

CONFERENCE ADVANCE

New Orleans...briefly

By JULIE DOMEL
NLN Editor

New Orleans is one of my favorite places to visit. Perhaps that is because I can do two of my favorite things there: eat and learn about local history.

First, the eating, which can be done expensively—and very well—and on the cheap—and still very well. Restaurants of all types abound in New Orleans, but it is most associated with Creole cuisine. The unique flavor of gumbo, a stew, comes from ground sassafras. You might also see andouille (ahn-dooey) and boudin (boo-dan), which are types of sausage, etouffee (ay-too-fay), a roux-based crawfish stew, and jambalaya, which Fodor's compares to paella. Sort of.

Many of the famous mainstays survived Hurricane Katrina: Commander's Palace, Emeril's, K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen, Antoine's, Galatoire's and Brennan's, and still come recommended. You should probably make your reservations now.

Less expensive restaurants abound in the French Quarter, CBD (Central Business District) and Warehouse District (where the Convention Center is located) and other nearby areas. Some tips: you do not want a whole muffaletta, an Italian-style sandwich, unless you've brought a few friends; buy them in quarters. Also, an authentic one uses olive salad. Ordering your po'boy (a sandwich made with French bread and fillings like shrimp, oysters, catfish, etc.) "dressed" gets you lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and mayo/mustard.

Places like Café Maspero, Central Grocery, Gumbo Shop and Mother's are great for those of us on a budget. For more information on dining in New Orleans, check out The New Orleans Menu (<http://www.nomenu.com/>)

Photo courtesy Linda Reinke/New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau



With above-ground crypts, cemeteries in New Orleans are like cities of the dead.

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BY JULIE DOMEL

I am very excited about the upcoming annual SLA conference in New Orleans. Not only will I get to visit one of my favorite cities, but I get to visit with some of my favorite people – all of you, my fellow news librarians.

Most of us work in one-newspaper towns these days, and our own coworkers are the only other news librarians nearby; some of you solos don't even have *that* kind of support. I like and respect my colleagues at the *Express-News*, but sometimes you need an outside opinion or crazy idea that has worked somewhere else.

Yes, we can get some of that from NewsLib or through other connections like e-mail, Facebook — or the phone (gasp!), but it is nice to see eyeballs (even if they are rolling) when having a conversation. Conferences provide one of the few ways to see those eyeballs these days.

I have made some great friends at conferences-past who have proven to be awesome sounding boards and go-to problem solvers. Not to mention the great comic relief. It saddens me to think that because of job changes, retirements and economic woes, I won't be seeing some of these friends in New Orleans. But let's not go there!

This year I celebrated my 10th year as a news librarian and I know how far I've come since SLA rolled through San Antonio all those years ago. I have learned a lot from so many of you, and conferences are a part of that process. I've brought some

of those "crazy ideas" back to my newspaper. Some of them have stuck, some not.

Forgive me the shameless self-promotion for one that stuck. On second thought, onward with the self-promotion! If we aren't going to self-promote our value, who else will! Ahem. At the 2008 SLA conference in Seattle, I went to a session on mining the archives and was struck by Elaine Raines' description of the *Arizona Daily Star's* archives blog. I've been wanting one for our researchers ever since.

The idea has been ruminating and just last month, From the Vault (<http://blogs.mysanantonio.com/weblogs/vault/>) has finally launched. It has been so much fun to write and research the entries. I feel like I

am getting to know our archives so much better in the process – which is making me a better researcher.

Conferences give you a boost in professional confidence. You come home with new ideas and

new skills – or maybe some adjustments to old ones. Don't worry if all of them can't be applied right away. Sometimes it's the process that is important and sometimes you just need to be patient for the opportunity to present itself.

See you in New Orleans – probably through a cloud of powdered sugar at Café du Monde! To quote Homer Simpson: "mmmm...doughnuts!"

"I have made some great friends at conferences-past who have proven to be awesome sounding boards and go-to problem solvers."

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



By AMY DISCH

Perception is everything...

I learned that valuable lesson the hard way earlier this year when I agreed to do an interview with the *Columbia Journalism Review* about the changing role of news librarians. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to speak about the great work our library is doing in a prestigious journalism publication, one that I know the respective editors at our news organizations read on a frequent basis.

