get you banned if you're not careful. However, you should be fine with your own server and on a consistent schedule.

Obviously, these saved pages aren't a perfect archive in that you get the full html version and not just the precise information you want broken out into fields. It is, however, better than nothing and may even be of use when reconstructing what the site's pages looked like at certain points in time. It's also useful for those parts of your site that don't live within the content management system (CMS) — an increasingly common occurrence on news sites. For example, many of the projects that we do at the *New York Times* live on a server called projects.nytimes.com, which is not published from the CMS that runs most of the rest of the site. So we can't count on the CMS version of the archive

to capture those pages. The same applies if you're using a vendor like Caspio; those pages may look like others on your site, but the content isn't being stored there.

“Wget retrieves Web pages, even recursively if you want, and thus makes a great tool for automated downloading of Web content.”

Should Wget seem a bit of a blunt weapon for such tasks, I'd encourage you to check out cUrl, a similar utility. It can read from a list of urls contained in a text file, for example, and it can also handle iterating over pages with urls that end like so: “<http://example.com/Story.asp?id=5>”. You can pass cUrl a range of id numbers and it will fetch just the ones you give it.

Both Wget and cUrl are open source, command-line utilities, and are available for Windows, OSX and pretty much any other platform. Try them out, and let me know if you use either one to do some valuable work!

Wget: <http://www.gnu.org/software/wget/>

Wget for Windows: <http://gnuwin32.sourceforge.net/packages/wget.htm>

cUrl: <http://curl.haxx.se/>

News librarian elected association president in Jamaica: Meet Mavis Belasse Williams



BY HANNAH SOMMERS,
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

It came to our attention recently that **Mavis Belasse Williams** of Jamaica's *The Gleaner* has been elected president of the Library & Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), Jamaica's national library association. Belasse Williams is the first news librarian to hold this office; she was sworn in and gave her inaugural address on February 6. LIAJA was established in 1949, and currently there are 280 members.

Belasse Williams is enthusiastically setting an ambitious agenda for her presidency. Increasing information literacy through a public campaign similar to ALA's "@ Your Library" tops her list. She is also interested in seeing professional standards more clearly defined for both professionals and paraprofessionals in the nation's libraries, and in registering the LIAJA as an official non-profit institution in Jamaica.

Additionally, she will continue the education and training programs the association provides. Planned workshops will focus on records management and copyright licensing since librarians are increasingly employed as experts in these areas.

The challenges facing Belasse Williams will sound familiar to most of us: funding for association programs and for staff. The LIAJA does not have office staff or a permanent facility, although funds are being raised toward this goal. Currently the association records are housed with the Jamaica Library Service. The association relies on membership fees and other fundraising activities for revenue. Fundraising is more challenging and more critical than ever given the global economic crisis.

Belasse Williams was born in London, and returned to her parents' homeland of Jamaica in 1994 to work in an academic library. She joined the Gleaner Company Ltd. to head the Information Systems Department in 2001. She holds a BSS in Information & Communication with a major in Library & Information Studies from the University of North London (now London Metropolitan University), and a certificate in Records Management from the University



Newly elected LIAJA President Mavis Belasse Williams gives her inaugural address to members, February 6 at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica
Photo: Dawn Lowe

of the West Indies where she is currently completing a Master's degree in Library & Information Science.

Belasse Williams credits her love of the profession to the supervisor in her first library position in the children's section at the London Borough of Islington Libraries, and to Stephney Ferguson, who is now retired as Campus and University Librarian of the University of West Indies.

In her new role as representative of Jamaica's library association, Belasse Williams will be attending the IFLA conference this summer and regrets she won't be able to attend SLA in Washington. Do look her up on your next trip to Kingston though. She'll be happy to give you an insider's tour.

2009 Vormelker-Thomas Student Award winning essay A Critical Time for News Librarians

BY THERESA LEPINE, MLIS, DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE, RIVER FOREST, ILL.

