

NEWS LIBRARY News

Vol. 15, No. 2/WINTER 1992

COMMON GROUND

Morgue, library, information center: more than a name game

By William W. Sutton Jr.

The "morgue's" days as appendage to the newsroom, or newspaper, are over.

The "library's" days as newsroom and newspaper service department are waning.

It's time for a change. It's time for enhanced service and cooperation. It's time for a commitment to news, and information.

It's time for a News Information Center.

Like many newspapers, the *Post-Tribune* (Gary, Ind.) is going through a metamorphosis. A redesign. A staff reorganization. Content changes. Redirecting of resources.

Unlike many newspapers, the *Post-Tribune* is including our information specialists in that transformation.

What has been known as a "library" needs to change. Whether the name changes or not is not critical. What needs to change is the purpose and a greater role in more general newsroom and newspaper functions.

For those of you who continue to use the term "library," I do not have a problem with that. But I would submit to you that your role and function is more than "a place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials are kept for use but not for sale," to use a definition from one volume of Webster's.

I would venture that most newspaper "librarians" are not little old ladies who work in quiet environments, shushing every utterance above a whisper. Most newspaper "librarians" are involved in, or would like to be involved in, helping to shape newsroom and newspaper direction. I would submit that most newspaper "librarians" have contact with various newsroom employees, as well as employees throughout the newspaper, and with several "librarians" from other publications. They also work to enhance the technology and service to the newspaper company and, in many cases, the public.

If that is true, why would the word "librarian" fit?

At the *Post-Tribune*, one of the changes we made was a change from "library" to "news information center" and from "chief librarian" to "news information manager."

Changing words is not easy. We still have people calling our center a library. The change, like most changes, will take time.

However, the function, the idea, is clear: Change the image of the library and give its staff a greater stake in what goes on in the newsroom and at the newspaper.

Louise Tucker, our news information manager, is a key manager in our news operation. She is included in all manager meetings. She is on the orientation schedule for every new employee. She serves on newsroom and newspaper task forces. She provides input for news coverage, and gives me input for our capital and operating budgets.

Under her leadership, we have changed the image of our center. Like many libraries, it was a place where news staff, and others, dumped things and demanded other things. Not much regard for quality, or for the library staff.

Tucker fostered our change by opening communication. She asked reporters and editors what they needed and expected to find in the files. She and her staff began working *with* reporters to get background research. The result was less background research done on deadline, and a higher quality search for higher quality content.

As that relationship improved, Tucker encouraged non-users in the newsroom to come in and visit. Keep in mind, like many libraries, there was a time when the library was off limits unless you were on the staff. So, for Tucker to invite folks *inside* was a major move.

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Looking to the Year 2000
Information Professionals Chart the Course



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It's hard to imagine summer when I hear about snowstorms in Vancouver and record lows in Minnesota! But it's time to start focusing on summer and our annual conference in Cincinnati June 5-10.

The Division's education program will be Sunday, June 6 and addresses the one issue we all have in common: money. Look for details on it and biographies of our election candidates inside.

We've tried to concoct a nice blend of

"food for thought" in this issue. I hope you enjoy reading it and call me if anything brings to mind another topic you would like to see addressed.

A special thank you belongs to Louise Tucker in Gary, Indiana who prevailed upon her boss to share with us the "Common Ground" article and to Diane Sponsler who took the time to share her good news with us in the "Small Library News" column.

Mona Hatfield
 Managing Editor

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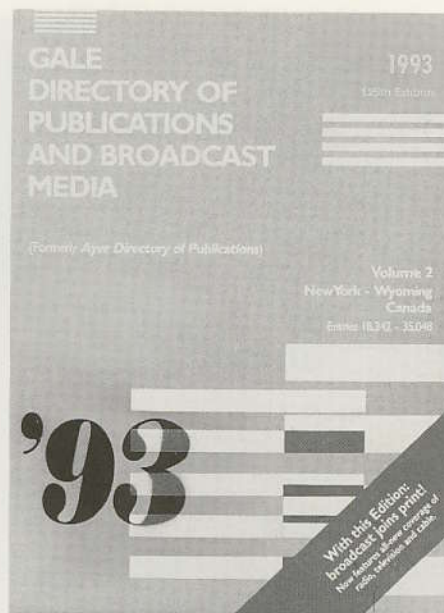
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Donna Scheeder: News Division chair-elect and conference program planning chair

When Donna Scheeder arrived at the Library of Congress in August, 1969 she did not realize that she not only had found a job but had discovered a career.

As the Senior Team Leader for Congressional Reference Services, Donna is responsible for the activities of six reference teams that provide information to members of Congress and their staffs on every topic imaginable. In addition to providing tailored responses to a myriad of questions, the division has created and maintained Info Packs, prepackaged background information on over 120 topics of major interest to Congress and its constituents.

Donna also enjoys serving on a variety of management teams created to improve services to Congress. At present she is participating in a team that is revising the on-line files that track and document current legislation before the Congress.