I was both disappointed and frustrated however when the article was published online and I saw that the headline was “Endangered Species: News librarians are a dying breed.” (http://www.cjr.org/regret_the_error/endangered_species.php?page=all) Having told the writer the varied work our library does for the newsroom of *The Columbus Dispatch*, including research, data analysis, archiving, training and updating and maintaining a newsroom intranet and wiki and a historic photo blog, it was disheartening to say the least to see the tone the chosen headline set and to know that some people may have seen that headline and decided not to read another piece about the tough times newsrooms are facing.

That’s unfortunate because I know that in spite of our diminished resources and staff, we continue to have successes in our newsrooms. A quick review of recent NewsLib messages and Facebook wall posts highlighted some of the great things we are doing for our respective news organizations.

Washington Post researcher **Meg Smith**, who I had the pleasure of working with on a program at the 2009 SLA annual conference, won first-place in the 2010 National Headliner Awards competition. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/22/AR2010032203315.html>)

Linda Lynn, news research editor at *The Oklahoman*, was interviewed for three videos posted at *Al’s Morning Meeting* on how to mine your archive for news stories. (<http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=2&aid=180410>)

John Martin, news researcher at the *St. Petersburg Times*, earned a byline for an investigative project focusing on the U.S. Navy Veterans, a questionable nonprofit organization. (<http://www.tampabay.com/specials/2010/reports/navy-veterans-association/>)

Debra Bade reports that the *Chicago Tribune* has launched an initiative to generate revenue from the historic photos in its collection. *The Tribune* Photo Archives can be found at <http://tribunephotos.com/> — or become a Facebook fan (search “Tribune photo archives”).

Julie Domel, news researcher at the *San Antonio Express-News* (and *News Library News* editor), has launched a new blog, “From the Vault,” featuring treasures from the paper’s archives. (<http://blogs.mysanantonio.com/weblogs/vault/>)

I know there are other success stories to be told. Share them with us on NewsLib and showcase them to your newsroom. It’s more important than ever that we celebrate our accomplishments and do our part to change perceptions.

The SLA annual conference is fast approaching and I hope to see many of you in New Orleans. Program planner **Leigh Montgomery** has done a fantastic job developing ideas, organizing panels and recruiting speakers. You can find a complete list of the News Division’s programs in this issue of *News Library News*, but the most updated version is on the Division’s website, <http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/conferences/sla2010/index.htm>

Please take time during your conference schedule to attend the Division’s board meeting (scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 2 p.m.). We have many important issues to discuss and I encourage your participation. If you are unable to attend the meeting or conference, please e-mail me at adisch@dispatch.com with your ideas or concerns. I want all Division members to be included in our discussions and decisions.

An Interview with Eli Edwards of Justia



BY HANNAH SOMMERS

If you've attended the News Division's activities at SLA's annual conference in the last 10 years, you've likely had the pleasure of meeting **Eli Edwards**. Eli recently accepted the challenge of becoming the Division's Chair-Elect-Elect, and will coordinate conference planning efforts for the 2011 meeting in Philadelphia. Eli currently works for Justia, a web hosting and legal information site whose mission is "to make legal information and resources free and easy to find."



ELI EDWARDS

What inspired you to become a librarian? (Are you a librarian?) How did you end up in the News Division?

Actually, the prospect of working for a newspaper, doing research and helping inform the public without having to deal with having a byline of my own, was my inspiration for becoming a librarian. Yes, news librarianship led me to librarianship!

I like to say that 'in my heart, I am still a librarian,' and as deliberately corny as it sounds, I mean it. My desire to help people, my information retrieval and analysis skills, and my passion for information access is bound up with librarianship. I don't currently have a librarian title, and I don't know if I will in the near future, but the profession of librarianship is dear to me and I hope to carry the mantle of it for a while.

As for how I ended up in the News Division: how could I not? I wanted to be a news librarian; the Division was a natural place to develop the knowledge and connections and see the *mojo* firsthand. I was delighted to learn how smart, passionate, funny, helpful and welcoming the News Division members are, virtually and in the flesh. Also, it throws the best parties at Annual, bar none — one of my professors in library school told me that when he found out I was going to an SLA conference for the first time (2002 in Los Angeles) and he was not wrong.

What is a typical day like in your world? Who are your customers?

Currently, I'm working for a small company that does both online hosting and SEO work for attorneys, as well

as publishes legal information (statutes, case law, etc.) for free, open access. I work on the 'karmic' side of the company: compiling and editing legal resources and other information, creating or adding to webpages using either a CMS (Drupal, in most cases) or putting in HTML directly.