In saying “Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers (Hello to a New Era of Corruption),” Paul Starr, closes his article (The New Republic, March 4, 2009, <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=a4e2aafc-cc92-4e79-90d1-db3946a6d119>) by saying that “News coverage is not all that newspapers have given us. They have lent the public a powerful means of leverage over the state, and this leverage is now at risk. If we take seriously the notion of newspapers as a fourth estate or a fourth branch of government, the end of the age of newspapers implies a change in our political system itself. Newspapers have helped to control corrupt tendencies in both government and business. If we are to avoid a new era of corruption, we are going to have to summon that power in other ways. Our new technologies do not retire our old responsibilities.”

The newspaper industry is the topic of daily news stories, with headlines about bankruptcies, layoffs, and closings. Just yesterday, Stephen Hume’s, lead in his *Vancouver Sun* article (“The ‘old media’ are the ‘new media’ — just look at *The Sun*; News is expensive to gather, and you get what you pay for” at <http://www.vancouversun.com/News/media+media+just+look/1347332/story.html>) notes “Denver’s venerable *Rocky Mountain News* ceased 150 years of publication last Friday. The *San Francisco Chronicle*, a newspaper older than Canada, joined the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on death row.”

In considering the current state of the newspaper industry and the continued transformation of journalism caused by the Internet, what can a news librarian do to help move the profession forward? This is a noble undertaking, but in doing so, one

contributes to the evolution of the fourth estate while upholding those values and traditions that make democracy work.

Now more than ever, given the ongoing march of corrupt and amazingly delusional government officials and business people, a free press is essential in these disruptive times. Evolving knowledge and skills relative to new and emerging digital technology, devices and computing applications; misinformation; disinformation; ignorance; malfeasance; as well as the erosion of our most basic rights, characterize our modern society. And, whereby individuals are connected across the globe via the Internet, it is clear that the fourth estate’s survival will require that our dissemination

“*In serving the public via our work for the surviving news organizations, we may forget about the importance of self-promotion.*”

medium puts the news in front of individuals in ways that is most useful for them. This will require an understanding about how people are obtaining and using news and information and identifying ways this can be improved on to make their lives easier and more productive, which may mean redesigning our work processes so that news can be delivered to them in a manner that will allow them to easily integrate it into their daily digital routines and work environments. By identifying the problems that can be solved for people by their reading the news, news organizations can develop an effective content strategy and a sustainable business model that is financially

viable and hopefully just as profitable as the previous one.

Embracing the digital skills necessary to interact with news professionals and the general public will ensure that we can instantaneously communicate information and news that will be useful to the distinct groups news librarians serve. In serving the public via our work for the surviving news organizations, we may forget about the importance of self-promotion. One way we can demonstrate our value to management is by mining the valuable ideas that circulate on the Newslib listserv to develop proposals or business cases that can generate funding or project support for new initiatives. For example, in response to the News Library Success Story listserv string, Barbara P. Semonche, Director, Park Library, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication, urges in her February 27th post to consider documenting the library/news research center histories as fully as possible so that these “brain trusts” will be preserved because if not us, who will? I am sure that Nicholson Baker would say that preserving our historical heritage should be our foremost concern. Perhaps the drive to fulfill this duty will be the impetus for articulating a project proposal, developing a business case, or forming a coalition to secure organizational support or grant money to fund our new ideas.

As librarians acquire new skills to adapt to the changing professional landscape, they must be mindful of professional obligations and the enduring values of librarianship. They must skillfully acquire, manage and preserve materials and collections in a manner that is not only sensitive and responsive of the trends, but also ensures intellectual freedom and equitable access to information that is needed by the disparate

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News Division schedule at the 2009 SLA conference

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tour/Reception at National Public Radio

NPR Librarian Kee Malesky will host News Division members for a tour of NPR's facilities and library. The event will also include a reception with various NPR personalities. NOTE: This tour is full. Please contact Kee Malesky at kmalesky@npr.org for additional tour opportunities.

Location: NPR, 635 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

CE course: Doing More with Less

Learn some secrets about doing more with less from experienced practitioners. News library managers, librarians and some technical experts come together to share useful knowledge, like prioritizing tasks, nifty tools and being more efficient. Participants will also pick up some tips about managing in times of change and may learn a bit about defending their funding and staff.