Donna joined SLA in 1977 specifically to become a member of the News Division. She thought if she could only make her case in person she could persuade many of the News Librarians to help her staff identify articles that were only vaguely described by her clients. This



was in the P.C. (Pre computer) era, of course, and at a time when News Libraries were not inclined to assist anyone outside their organizations.

Donna lives on Capitol Hill, two blocks from the Library. She enjoys going home for lunch to catch up on events in Pine Valley and frequently can be seen walking her dog Spot.

Her love for her neighborhood led her into local politics. She has served as an advisory neighborhood commissioner, and is very active

in local Democratic party affairs. Many division members spotted her on television last summer at the Democratic National Convention.

Her political activities have paid off in the form of some unique experiences including service as an official airport greeter for then-candidate Bill Clinton and being whisked through town in the motorcade, complete with wailing sirens. She attended her first, and hopefully not last, Inaugural Ball in January. As a member of the Civilian Complaint Review Board in the District of Columbia, Donna and six other commissioners hear complaints filed by citizens who are charging the police with use of demeaning language, excessive force or harassment. This experience is giving her a new appreciation for the bible story of King Solomon and the baby.

Donna brings her love of politics to professional issues as well. She served as the Chair of the SLA Government Relations Committee. As a member of a three person team she wrote the National Information Policy Issues papers for the last White House Conference on Libraries and Information Service.

A love of theater and the stage is also evident in Donna's life. While she no longer choreographs musicals or tap dances in public, she does find time to serve on the board of Horizon's Theater, a professional company dedicated to producing works with a woman's point of view.

However busy she becomes, though, she always finds the time to make it to her regular poker game.

Donna is really looking forward to the next two and a half years of service to the News Division and is very proud of the vote of confidence given her by her colleagues.

She hopes to see all of you at conference in Cincinnati this summer.



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Notes From The Chair



By John Cronin

An interview with the Chair

As many of you are aware, it is quite common to review administrations, and their office-holders, somewhere around mid-term. In this spirit of journalistic endeavor, your chair submitted himself to such an interview, which is printed below.

The interview was conducted by J. Biblio Liber, a journalist of such little note, that it will do you no good to search his bonafides on any database known to the journalistic trade!

By J. Biblio Liber

JBL - Mr. Cronin, what are your reflections as you find yourself at the mid-term of your chairmanship?

JRC - Well, JB, I have to say that my admiration for, and confidence in, the members of this division have increased dramatically. During my years as a News division member, I was often impressed with the sincerity and professionalism of the membership. But the support and encouragement that they have provided during my term of office, including my year as chair-elect have been absolutely unstinting!

JBL - Could you expand on that statement, sir?

JRC - Of course. I have an excellent "cabinet", if you will, in the members of my executive board who pitched in from the day of my installation. All took control of their respective facets of the news division with firm, professional hands. The committee chairs whom I appointed also handled their various duties with dispatch and aplomb. I delegated responsibility whenever possible and have not been disappointed.

JBL - Now that you have a unique opportunity to interact with other members of SLA and its various boards and chairs, how are you enjoying that experience?

JRC - The past two years of interaction with SLA has increased my respect for that organization. As you know, many of our division members have served the Association with distinction in many capacities including Annual Meeting Program Chair and membership on several other boards and many committees throughout SLA.

I'm very happy to note that I continue that tradition, having accepted an offer from Kitty Scott to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee of SLA. I'll be writing something in NLN shortly about that.

JBL - What are the highlights of your administration?

JRC - Financially the division found itself in a somewhat precarious state at the very beginning of this fiscal year. But, with the very capable management of our division treasurer, we are now on a steady keel. It did mean, though, that we have to restore the dreaded suite "tax" (thank God, I didn't say "read my lips!").

The membership committee has completed the task of putting out a new directory, which I expect to be distributed early this Spring.

News Media Libraries: A Management Handbook, to be published by Greenwood Press in August of this year, is an exciting venture that will bring great credit to the division.

I will attend the SLA mid-winter to keep an eye on division interests in SLA and participate in the Strategic Planning Committee sessions.

And, last but not least, several member, and non-member, queries over the past few months have been satisfactorily answered. I want to thank the many division members to whom I had to refer many of these calls: they responded admirably!

JBL - Finally sir, what is your opinion on term limitations?

JRC - There's absolutely nothing like a three-year term of office to convince one of the merits of that idea... I support it wholeheartedly!!

Editor's note: Please make plans now to attend the annual SLA conference in Cincinnati this June so you can help John in his adjustment from public to private life!

Patience, persistence make 'world' of difference



By Diane Sponsler

For the last 10 years I have put in a request for new *World Books* for our library. Our set was dated 1974 so it did not seem an unreasonable request, especially since not a week went by without an editor or reporter asking "When are we getting new *World Books*?" Every year the request was turned down, but I never gave up.

One day, when I least expected it, my managing editor said there was some extra money so order the *World Books*.

I wasted no time and in a few weeks they arrived. The library staff was so joyous, we decided to celebrate. I ordered a cake, had it decorated with the *World Books* logo, and titled "Let's Celebrate." We surrounded the cake with the *World Books* and invited everyone in the newsroom to unwrap a book. We also passed the word to other departments. It was a great way to make everyone feel a part of the library and of course when you offer food you make friends forever.