Right now, I don't hear from my customers — part of what I do is a labor of love for the people involved, who are very involved in the open government and free law movements.

How do you measure your success?

My basic measure: success means things get done; projects aren't stuck in inertia; deliverables are delivered; there is some measure of progress.

Have you had any important mentors along the way? Are there any singular principals that guide your work?

How much column space do you have for this?

I've had several important mentors. One of whom is **Bill Fisher**, former SLA president and professor at San Jose State's School of Library and Information Science. Bill's reputation at SLIS, at least while I was there, was rather fierce — many students found his workload intense and his dry, sarcastic wit intimidating. I decided to beard the dragon in his den and found a funny, smart, supportive mentor and friend. He helped guide me through the program and the classes I felt I needed to take to work in a special library one day, and he listened to me rant and rave and kvetch ad nauseam. Also, he didn't shun me at SLA parties!

Mary Minow has also been a great mentor and source of inspiration for me. One of the things I kvetch about in library school was the lack of a copyright or 'law for librarians' class. Turns out there was such a copyright class and it was brought back AFTER I graduated, taught by Mary. She runs a consultancy focusing on laws that affect libraries (mostly public libraries), such as copyright, privacy laws and free speech issues. We met after I graduated from SJSU and she was a strong advocate for me going to law school.

Last but not least, the News Division's own **Justin Scroggs**. Working with him at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* was wonderful; seeing him every year at

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PEOPLE



BY LIISA TUOMINEN

Gerry Johnson, 27-year newspaper librarian and *Naples Daily News* institution, died November 29, 2009, at the age of 65. He is remembered as a man who knew something about everything — and if he didn't, he knew where to find it. He earned a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Florida, spending his junior year studying at the University of Hawaii. After a stint in the Army as a cook, he attended Florida State University and earned Master's degrees in urban/regional planning and in library sciences. He became the *Naples Daily News* librarian in 1980. Gerry also wrote a popular *Daily News* column about astronomy, one of his many interests, along with history, music and film noir. He retired from the newspaper in 2007, but his archival impulse did not let up. He kept two iPods and computers loaded with old country and blues music and stored personal interviews with Naples historical figures on audiotape.

News Division Chair and *Columbus Dispatch* library director **Amy Disch** was one of the guests on a Columbus, Ohio-area National Public Radio program, "All Sides with Ann Fisher" on Feb. 4 on the topic of the value of libraries and librarians. The show is archived at <http://www.wosu.org/allsides/?archive=1&date=02/04/2010>. She was also a panelist at a central Ohio ASIST meeting on the value of social media for libraries, speaking about Facebook.

Angelica Cortez has been hired as the new Senior Research Librarian at the *Dallas Morning News*. Angelica holds a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and a master's degree in Library Science from Texas Woman's University. She previously worked as a summer intern for the *Dallas Morning News* Library, a news researcher for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and additionally worked several years as a news librarian for the *Palm Beach Post* in South Florida. After a brief stint in the corporate world, Angelica is very happy to be back working in a news-room.

The disbanding Association of UK Media Librarians is holding a farewell party on May 11, reports **Richard Nelsson** of the *Guardian*. Some of the former members have joined the News Division of SLA. The Guardian recently launched its World Government Data site: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world-government-data>. This is part of the Data Blog: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog>, for which members of the Research & Information team regularly write.

Ginny Everett, long-time *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* librarian took early retirement and a buyout from the AJC and returned to her public library roots as a branch manager in the Cobb County, Ga., system. Ginny reports, "My branch has a colorful history - when a regional library was built several years ago and the closing of my community branch was on the table, the good citizens of Kennesaw, Ga., took to the streets to save it. That gives a whole new meaning to 'community library.'" Ginny says she answered one of her first reference questions— and many since — using NewsBank, and is convinced more than ever of the synergy between news and public libraries.

St. Petersburg Times news researcher **John Martin** recently shared a byline on a major investigation. John used all the tools at a news researchers' disposal to show that most of the officers of the U.S. Navy Veterans Association, a tax-exempt charity, cannot be proved to exist. The main project site can be found here: <http://www.tampabay.com/specials/2010/reports/navy-veterans-association/>.