Ticketed Event: Ticket #550: \$199 members, \$299 non-members

Moderator: Jessica Baumgart, Quality Assurance Engineer, Renesys

Speakers: Linda Henderson, former Library Director, Providence Journal; David Cappoli, Digital Resources Librarian, UCLA; Anne Holcomb, Online Content Editor, Kalamazoo Gazette; Maureen Clements, Broadcast Librarian, National Public Radio; Derek Willis, New York Times; Sandi Fox, Research Librarian, NewsHour

Location: Convention Center, Room 144C

7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

News Division Silent Auction and First-Timers Meet and Greet

Location: Constitution E, Grant Hyatt Washington

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Painless (No, really!) Negotiating

Many more things are negotiable than we may think;

in fact, much of life involves negotiation, and the effects of not negotiating can be cumulative. This presentation helps you identify who is "the boss of you," develop your ability to reframe challenging situations, and build tools to enhance your negotiation skills and approach every situation as negotiable.

Moderator: Carolyn Edds, News Researcher, St. Petersburg Times

Speaker: Mary Ellen Bates, President and Founder, Bates Information Services

Location: Convention Center, Room 147B

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Census 2010: Not Your Grandmother's Census (Sponsored by Bernan, Geographic Research, Inc., LexisNexis)

If you've ever used Census data on citizenship, employment status or occupation, you've used the long form of the Decennial Census. The long form of the decennial census is no more - it has been replaced by the American Community Survey. Join us for a crucial discussion of the 2010 Census and the differences between it, past censuses, and the ACS. We will also review geographic aspects of the Census and focus on the implications of these changes for people who use Census products. (Shared program with the Social Science Division, Advertising & Marketing Division, Government Information Division, Geography & Map Section of DSOC, Public Policy Section of DSOC, Retired Members Caucus)

Moderator: Elana Broch, Princeton University

Speakers: Debbie Griffin, U.S. Census Bureau; Mike Ratcliffe, U.S. Census Bureau; Constance Citro, Committee on National Statistics of the National Academies; Arnold Jackson, U.S. Census Bureau

Location: Convention Center, Room 150A

3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

News Division Business Meeting

The News Division leadership reports to the members of the division, discusses progress and plans for the future.

Moderator: Ron Larson, Wisconsin History Day by Day

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News Division schedule at the 2009 SLA conference

Continued from previous page

Location: Convention Center, Room 156

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

News Division Awards Banquet

The News Division presents its annual awards.

Ticketed Event #680: \$90 members, non-members

Location: Top of the Hill, One Constitution Ave. NE.

NOTE: Top of the Hill is located in the Minuteman Memorial Building, owned by the Reserve Officers Association.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

More With Less: Successful Time Management Practices (Sponsored by LexisNexis)

In an era of downsizing and tight budgets, how do you make the most effective use of your time and prioritize in a way that offers the best value for your library and your organization? This session will offer practical tips for doing just that.

Moderator: Leslie Norman

Speaker: Pat Wagner, Pattern Research, Inc.

Location: Convention Center, Room 141

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Role of Social Networking Sites in Research (Sponsored by Dow Jones & Company)

Washington Post researcher Meg Smith will lead a discussion on using social networking sites for research and the ethics involved in doing so, while Chrys Wu will discuss marketing your organization on Facebook and other social networking sites.

Moderator: Leigh Montgomery, Librarian, Christian Science Monitor

Speakers: Meg Smith, Researcher, Washington Post; Chrys Wu, Content Distribution Manager, Washington Post Digital

Location: Convention Center, Room 144A

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Research Methods for Journalists (Sponsored by ReferenceUSA)

When CUNY (City University of New York) opened its Graduate School of Journalism in fall 2006, a first semester course in Research Methods was required of all students. Now in its third year, the Research Methods course has been merged into the school's fundamental Craft curriculum. The speakers will compare the student outcomes of both pedagogical approaches, as well as present findings from a survey about research education and training conducted among journalism school library directors. They will also present findings from a survey of major media libraries about research education and training on the job.