So don't give up. Keep asking for what you want. Someday it will happen and when it does let everyone share in the good fortune.

Editor's note: This column was submitted by Diane Sponsler at The Pantagraph in Bloomington, Illinois.

Diane also reports that the Small Libraries Group program, "Photos and Graphics A-Z," is all set for Cincinnati. It will be Tuesday, June 8th in the afternoon. The program will take those with small libraries from the basic organization and weeding of photos and graphics to electronic systems to how to cope with changes, lack of money, space, time and manpower and still provide the services expected.

The panel will include Bridget Janus of the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Ron Larson of the Wisconsin State Journal and Jody Martin Habayeb of the News Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Ind. There also will be an informal breakfast for the Small Libraries Group sometime during the conference.

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People

By Barbara Hijek

Scofield retires

Jim Scofield retired Dec. 31 after more than 30 years of service at the St. Petersburg Times and 47 years as a journalist and news librarian. Jim is a former News Division Chair, winner of the Kwapil and Henebry Awards and was chairman of the Division automation committee in 1980 that helped establish standards for electronic news libraries. His speeches and articles on news libraries have been published worldwide. Jim also served as Supreme President of the order of Ahepa, the largest Hellenic heritage organization in the world. He plans to continue his service with Ahepa and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Istanbul. He will be in Cincinnati this June for the annual conference. You can contact him at his home: 6100 Sixth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707-2327; Phone (813) 345-9452.



Faces in new places

Mary Ann Skinner, *Newsday* Library Director, is now Library Director and Manager of Editorial Technology. Mary Ann will be managing the editorial systems group and working with the photo and art departments.

Theresa Buehler is the new Library Manager at *Newsday*. She was formerly Library Manager at Citicorp and Kroll Associates in New York. She fills the vacancy left by Elizabeth Whisnant.

Lany McDonald, former chair of the News Division and Director of News Research at the Raleigh *News & Observer*, is now Deputy Chief Librarian of the Time-Warner Research Library.

Teresa Leonard was named the *News & Observer's* new Director of the News Research Department.

Michael Meiners recently joined the staff of library database editors at the *St. Petersburg Times*. Mike was Library Manager at the *Tampa Tribune*.

Jody Habayeb is leaving the *Ft. Wayne News Sentinel* to become the new Library Director of the *Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette*.

Publications Committee

SLA president, and News Division member, Kitty Scott selected Susan Fifer Canby,

National Geographic librarian, as the new chair of the revitalized SLA Publications Committee. Division members Barbara Semonche and Andy Ippolito have been appointed to serve on the committee.

Semonche is also incoming president (1993-'94) of the North Carolina Chapter of SLA.

Research efforts recognized

Research Librarian Jackie McGrath of the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* won first place in the new editorial support category for research on two series of stories at the annual Florida Press Club's awards in October. Research Librarian Mary Ann McCarthy won third place in the category for assistance on a series about South Florida sweatshops and stories about the career of Congressman Larry Smith.

Travel notes

Nora Paul, Library Director of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, was invited by the Swedish Journalism Institute to give a speech this January on the Future of News Libraries. Nora and Tim Wyatt, a researcher at the *Dallas Morning News*, will also speak about public records research at the Texas Press Association.

Washington Post staffers busy

Alice Rabinovitz has been hired as a research analyst. She was formerly with the Congressional Research Service... Research Manager Margot Williams spoke on "Federal Agencies Online" at the IRE/National Press Club Joint Conference Jan. 9... The News Research Center is undergoing a redesign with staff resources divided between the fourth and fifth floor newsrooms. Jennifer Belton and Kathy Foley temporarily relocated to offices in other parts of the building. Redesign is expected to be complete in early 2001 (just kidding!), but the good news is that the lektriers are history!

Also at the *Post*, News Research Center staffer Karl Evanzz is the author of *The Judas Factor: The Plot to Kill Malcolm X*. It was published in November and caught the attention of Oprah Winfrey, who featured him on her show. The book is based on 15 years of research at the library of Congress and FBI Reading room. Evanzz also conducted 200 interviews with people who had known Malcolm X or were involved in the Black Power movement. He presented a signed copy of his book to each member of the staff.

Morgue, library, information center: more than a name game

Continued from page 1

Tucker didn't wait to be invited into the newsroom process. She formed alliances with folks in the newsroom to support the idea that the old library needed help and attention, and that helped get management's attention. She fought for changes, worked with management and helped get changes in effect that were beneficial to the newsroom and the library. Changes that help pull together a partnership of a changing library and a changing newsroom.

At the same time, Tucker and her staff built a good rapport with non-newsroom departments at the newspaper. That effort has continued. It is not uncommon to see Tucker, or a member of her staff, working with a non-newsroom employee.

By the late 1970s, the title of chief librarian was introduced. It gave the old library a little more authority and higher visibility. From that point into the 1980s, we were on the way to making some of the critical changes. In the 1980s, the chief librarian got additional author-

ity to raise standards and to actually manage the department.