On March 22, **Donna Scheeder**, 2009 SLA Hall of Fame Recipient and former News Division Chair, was honored by U.S. Sen. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) on the floor of the Senate, with two other Library of Congress librarians. Donna was also featured as the Honoree of the Week for Kaufman's Great Federal Employees Initiative, a weekly tradition by the Senator to honor federal

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Cloud Computing

BY DEREK WILLIS

We continue our series explaining some of the increasingly popular concepts in technology; this issue: the cloud.

Cloud computing is the idea that the hardware you use is a server located somewhere other than your desk and is owned by another company. You rent time and space for only what you need or use. It's a little like a time-share, except you're rarely aware that anyone else is "sharing" the box with you. Companies such as Amazon, Terremark, Box and even Google provide some kind of online storage, for example, while a number of firms offer virtual computing environments on-demand. At *The New York Times*, we make extensive use of Amazon's cloud services, but you should investigate all of your options to see what's best for your situation.

Cloud computing providers offer many different services that libraries could use to reduce hardware budgets and make collections more useful. For example, a news library could store backups of its story archive or photo archive using a service like Amazon's S3 (Simple Storage Service) [1]. Some cloud services allow users to upload their data for free and charge only for the space and downloads. So S3 backups can make a lot of sense, since you only pay for the disk space and for downloading your backup in the event you need it. And the pricing? Depending on the amount of data you have, it could be fairly inexpensive. To store 50GB of data on Amazon's S3 service costs about \$7.50 a month just for the space (there's a calculator you can check out, too) [2].

Cloud computing is more than storage on the Internet. It's also very useful for running virtual servers, as we and other news organizations do.

Companies like Google, Rackspace and Amazon, among others, have a lot of servers, but not all of them are in use all of the time. Thus, they essentially rent access to them; customers buy a "slice" of a server, or the whole thing, if needed. What you get is "root" access to a server — meaning you can install almost any software you want, and customize it for your specific purposes — and the ability to pay by the hour, in some cases. At the *Times*, we use Amazon's EC2 service for running many of our Web applications [3]. A software engineer at the *Times*, Derek Gottfrid, used it to generate TimesMachine, the browsable archive of pages from the paper between 1851 and 1922 [4].

Like storage services, most virtual server suppliers charge only for the processing power you actually use, so you could run a fairly simple Web application for very little money (unless it became *really* popular!). If you're considering using some new software or learning a new tool, cloud computing may be a great way to tinker without needing to buy an entirely new computer. All you need is a credit card and a willingness to learn the Unix or Linux operating system environment (although there are Windows-based cloud providers, in case you want to go that route). It's like having your own personal sandbox to play in and learn from. And nobody has to know if you make a mistake — you can just shut down a virtual server whenever you like, and start again with a fresh one.

[1] <http://aws.amazon.com/s3/>

[2] <http://calculator.s3.amazonaws.com/calc5.html>

[3] <http://aws.amazon.com/ec2/>

[4] <http://timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser>

SLA news Division Program for New Orleans Conference

SLA NEWS DIVISION PROGRAM New Orleans, La. June 13-16, 2010

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

News Division Executive Board Meeting

The first of two executive board meetings, as part of the recommended practices of the News Division - one to be held before the annual business meeting to discuss 2009-2010 program.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SLA Opening General Session & Awards Presentation

In this joint presentation, Washington's best-loved couple - James Carville and Mary Matalin - gives audiences an enlightening and entertaining look at today's most important political issues as well as a behind-the-scenes look at Washington politics. Carville and Matalin combine their unique experience as perennial political insiders to provide audiences with a stimulating, candid and provocative analysis of the day's headlines and today's hot-button political issues from both sides of the political aisle for a lively and engaging exchange of views.

7:30 – 11:30 p.m.

News Division Silent Auction & Networking Reception

The News Division will hold its annual silent auction and networking reception; this popular event has Division members' donated items from their news organizations to raise funds for the News Division. Items generally include signed books by journalists, coffee table books, reference works, framed photojournalism and editorial cartoons, children's items, golf umbrellas, to all manner of clothing and the occasional timeshare weekend. This is also a great opportunity for first-timers to meet other Division members and their conference 'mentor-mentee' matchups. Open to all.

MONDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Reality Check: Adapting to changes in media and dissemination

We are leaving behind the 19th and 20th century news model where newspaper content set the topics and tone of the news, which was then delivered by cable outlets or the evening broadcasts by an anchor and then sent to commercial aggregators. Concerns about the closing of news outlets and the 'dumbing down' of news abound, but new models and formats are emerging. The explosion of information should be a welcome one, likewise the tools to manage them, but how? And what are the implications for competitive intelligence and an informed citizenry?

Angie Drobnic Holan, Reporter & Researcher, Politfact.com/St. Petersburg Times

Marcus Zillman, Executive Director, VirtualPrivateLibrary

Moderator: **Catherine Kitchell**, Senior Reference Librarian, Bureau of National Affairs

Co-sponsor: Competitive Intelligence Division

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The All-Digital School Library: Managing Electronic Resources

Before the 2009 school year began, the library at Cushing Academy, a private Massachusetts school, traded paper for ink, going all-electronic. This announcement immediately spurred national attention and a robust debate on the future of books, libraries and the nature of learning and how it is changing. The executive director will speak on this move and its many facets from selection, circulation and management of electronic resources in a library without a physical inventory.

Tom Corbett, Executive Director, Fisher-Watkins Library, Cushing Academy

Ron Larson, Librarian

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Rise of the Knowledge Librarian: A look at Knowledge Sharing Strategies & Roles

Based on their February 2009 KMWorld article, "The future of the future: The rise of the knowledge librarian," Art Murray and Ken Wheaton look at knowledge-sharing roles and opportunities.

Art Murray, Applied Sciences Inc., Chief Fellow, George Washington University Institute for Knowledge & Innovation and Co-Founder, The Enterprise of the Future Program

Ken Wheaton, Web Services Librarian, Alaska State Court Law Library

Co-sponsor: Knowledge Management Division

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

News Division Business Meeting

The News Division leadership will deliver its annual report for its members, and discuss plans for its future.

4:00 pm – 5:30 p.m.

Evolving Roles: Conversations in the Round

Karen Huffman, Senior Applications and Database Administrator, Information Systems and Technology, National Geographic Society & Chair, SLA KM Division

Moderator: **Lu-Ann Farrar**, Librarian, Lexington Herald-Leader

Co-sponsor: Knowledge Management Division

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

News Division Annual Awards & Banquet St. Louis Hotel/French Quarter

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TUESDAY, JUNE 15

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Introduction to Computer Programming for Info Pros

Innovation in the information industries requires awareness of, and increasingly, familiarity with computer programming. The demands may not necessarily be hands on - but librarians need to know basic programming concepts to help manage information, work with developers or automate processes. Brian Hamman, of the New York Times Interactive News Technologies team will introduce you to these concepts and applications, whether for internal presentation or an external audience.

Brian Hamman, *New York Times* Interactive

Moderator: **Kate Arnold**, Director of Patient Information at Cancer Research UK

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Louisiana Newspapers: Microfilm & Digitization Project

Join project directors for the Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers project—librarians from Louisiana State University—who will discuss their efforts at preserving newspapers on microfilm as well as digitization of these formats as part of the United States Newspaper Program.

Gina Costello, Digital Services Librarian, Special Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries

Athena Jackson, Louisiana Newspaper Project, LSU Libraries

Moderator: **Judy Jumonville**, Library Manager, *The Advocate*, Baton Rouge, La.

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Inherent Knowledge Sharing

Mary Ellen Bates will look at how info pros can move beyond “merely” providing information to facilitating insight-sharing within our organizations. Creating a culture of knowledge sharing involves

Service Projects in New Orleans

In an effort to give back to our host city of New Orleans, SLA is organizing three service projects during our conference. News Division members will be present on Saturday, June 12.

Habitat for Humanity (full-day option)

Saturday, June 12

7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ticket #99

Cost: \$105 per person; cost covers a \$50 volunteer fee that Habitat for Humanity collects, plus transportation and lunch. Volunteer fee is tax deductible.

Habitat for Humanity (full-day option)

Thursday, June 17

7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ticket #810

Cost: \$105 per person; cost covers a \$50 volunteer fee that Habitat for Humanity collects, plus transportation and lunch. Volunteer fee is tax deductible.

Second Harvest (half-day option)

Thursday, June 17

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ticket #815

Cost: \$45 per person; cost covers transportation. Volunteer fee is tax deductible.

more than buying a software application; it requires that we understand how people seek and share information and build tools that tap into that info-stream. Hear lots of ideas and strategies for enabling inherent knowledge sharing from our experienced practitioner.