Moderator: Anne Mintz, City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism

Speaker: Consuella Askew, Associate Professor, Chief Librarian, City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism

Location: Convention Center, Room 144B

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Onion Editor Calls For an End to Reading (Sponsored by LexisNexis)

From "The Onion" to "The Daily Show" and the "Colbert Report," consumers are increasingly shifting the way they look at "news." Join the editor and founder of "The Onion" as he pontificates on the changing media habits of consumers. (Shared program with the Advertising & Marketing Division)

Speaker: Scott Dikkers, Editor-in-Chief, The Onion

Location: Convention Center, Room 143C

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

News Division Open House

An open house at the Newspaper and Current Periodical Room at the Library of Congress. NOTE: This open house is only open to News Division unit members, and advance RSVP is required. Please RSVP to Amy Disch at adisch@dispatch.com no later than June 1.

Speaker: Georgia Higley, Head, Newspaper Section, Serial & Government Publications Division, Library of Congress

Location: Library of Congress, the Newspaper and Current Periodical Room; 101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Treasures from our news libraries' old photo archives

[Editor's Note: All of us have treasures in our photo archives, so to give them a little needed attention, we start a new feature in this issue. First up is the *Columbus Dispatch*.]

Linda Deitch at the *Columbus Dispatch* recently discovered this photo (under the "RADIO BROADCASTING" subject heading) of Hazel Ohman, chief librarian at the Music and Research Library of NBC in New York City. The photo is dated 1931.

From the Press Relations Department, National Broadcasting Company, 711 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY: "One of the most recent developments of the National Broadcasting Company is the collection of 500 miniature music scores added to its music and research library. Each book averages five by seven inches with thickness depending upon the length of the composition. While baby in size, the contents range from a five-hour orchestration by Richard Wagner to a ten-minute composition by Claude Debussy. Miss Hazel Ohman, chief librarian of NBC, is shown above comparing a condensed copy of the score of "Die Meistersinger" with the usual bulky tome familiar to all musicians."

Dispatch Library Director **Amy Disch's** curiosity kicked into high gear and she started poking around for information on Hazel, who later became Hazel Ohman Oille/Ollie.

Amy saw both spellings but leans toward the former since she saw Hazel with that name in two separate issues of *Special Libraries*, the "official journal" of the Special Libraries Association from 1910 to 1996. (As an aside, all issues of the journal have been scanned and are available in PDF format on the SLA Web site at <http://www.sla.org/content/shop/speclibs.cfm>.

She found an article Hazel wrote for the February 1942 issue of *Special Libraries* titled "Employment Opportunities for Special Libraries," <http://www.sla.org/speciallibraries/ISSN00386723V33N2.PDF> At that time, Hazel was working as a Research Librarian



This 1931 photo of Hazel Othman, chief librarian of NBC's Music and Research Library, was in the archives of the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Continued on next page

Taking "A Look Back"

In March, the *Columbus Dispatch* librarians, **Amy Disch**, **Julie Albert**, **Linda Deitch** and **Susan Stonick**, launched a blog that was showcased in their newspaper as an "Editor's Choice."

"A Look Back," blog.Dispatch.com/lookback, features archival images and photo slideshows from the *Dispatch* library collections, along with vignettes of Columbus' past and historic anniversaries. Based on the first dozen comments and Twitter feeds buzzing about the blog, readers have responded that they love reminiscing about Central Ohio restaurants, buildings, events and characters.

Plans for the blog include also posting historic front pages from the *Dispatch* and old *Dispatch* display ads from local establishments that no longer exist. In just its first month, "A Look Back" is ranking in the top 10 most popular blogs read on Dispatch.com, out of 54 blogs currently on the site.