In the 1990s, we are totally reevaluating the operation.

Tucker's work led to her nomination as the *Post-Tribune's* 1991 nominee for the Knight Ridder Excellence in News Award. And news information assistants Carol Chisholm and Valerie Johnson have been nominated and won awards in our newsroom's monthly Best of the *Post-Tribune* contest.

The newsroom sees the progress, and recognizes the added value.

Earlier this year, we changed the title of the department and the chief librarian to emphasize the larger role that Tucker and her staff must play in the newsroom, and at the newspaper, if we are to be progressive and successful. No longer will we call on the "library" to give us this or that. I expect the news staff to work with their colleagues in the center to provide them with what *they* need, just as they want provided to them what is needed in the newsroom.

The news information and newsroom com-

ponents of a newspaper are critical customers for each other. Without cooperation, positive attitudes and solid working relationships, no newspaper can adequately and accurately plan coverage, meet deadlines and have a solid foundation of information available at all times.

For a successful industry transformation, there must be a rethinking of the role, involvement and future for libraries, or news information centers.

With the help of Tucker and her staff, the *Post-Tribune* is in the forefront of that change.

Now we need the help of newsroom managers, managing editors, executive editors, publishers and librarians across the nation to help foster a significant change for significant progress.

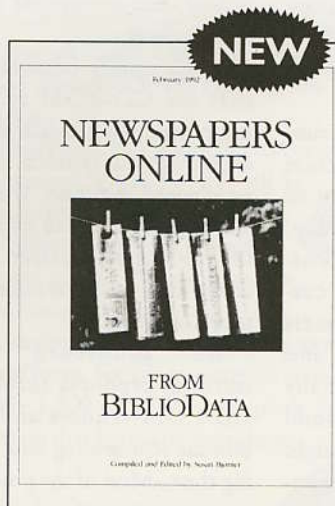
Let's not let it end here.

There's so much more that can, and must, be done.

William W. Sutton Jr. is Newsroom Manager at the Post-Tribune (Gary, Ind.).

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The Vision Thing at ABC: The ABC News Moving Image Collection Catalog on CD-ROM

Editor's note: Joel Kanoff is Manager of the ABC News Film/Tape Library and Archive in New York where he has played a key role in the development of a CD-ROM product containing records of the video and film holdings of the news archive. This was a long-term project — he shares some of the objectives, frustrations, and accomplishments in this column.

By Joel Kanoff

It's quite natural that we are most proud of those successful projects in which we have invested the most energy and attention to detail. At the ABC News Film/Tape Library and Archives we are certainly proud of our ABC News Moving Image Collection Catalog on CD-ROM, now in its second (first update) release. It was a long process from the point of imagination to delivery of our first disks — close to two years. In retrospect, and by today's standards, that was too long — but it must be remembered that in 1989 the CD-ROM, though it had been growing in availability for several years, was still relatively new. We proceeded cautiously.

The original concept was a simple one. At ABC News we license film and videotape stock-shot to producers of television, video, film, and live presentations. Providing current licensing customers and potential customers with a catalog of our film and videotape images shot by many crews working around the world was our challenge. As you might suspect, it is an enormous collection, especially because we save, catalog, and license most of our outtake material (video that never

made air).

Producers at ABC utilize our mainframe information retrieval system — IBM's STAIRS — to find images and program transcripts. Their queries retrieve records of pieces of film or a field videocassette, clipreel, or feed, which help them select the videotape and film needed for viewing or editing into new pieces. The system uses Boolean logic. Stock-shot customers working across town at Sherman Grinberg Film Libraries, Inc. can access the same database in precisely the same fashion.

License customers have frequently told us how much they like using our online system because of the time and effort saved. We knew it was important to take the concept a step further, and place the power of the ABC mainframe system on the desktops of the professionals who needed that data most. CD-ROM provided an appropriate solution to the database size problem and an elegant, non-corruptible distribution medium.

It was equally important to us that the CD-ROM sitting on those desktops emulate as closely as possible the research versatility we enjoyed in-house. We wanted our users to be able to research historical and alternative moving image ideas as well as more specific topics or events.

We "auditioned" several retrieval products through the CD-ROM vendors and service bureaus representing and developing them. Most of the products we saw were robust, fast (at least for a CD-ROM application), and accurate. Not many of them, however,

gave us the sense of "just-throw-anything-at-me" we get from STAIRS. While they all did text searching with some form of Boolean logic, few were full-text in the sense of permitting searches across all fields. In most applications, field names where appropriate data was thought to reside had to be specified. We preferred that all fields be indexed and searchable. Some had user interfaces that seemed arcane and difficult for the casual user or beginner. Mastering costs and royalties (there is generally a fee per disk for the engine and this can be rather steep) varied enormously.

Providing current licensing customers and potential customers with a catalog of our film and videotape images shot by many crews working around the world was our challenge.

What was important for us was a combination of power and research utility and ease of use. In the end, we settled on Windows Personal Librarian (tm) from Personal Library Software, Inc., a program running under Microsoft Windows 3.x (tm) and an MS-DOS implementation of the same retrieval engine called I-SEARCH (tm) from I-MODE Retrieval Systems, Inc.