Mary Ellen Bates, Bates Information Services

Moderator: **Amy Disch**, Library Director, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Co-sponsor: Knowledge Management Division

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

State of the Revolution: Constant innovation in the local news landscape

While the format adapts and morphs, journalism will endure. The news just keeps coming. The question is: what do

communities need to know? How can we get as many people as possible to these stories or provide the best information? How best to connect citizens with this information? Join new media pioneers Ben Ilfield and Geoff Samek, co-founders of Castle Press LLC, whose Sacramento Press together with a small core staff and hundreds of community writers, cover the pulse of Sacramento, Calif. They will address their vision, their model, the platform they built, how the news is reported, edited, tagged, curated and circulated online - with plans for expansion.

Ben Ilfield, co-founder and COO, Sacramento Press/Castle Press LLC

Geoff Samek, co-founder and Editor-in-Chief, Sacramento Press/Castle Press

Sponsor: ProQuest

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New Orleans...briefly

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Beignets and café au lait are a must-have food in New Orleans.

Photo courtesy New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

No visit to New Orleans would be complete without a trip to Café du Monde, famous for its beignets and chicory coffee, which is made with ground chicory root, making it more bitter. If left to my own devices, I could eat my weight in beignets, a square doughnut (no hole) covered in so much powdered sugar that sometimes you have to dig for the beignets. Great for breakfast or a late night stop (or both) – it's open 24 hours.

Just down Decatur Street from there is my second favorite food stop: Aunt Sally's Praline Shop. A praline is a patty-shaped candy made from pecans and brown sugar – and that's puh-cahns. No pee-canns here. I recommend the creamy ones, but they are all good and make a great gift for your co-workers left behind at the office. Been there, done that (will probably do it again). My grandparents made pralines, and I've made a few myself; that boiling pan of sugar and pecans is magic.

As for the history, New Orleans dates back to 1718, when Sieur de Bienville founded a port city near where the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico met. Louisiana was sold by Napoleon to the U.S. in 1803, and the Port of New Orleans became wealthy, second in the U.S. to New York. The last time I visited,

a tour guide compared the accent to that of Brooklyn, because of a similar influx of immigrants through the port from different parts of the world.

The Friends of the Cabildo offer a two-hour walking tour for \$15, which also gets you free admission to one of the Louisiana State Museums: The Cabildo (local history), the Presbytere, Mardi Gras Museum, the Arsenal, the 1850 House and the Old U.S. Mint. It's hard to choose among them, but you can often find coupons for reduced admission in the tourist rags. The tour starts at the 1850 House Museum Store in Jackson Square. It will give you a great overview of local history and points of interest.

I've only ever seen Bourbon Street in the daylight — and it isn't pretty — but if you enjoy the nightlife, you should head on down. However, bars and music clubs can be found all over the city.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau has some good maps (<http://www.neworleanscvb.com/static/index.cfm/contentID/732/sectionID/1/subsectionID/732>). To get around without a car, try the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (<http://www.norta.com/>), which offers buses and streetcars, including the famed St. Charles route, which costs \$1.25 and runs every 10 minutes on weekdays. It will take you through uptown New Orleans and by Tulane and Loyola universities and Audubon Park.

If you would like to venture further out, numerous companies offer swamp and/or plantation tours and will usually pick you up from your hotel. The swamp tours are just that, tours of the wetlands, often on a barge or boat. You might even see an alligator. The plantations are upriver from New Orleans, with the more famed ones being Oak Alley, built in the 1830s and known for its oak-lined drive, and Laura, where diaries and first-person

accounts have allowed for a true representation of plantation life. Be sure to wear mosquito repellant (trust me!).

I also highly recommend the D-Day Museum, now known as the National World War II Museum (<http://www.ddaymuseum.org/>). The connection to New Orleans is that the Higgins landing crafts used in all amphibious landings were built there, and examples are included in the exhibit. While the focus is on D-Day, it covers much more of the war than just that. It has permanent and special exhibits and shows two films. On Magazine Street in the Warehouse District, it is a few blocks from the Convention Center.

Also of interest may be the Aquarium of the Americas (<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/visit/aquarium>), which had to rebuild its collection after Hurricane Katrina. It is located in the French Quarter on Canal Street. Not far down the street and of a little more adult interest is the Harrah's Casino, where you can also find food and entertainment.