Treasures from our news libraries' old photo archives

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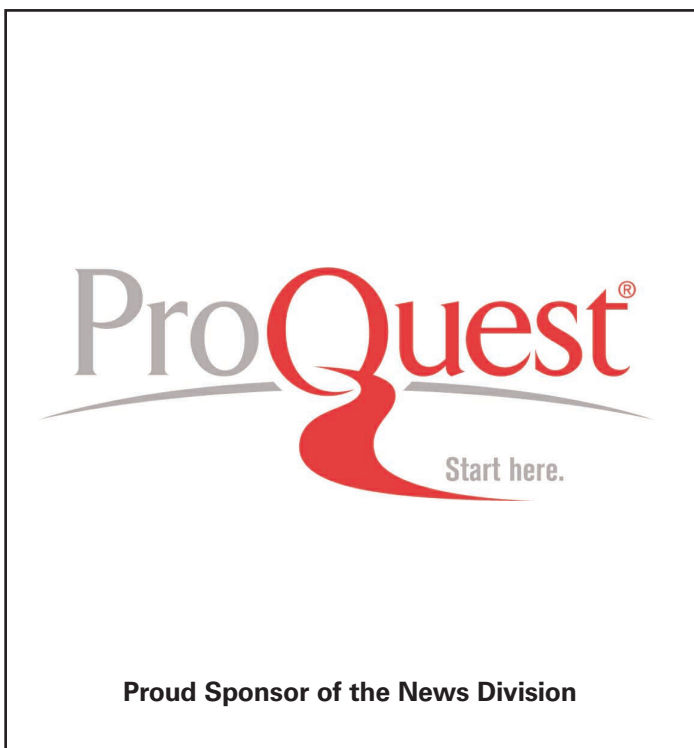
in the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance in the Department of Labor in New York City. News libraries get a mention toward the end of her article when she writes "There also seems to be somewhat of a shortage of male librarians for newspaper libraries." (The article begins on page 9.)

In 1943, Hazel was working as the Assistant Director in the Bureau of Planning at the New York Division of Commerce in Albany, New York. She spoke at the SLA Wartime conference in June of that year on the topic of "Basic Social Insurance Literature," <http://www.sla.org/speciallibraries/ISSN00386723V34N5.pdf>.

Hazel is mentioned in a 1996 publication commemorating the 50th anniversary of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. In an entry dated 1945 it states "Hazel Ohman Ollie, library consultant, begins organization of the ILR Library," <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1016&context=ilratfifty>. (Note the different spelling of her last name.)

"It was fun reading old articles about special libraries and thinking about the practices that are similar, or completely different and have significantly evolved," Amy says.

If you have an archival treasure to share, send your photo and its back story to NLN Editor Julie Domel at jdomel@express-news.net.



13 ways journalists are using Facebook (for purposes relevant to their jobs)

Continued from page 5

8. They use FB to locate sources.

Example: Finding local railroad hobbyists. There typically is a group for just about any hobby or interest.

9. They use it to see what political or topical ideas people are sharing.

In addition to the more traditional web sites run by "official" organizations, FB users can connect at a more grass-roots level with people talking about issues and causes. Since it's free and easy to create or join a Facebook group, groups are being set up outside of official web sites. (There's no overhead, unlike a more traditional web site.) Groups can be formed very quickly after a news event for people to share their ideas and thoughts.

10. They use it for "Reporters' Requests" and can reach out to a global audience very quickly.

A Real-Live Example: "I am an Associated Press reporter in Tampa who is looking for people who bought Devil Rays' season tickets for the first time. I want to interview them for a story."

11. They use FB to ask a group of colleagues for feedback.

They are asking Facebook Friends for leads on things, or for ideas and feedback to help frame a story.

12. They are using it as a virtual Rolodex of contacts.

No more need to put an e-mail address into an address book and try to keep it updated as people change their contact information; simply connect to your contacts more easily, through Facebook, when needed.

13. They are looking at contacts' contacts.

Journalists can be connected to sources they may not have connected to in traditional ways.

Getting to Know D.C. - A primer for the News Division

Continued from page 1

D.C. offers a variety of museum options, including the ten Smithsonian museums and galleries along the National Mall (<http://www.si.edu/guides/english.htm>). The Smithsonian Institution encompasses these museums, the National Zoo (<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/default.cfm>) and 8 others in other parts of the metropolitan area and beyond, and holds over 143 million artifacts and specimens. But there are more still in the surrounding neighborhoods! The International Spy Museum (<http://www.spymuseum.org/>) and the National Museum of Crime & Punishment (<http://www.crimemuseum.org/>) are two of the city's quirkier offerings. The National Building Museum (<http://www.nbm.org/index.html>) offers lessons in architectural evolutions and building processes—and is home to some of the most colossal Corinthian columns in the world. And then there's the National Museum of Health & Medicine (<http://www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum/>): founded in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, its 24-million artifact collection includes the bullet that killed Lincoln and Paul Revere's dental tools, as well as a hairball that was removed from a 12-year-old girl. (No joke.) Of course, a must-see is the Newseum (<http://www.newseum.org/>), which covers five centuries of news and news reporting.