For the advanced user, we have proprietary algorithms that statistically rank the relevance of a partic-

ular record or document, based on the number of times the requested words or strings occur and the prominence within the record of those occurrences. The user can use these algorithms to pull out hypertextual relations of words and strings without having requested any documents. The name Oliver North, for example, provided a list of related names and terms from the Iran-Contra period, an excellent online aide-memoire for the researcher.

We found these particular products masked their substantial power behind easy-to-use and intuitive interfaces which invited experimentation. They were a perfect match for our purposes since we wanted users to be able to get to specific media quickly or browse and spend time acquainting themselves with the overall collection.

Other considerations were cost, multi-platform ability, ability to run on magnetic media as well as CD-ROM, ease of preparing files for pre-mastering on the initial disk, update capabilities, licensing restrictions, and speed. You might need to think about how well the engine runs in multi-tasking environments or in LAN environments.

Whatever the exact retrieval product or program, full-text information retrieval continues to grow in significance in libraries and archives. As for CD-ROM, there is something terribly satisfying about getting all that information on one small disk...

Programs and Seminars for Broadcast Librarians

Members of the Special Interest Group for television and radio researchers and librarians might want to check into these upcoming programs and seminars. DB

SMPTE: The Society of Television and Motion Picture Engineers (SMPTE) will hold a conference on Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging in New York February 4-5, 1993. For information: SMPTE, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607; phone (914)761-1000.

ARSC: The Association for Recorded Sound Collections will hold a joint meeting with the Midwest Archives Conference in Chicago May 12-15, 1993. For information: ARSC, P.O. Box 10162, Silver Spring, MD 20914; phone (301)593-6552.

Magnetic Media Challenge: Preservation of Audio Tape and Video Tape Libraries and Archives, sponsored in part by ALA and SOLINET will meet May 21-22, 1993 in Atlanta.

FIAF: 49th Annual Congress of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) will meet in Norway May 24-June 2, 1993 with symposiums on: "The Legal Deposit of Film, Television and Video" and "Newsreel Collections in Film Archives." For information contact the FIAF Secretariat at 190 rue Franz Merjay, 1180 Bruxelles, Belgium.

NAMAC: Rewiring the Network — the 1993 conference of the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC) will meet June 3-6, 1993 in Chicago with a focus on technology and preservation issues. For information: NAMAC, 1212 Broadway, Suite 816, Oakland, CA 94612; phone (510)451-2717.

Fast Rewind III: The Archaeology of Moving Images will be held in Rochester, NY July 22-25, 1993. For further information or to submit panel or paper proposals please contact Dr. Bruce Austin at the Rochester Institute of Technology, College of Liberal Arts, Rochester, NY 14623-0887; phone (716)475-2879.

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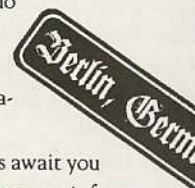


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Two bills seek access to government databases

By Eileen Barrett

At last hope is emerging that journalists will get easier access to the treasure trove of stories in the federal government's computer banks.

Two separate bills are underway in Congress to pry loose information byte by byte. And while success may not be imminent, these efforts could improve access significantly.

The central effort is Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy's Electronic Freedom of Information Improvement Act. The act would, for the first time, dictate guidelines to agencies for releasing electronic information, set appropriate fees, and require that information be provided in a convenient form.

It would cut through the tangle of disclosure policies that vary agency by agency and bring the FOIA, adopted before computers became so prevalent, into the 1990s.

The second bill would be icing on that cake. Sponsored by Al Gore and Charlie Rose, a Democrat from North Carolina, it would establish on-line access to key publications through the Government Printing Office. Its goal: One-stop, low-cost shopping for federal information.

The payoff will be huge if both bills, and particularly the Leahy bill, pass. About 75 percent of the government is automated — more than 1 million computers, according to Bob Dornan, a market researcher with *Federal Sources Inc.*, a magazine that examines the computer industry.

USA Today Editor Peter Prichard, testifying for the Leahy bill last March on behalf of various media groups, cited ways his paper had made use of electronic records.

Through an FOIA request, the paper was able to get computerized information that allowed it to analyze the health of the nation's 11,000 Savings & Loans. Other computer examinations identified America's most dangerous roads and uncovered a rise in crack cocaine use in Americans under 15 years old.

Sometimes federal and state records can be examined jointly to produce news.

After studying computerized state and federal records, *The Raleigh, North Carolina News & Observer* found federal employees in North Carolina four times more likely to be cited for safety violations than private employees. The violations, the paper discovered, could lead to death or serious injury.

But while computerized information is subject to the FOIA, agencies can easily evade disclosure by claiming that records are inaccessible in the form requested or by making the request prohibitively expensive.

The Resolution Trust Corporation, for instance, released a computer printout of S&L property sales, but delayed *USA Today's* request for a computer tape. Because of this, the records couldn't be analyzed in a timely way.

The Leahy bill received a somewhat cool reception from the Bush administration.