Lastly, New Orleans is known for its cemeteries with above-ground crypts. The high water table in the area meant that coffins would float in earthy graves. A non-profit, Save Our Cemeteries (<http://www.saveourcemeteries.org/tours/index.htm>), offers tours of the "historically significant" cemeteries Lafayette No. 1 and St. Louis No. 1, but their website has information about several of them.

New Orleans may be equated with Bourbon Street, but it is also a place with pride in its history and its present, and has way more going on than I have room for here. The city is making its way back from Hurricane Katrina, and the locals appreciate the support of visitors. While you can drive through the still-devastated areas or take a tour, please respect the dignity of those who live there.

PEOPLE

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employees for their lifelong and unsung dedication.

Annette (Annie) Haynie reports from Spartanburg, S.C., that the news librarian position at the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* has been eliminated.

Eli Edwards has agreed to become the News Division's Chair-Elect-Elect and will assume responsibilities for planning the News Division's events during the 2011 SLA annual conference in Philadelphia.

Meg Smith, *Washington Post* staff researcher, and staff writer Debbie Cenziper have won a first-place prize in the 2010 National Headliner Awards competition for stories about the squandering of millions of dollars in District funds intended for people with AIDS. The project took ten months of investigation, and took the Investigative Reporting category.

Linda Henderson has been chosen for the 2010 Joseph F. Kwapil Memorial Award. The Kwapil award, the News Division's highest recognition, is given for major achievement in the field of news librarianship and outstanding service to the Division. Linda won the Agnes Henebry award in 2000.

Jennifer Evert and **Justin Scroggs** will each be receiving the 2010 Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award. This award is given to a member or former member for service to the Division and for participation in Division programs and projects.

The honorees will be celebrated at the News Division's annual award reception and banquet to be held at the SLA conference to be held in New Orleans this June.

Scranton (Pa.) Times-Tribune Library Manager **Brian Fulton** gave a lecture entitled "Enough about taxes, let's talk about death," on April 15 at the Lackawanna Historical Society in Scranton, Pa. The lecture covered a short history of the obituary, different writing styles and selected readings of obituaries from the *Times-Tribune* archives.

SLA news Division Program for New Orleans Conference

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Nuts & Bolts of Contract Management

This session will cover basic guidelines for content management in these challenging times. Both speakers will provide pragmatic and "real life" advice for those working in the content management trenches. Contract negotiation preparedness, change management and basic support will all be covered. There will be ample time for questions and answers, so bring your problems to the program!

Bill Noorlander, Partner, BST America LLC

Craig Wingrove, Director External Content, KPMG

Moderator: **Carol Ginsburg**, Managing Director, BST America LLC

Sponsor: Wolters Kluwer

Co-sponsors: Business & Finance, Legal, Pharma, Academic and Social Science Divisions

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SLA Closing General Session & Membership Meeting

*In a lecture based on his new book, *The Big Switch: Rewiring the World, from Edison to Google*, Nick Carr describes how the World Wide Web is turning into the World Wide Computer as data and software move into the internet "cloud." Exploding the narrow definition of "Web 2.0," Carr puts the shift into a broad technological, economic and historical context, laying out the challenges and opportunities that businesses will face as they confront computing's new age.*

An Interview with Eli Edwards of Justia

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SLA Annual is just a joy. But you all know that ...

Do you have a 5-year plan?

Strangely, I do not. I'm the type of person who goes off the beaten path and explores around a bit, perhaps do some back-tracking, and figure out what to do and where to go from where I am now. It's more chaotic, but it's also a chance to enjoy some wonderful experiences.

What innovations inspire you?

Currently, I am so fascinated with the Open Government movement and how Web 2.0 technologies are being leveraged by governments and sunshine groups to make government data more accessible and hold government more accountable. It's also great being on the periphery of seeing people who want

to do similar things with other types of government information, such as Carl Malamud's Law.Gov project.

iPhone or Blackberry?

Right now, I just have a Motorola Razr. And an iPod Touch to play with.

Do you tweet?

Some days, too much; other days, not enough. You can follow me at http://twitter.com/miss_eli

SLA in Philadelphia -- you have 140 or characters or less to make your first pitch:

SLA News Div @ Philly: proven skills + new ventures + emerging tech = relevant journalism for the 21st century and success for ourselves.