While D.C. is just over a mere 200 miles from Broadway, its residents don't suffer for want of theater and the arts. Half-price tickets are available at TicketPlace (<http://www.ticketplace.org/>) for performances throughout the D.C. area, including performances at the Kennedy Center and the Folger. The new Lansburgh Theater is home to the Harmon Center for the Arts (<http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/harmancenter/index.aspx>) and the Shakespeare Theatre Company (<http://www.shakespearedc.org/>), and offers \$10 tickets to patrons 35 years and younger. Recently reopened in February after an 18-month renovation, Ford's Theater (<http://www.fordstheatre.org/>) offers history lessons through performing arts, including daily presentations on the theater's history and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. D.C. also offers a number of free events, including performances through the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage (<http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/>), every evening at 6:00 pm, and the Marine Band's (http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/see_a_performance/marine_band/summer.htm) outdoors summer concert series.

If you fancy flora and fauna, be sure to visit the U.S. Botanical Garden (<http://www.usbg.gov/>), which is home to 13,000 plants used for exhibition, conservation and study. The Conservatory was originally conceived by George Washington, who understood the value of plants for people's health as well as for the health of the nation's economy. An upcoming exhibit is entitled The New Age of Chocolate—perhaps they planned it to coincide with the SLA conference?

Calling all foodies! D.C. has the global menu covered (<http://washington.org/images/publications/VG/Restaurants.pdf>), from Afghani to soul food, and everything in between. Check out ChowHound (<http://chowhound.chow.com/boards/14>) for picks and pans, and make reservations through OpenTable (<http://www.opentable.com>). A D.C. must is a stop to the historic Ben's Chili Bowl (<http://www.benschilibowl.com/orderze/default.aspx>) in the funky U Street neighborhood. If you feel peckish while taking in the museums, plenty of choices exist without having to leave, including cafes at the National Museum of the American Indian (<http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=dc&second=visitor&third=inside#museumcafe>) and the National Gallery of Art (<http://www.nga.gov/gin/o/cafes.shtm>), as well two options at the Newseum, including the fine dining Source by Wolfgang Puck (http://www.newseum.org/shop_dine/about.aspx?item=shop_restaurant&style=d) and the Food Section food court (http://www.newseum.org/shop_dine/about.aspx?item=shop_food&style=a), whose menu was also developed by Chef Puck.

For the fleet of feet, D.C. is a runner's town, with lots of options. While the path along the National Mall offers an easy option—just over 3 miles from the Capitol steps to the Lincoln Memorial and back—the Washington Running Club (<http://www.washrun.org/dcroutes/dcroutes.html>) provides options for off the beaten path. And for those that prefer their touring on the run, City Running Tours (<http://www.cityrunningtours.com/dc/index.html>) offers 10 different tours on the go.

If you're game for the national pastime, be sure to head over to the new Nationals Park (<http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/was/ballpark/index.jsp>), which opened in 2008. While the Nats' first year in their new home was less than, uh, memorable, the ballpark is something to remember, offering panoramic views of the city's riverfront and surrounding landmarks such as the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

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2009 Vormelker-Thomas Student Award winning essay

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(education, information literacy and income levels) and increasingly remote user groups. Despite many contributions to the profession, Michael Gorman (<http://mg.csufresno.edu/biography.htm>), may be best known for his ability to stir the emotions of librarians and library educators and knack for causing public debate. However, one cannot argue with his assessment of our enduring values (Our Enduring Values: Librarianship in the 21st Century, Chicago: 2000), nor with his comment about one of the eight values he has identified as being most important. He says “stewardship of the records of humankind is the one task we have that we do not and cannot share with others ... a duty, that obviously, must depend on a pooling of work in local, regional, national, and international efforts of all kinds. All the work of the creators of knowledge and the preservers of recorded knowledge and information would be for naught if future generations could not decode the texts, images, and sounds that transmit knowledge.”