"It is one thing to say that agencies should attempt to accommodate FOIA requesters, by

some workable standard, in searching for electronic records," says Steven Schlesinger, deputy director of the Office of Policy and Communications of the Department of Justice. "It is quite another to require

agencies to take whatever steps might be deemed reasonably necessary, regardless of administrative cost, to comply with a FOIA requester's data-retrieval preferences."

The Justice Department would like the bill to require that searches be conducted in a set way, instead of flexibly as the bill would have it.

The Leahy bill would now require agencies to make records available whenever possible in the format requested — a prospect many agencies abhor. And there are some who suggest that no matter what standard is developed, agencies will find a way to duck it.

"If the agency wants to be reasonable now, it certainly has the authority to do so," says Susan Long, co-director of Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). "This bill can be used as excuse for

withholding."

The only way to beat the government in the battle for FOIA requests is to know your data, Long says. Many excuses not to release data can be circumvented by research.

"The first line of defense is we need to have journalists with a greater understanding of computer technology," Long said.

The Gore-Rose "Gateway to Government" act would make that job simpler. It would assign the Government Printing Office to make information access easy. Users would call in, dial up menus of government information, and find their way to what they want.

Some departments already offer a model for doing that. The Commerce Department's Electronic Bulletin Board, for instance, offers cheap access to a collection of basic data, like the current size of the federal debt.

But for the most part, the government's access efforts, while making information more accessible, are also privatizing it and making it more expensive. The government makes data available to private operations such as Mead's LEXIS/NEXIS, and they resell it at high prices.

The Gateway to Government Act would begin by providing cheap GPO access to common documents such as the Federal Register, the Congressional Record, and White House press releases, then reach as far as it could into those million government computers.

Put the two bills together, and a reporter sitting at a newsroom terminal far from Washington could find out a congressman's stance on a particular issue, the pollution control records of local industries, the status of local cases in federal courts, or the financial status of publicly-traded local companies.

A pipe dream? Not really. The data is there. So is the technology to make it available. What's missing is the government's will to make it work.

Editor's note: Eileen Barrett, a Pulliam/Kilgore summer intern, is a student at Catholic University Law School in Washington, D.C.

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A pipe dream? Not really. The data is there. So is the technology to make it available. What's missing is the government's will to make it work.

Copyright registration process streamlined, less costly

Editor's note: Many Division members have been forced to deal with copyright registration for their newspapers. The following article should be food for thought and NOT legal advice.

About a year ago, Richard Geiger at the *San Francisco Chronicle* "got stuck" with the job of filing for copyright for his paper. He got the forms and started filling them out — one for each day, \$20 per day. Needless to say, he thought it was pretty dumb as well as being pretty expensive: \$7,300 per year.

So he did what every red-blooded News Division member would do: called the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress and raised hell. Through this time-honored method he found out that magazines have had a procedure since 1990 called "group registration" that only requires filing a form and paying the fee once a month. Unfortunately, daily newspapers weren't included in that regulation.

Not willing to accept that discrimination, Geiger called the Newspaper Association of America (NAA, formerly ANPA). They connected him with Rene Milam, NAA Manager/Legal Affairs. She listened and said she'd do something about it — and did.

Milam met with the Copyright Office and persuaded them to include newspapers in this nifty deal.

Copyright registration now can be done one month's worth of issues at a time, one form and one fee of \$40. Savings: \$6,820 per year.

Geiger told his boss about the big savings. The boss is proud. Geiger credits his training to all you News Division folks out there.

Geiger's experience is being repeated across the country as newspapers confront the copyright registration issue. Some are finding welcome relief from the old regulations while others are wondering if the lower cost is reason enough to begin registration.

The cost of registration is an important factor. The filing fee amounts to \$480 per year. The Copyright Office offers the option of a deposit account to pay the monthly fee of \$40 so you don't have to cut a check each month.

Registering requires sending a copy of your newspaper on microfilm to the Copyright Office. That microfilm may be an added expense for your newspaper. Check your microfilm contract on that.

Group registration

(This summary is taken from the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 170, September 1, 1992, p. 39616)

A single registration may be made for a group of daily newspapers published in a microfilm format if the following conditions are met:

(A) Registration covers a full month of issues of the same newspaper title published with issue dates in one calendar month.

(B) A completed GDN application form is submitted.

(C) A publication date is specified designating the first and last day that issues in the group were published.

(D) A deposit is made of positive, 35mm silver halide microfilm meeting the Library's best edition criteria that includes all issues published as final editions in the designated calendar month. In addition to the final edition of the daily newspaper, the claim to copyright and the deposit may also include earlier editions published the same day in a given metropolitan area served by the newspaper, but may not include national or regional editions distributed beyond a given metropolitan area.

(E) A nonrefundable filing fee of \$40 is included with the submission, or charged to an active deposit account.

(F) Registration is sought within three months after the publication date of the last issue included in the group.

You also may be losing a microfilm subscriber once you begin copyright registration. The Federal Register entry on the new rule explains, "Currently, the Library purchases microfilm copies of selected daily newspapers. If these microfilm copies can be secured on a timely basis through copyright deposit, a substantial cost savings will accrue to the Library." And those selected daily newspapers will lose that subscription royalty.