As a soon-to-be librarian pursuing work in the news and information industry, I hope to drive change required in the changing digital landscape, as well as uphold those traditions and values of librarianship and journalism. The ultimate professional reward being the consequential byproducts of knowledge advancement and an informed citizenry via our assistance to reporters who deliver useful news to people in ways that they prefer.



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People

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Mavis Belasse, Manager, Information Systems at Gleaner Company Limited in Kingston, Jamaica, was elected by her peers in February 2009 “to be the President of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA).”

Tim Rozgonyi, Research Editor at the *St. Petersburg Times*, reports that two news researchers played an important role in the paper being the recipient of two 2009 Pulitzer Prizes. He says reporter Lane Gregory, who won in the feature writing category for “Girl in the Window” [<http://www.tampabay.com/specials/2008/reports/danielle/>], wrote him a note in which “she waxed eloquently on the essential part played by news researcher **Caryn Baird**. Lane talked about the many contributions made by Caryn, such as uncovering sources that were vital to the story, providing important historical background on feral children and helping Lane navigate the public records maze to uncover information that added depth and detail to her reporting.” Lane added that “Caryn is not just a great researcher. She’s got my back. And she makes my stories so much better, every time.”

The staff of the paper won in the National Reporting category for Politifact, <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/>, a Web site dedicated to “fact checking the many statements made by politicians and political pundits.” Tim says that “news research played a major role from the very beginning of PolitiFact,” with his “staff spending many hours getting to the truth behind the many claims made in presidential debates, campaign speeches and elsewhere.” In fact, news research was such a part of the “success of this cool new Web site that researcher **Angie Drobnic Holan** eventually became a full-time researcher/reporter for PolitiFact.” Tim says he is “very proud of Angie and of the efforts made by the news research staff to help move PolitiFact from the world-class idea stage to the world-class Web site stage.”

Notable mentions

Maureen Clements reports that the librarians at National Public Radio have a blog, “As A Matter of Fact,” <http://www.npr.org/blogs/library>.

Linda Henderson was profiled in the Winter 2009 issue of the SLA Rhode Island Chapter’s newsletter, <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cr/newsletters/NewsBrief200902.pdf>.

In the same newsletter, there was a summary of the presentation given by **Jessica Baumgart** at the 7th Annual SLA Rhode Island Chapter / University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library & Information Studies Fall Meeting & Colloquium on Nov. 8, 2008. Jessica spoke on the topic of “Technological Tools and Tricks.”

Getting to Know D.C. - A primer for the News Division

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Plan your trip to the ballpark accordingly—the Nats are largely out of town (http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/schedule/index.jsp?c_id=was&m=6&y=2009) during the week of SLA.

2 D.C. is one of the most photographed and most photogenic cities in the world, and its monuments and memorials are some of the best subjects. The National Mall and Memorial Parks offers 80 historic structures, and over 150 major named parks, squares, circles and triangles. Its best-known icons include the Washington Monument (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc72.htm>), which, topping 555 feet in height, offers views in excess of thirty miles. Dedicated in 2004, the World War II Memorial (<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>) honors the 16 million who served in the American armed forces during that war. Be sure to visit the Lincoln Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson

Memorial at dawn or dusk for breathtaking sights and stirring experiences. The National Mall and Memorial Parks is home to not only some of the nation's historical and cultural treasures, but also to natural beauties. The Mall is lined with 2,000 American elm trees, and the Tidal Basin is famously home to over 3,000 Japanese cherry trees. In over 170 flower beds and 35 ornamental ponds and fountains, the National Mall and Memorial Parks displays thousands of pansies, tulips and annuals.

1 The D.C. public transit system, or Metro (<http://www.wmata.com/index.cfm>), is a great, and budget-friendly, way to get around the city, especially when the summer's heat and humidity hits the city. The Metro's Trip Planner (http://www.wmata.com/rider_tools/tripplanner/) makes getting around really easy. Just one word of advice: if you're standing on the escalator, stay to the RIGHT! For convenience, check out the Circulator, a.k.a., the Red Bus (<http://www.dccirculator.com/routemap.html>), which runs routes from the Convention Center to the Mall as well as into Georgetown.

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