Possibly more important than cost are the legal aspects of copyright.

Lack of registration does not invalidate copyright, but it makes things tougher in court. NAA's Milam explains that the amount of damages awarded is affected if registration occurs after the infringement. A registered

copyright that suffers an infringement is automatically awarded a certain amount of damages once liability is proven.

If you choose not to register copyright, you must prove liability AND actual damages on an infringement and then take your chances on damages awarded.

You have the option of spot registration, choosing a month here and there to register rather than registering every issue you publish. Milam points out that spot registration done on a large scale may lead the Copyright Office to revisit its inclusion of newspapers under the group regulation rules.

Each of us must weigh the risks and benefits.

For further information:

Dorothy Schrader, General Counsel U.S. Copyright Office Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 20559 202/707-8389

Rene P. Milam NAA Manager/Legal Affairs 11600 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 22091 703/648-1237

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Philip Moeller, Editor of News and Information Services, has reactivated the Baltimore Sun's search for a Director of Library Services. Interested candidates should contact him at the Sun:

Calvert & Centre Sts.,
Baltimore, MD 21278.
Phone: (301)332-6000.

Barbara Davis, Seattle Times Acting Library Manager, says the position of Library Manager is still open and applications are being actively solicited. Send your letter of application and resume to:

JJ Wilkerson,
Human Resources Dept.,
Seattle Times,
PO Box 70,

NEWS DIVISION CALENDAR

February

25-27: 8th Annual Digital '93 Conference, Washington, D.C.

March 1: Elections committee reports results to board & NLN

Treasurer's annual report due for NLN NLN copy & ad deadline for pre-conference issue Preliminary conference programs mailed by SLA

March 11-13: IRE regional/student conference, Los Angeles

March 12-14: National Institute for Advanced Reporting annual computer-assisted reporting conference, Indianapolis

April 1: NLN copy & ad deadline for spring issue

April 15: NLN conference special to be mailed first-class

April 20: Chair's annual report due to SLA Division Cabinet Chair

May 15: NLN spring issue to be mailed

June 5-10: SLA annual conference, Cincinnati

June 6-9: NAA Technical show, New Orleans

June 3-6: IRE national conference, New York City

July 1: NLN copy & ad deadline for summer issue; Cincinnati conference coverage

The 1993 News Division membership directory is on its way to you. If you don't receive one by mid-March, please contact Kee Malesky.

Public Relations Committee Report

By Nora Paul

Bulletin board use analyzed

The SLA/News Division's noble (some would say misguided) attempt to have a bulletin board area on CompuServe's Journalism Forum has ended. The systems operator of the Journalism Forum was disappointed with the amount of activity by SLA/ND members. The anticipated draw of News Division members just didn't happen. There were a handful of SLA/NDers who showed up regularly. The rest stayed away.

This could have been anticipated had we conducted the bulletin board survey before we negotiated with J-Forum, rather than after. Only 13 News Division members returned the survey on use and interest in bulletin boards. Those 13 reported that "no time" and "no money" are the number one and two barriers to use of bulletin boards.

Clearly, this is not enough of a return to make any real conclusions, except, perhaps, for the most glaring: BBS, an idea whose time hasn't yet come, to SLA/News Division members anyway.

This is obviously a problem but it does not mean we are banished from the Journalism Forum; only that we do not have a separate message area. Those who are interested can and should hang out a bit, post messages and talk with the journalists gathered there. We can still submit documents, lists, bibliographies to the libraries on J-Forum. They can be searched globally now, so it doesn't much matter where they sit.

The e-mail area of CompuServe is an excellent and cost effective alternative to leaving a message in a voice-mail box and playing phone tag. At the \$7.95 a month basic services rate, you can post and receive messages. It could be used for posting messages of interest to SLA/ND members. It is being tried to connect AXS software users.

The bottom line is that we need a much clearer picture of the News Division's interest and ability to connect in cyberspace.

Time, cost and lack of equipment are obstacles. But, if we don't start joining the conversations going on among journalism professionals on J-Forum, Internet and other places, we run the risk of being out of the loop ... again. There is an opportunity here to lead the way, but it fades as more and more journalists discover bulletin boards.

The members of the bulletin board sub-committee, Gay Nemeti, Michelle Quigley, Richard Geiger, Janice Paiano and I, would be happy to discuss any ideas with you. Leave a message on our voice mail box and we'll get back to you!

Division member activities

Over the past year, other news librarians and I have been able to get out the word about news research.

Indiana Institute for Advanced Reporting: Debbie Wolfe, researcher at the *St. Petersburg Times*, and I spoke about computer assisted research to a gathering of more than 120.

Investigative Reporters and Editors: Mary Kate Leming, library director at the *Palm Beach Post*, spoke about database research and Mona Hatfield, library director at *The Advocate*, Baton Rouge, spoke on how to convince management to support computer-assisted journalism to more than 200 print and broadcast journalists.

South Carolina Press Association: Elizabeth Whisnant, late of *Newsday* and now freelancing in Columbia, S.C., and I had a day-long seminar on databases, public records and bulletin board services for about 40 South Carolina journalists.

Society of Professional Journalists: Elisabeth Donovan, research manager at the *Miami Herald*, spoke about how the database resources of 1992 would have aided her when she was researching Watergate for Woodward and Bernstein in 1972. It was an overflow crowd.

Texas Press Association: Tim Wyatt, researcher at the *Dallas Morning News*, presented a talk on public records databases at the annual convention in January.

Digital '93: Kathy Foley, Deputy News Research Center Director at the *Washington Post*, spoke on photo archiving issues.

I spoke to the Stockholm University School of Journalism in January on the future of the news library. More on what is going on in Scandinavia is scheduled for the next News Library News.

News Division liaison with the Associated Press

I am a consultant with the Associated Press. They want advice about the development of their "Leaf Preserver" photo archive software and on the best way to get a photo database started in their library.

Devising a way to ensure the consistent and thorough inclusion of AP header information is critical. Without complete and accurate information about the photo from AP, the efficiency and effectiveness of any photo database using their data will be drastically impaired. If you have any thoughts, suggestions or concerns about AP's move into photo databases, please contact me (813-821-9494), AP's Photo Library Director Kevin Kushel (212-621-1916) or Claudia DiMartino, AP/Leaf Preserver project director (212-621-1989).

NOMINEES FOR DIVISION OFFICE

Election ballots have been mailed. They are due back to Polly McGee no later than April 1, no fooling!

CHAIR-ELECT

Mary Kate Leming



Mary Kate Leming has been with the *Palm Beach Post* since 1987 as library director. From 1985-1987 she was with the *Boca Raton News*, where she established the news library. Previously she worked in public and academic libraries. For about five years she was a full-time, self-employed musician.

Leming is a past president of the Florida News Librarians' Association, and is currently a board member of the Florida Press Club. She has been a member of the News Division Elections Committee and is currently a member of the Education Committee.

This past year ASNE acknowledged her role in preserving the archives of the *Miami News*. She also received the Green Eyeshade Award from the Atlanta Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for her work as a team member in the spot news coverage of the William Kennedy Smith trial. She recently has assumed the responsibilities of the Computer Assisted Reporting Coordinator position at the Post.

TREASURER

Lu-Ann Farrar

Lu-Ann Farrar has been chief librarian at the *Lexington Herald-Leader* since 1987. Her career at the Herald-Leader began in 1981 as a news assistant.

She moved to the library in 1983.

Farrar has organized a student intern program and developed and integrated the use of Macintosh computing in the library. She initiated, organized and currently supervises Herald-Leader Research Service, a for-profit information brokering enterprise. She also has been a speaker in the News Division.



Jo Reitman

Jo Reitman is manager, News Information Center, for the Journal/Sentinel Inc., publishers of the *Milwaukee Journal* and the *Milwaukee*

Sentinel. She has been with the Journal/Sentinel Inc. since 1979.

Reitman has been an active member of SLA since she joined the News Division in 1980. She is immediate past president of the Wisconsin Chapter and is currently editing its bulletin, the Wisconsin Slant. She has served, since 1985, as treasurer of the Beta Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, a national library science honor society. Reitman was a candidate for secretary of the News Division in 1986.



DIRECTOR, EDUCATION

Debra Bade

Debra Bade has been Reference/Special Projects Librarian at the Cable News Network (CNN) headquarters in Atlanta since 1989. The library combines archiving and researching video images used on CNN air with the traditional reference and extensive database research services now so in demand from all types of news libraries. Bade provides information services for CNN reporters and producers around the world as well as for other Turner Broadcasting System employees. Prior to 1989 she worked in the libraries of the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, and the University of Wisconsin Journalism School in Madison.

Bade's past-life includes graduate work in public health and a stint in the Peace Corps. Professional memberships include the American Library Association; American Society of Information Specialists; and the Association of Moving Image Archivists.

Bade helped initiate a News Division Special Interest Group for Radio and Television librarians. She has been a contributing editor to *News Library News* since 1990. In 1992 she was nominated to attend the Snowbird Leadership Institute, an annual leadership and development seminar for librarians held in Snowbird, Utah.



Jo Cates

Jo Cates is Director of the Transportation Library at Northwestern University. She was Chief Librarian of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies from 1985-1991, where she developed and led the Institute's first news library seminars. She also has served as head of Reference at the Lamont Library at Harvard College and has worked as a reporter and editor in Boston. (Her first newspaper job in Boston was selling personal ads for the *Boston Phoenix*).

Cates is the author of *Journalism: A Guide to the Reference Literature* (Libraries Unlimited, 1990), an award-winning reference book. She has been a speaker in the News Division, is a member of AEJMC (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication), editor of the Transportation Division Bulletin and a member of the Transportation Research Board (National Research Council) in D.C. In addition, she has developed an offsite library instruction program and teaches a "Police-Press Relations" class at Northwestern.



1993 Continuing Education Program: Developing and Marketing News Library Products and Services

What's it take to change a news library from a budget drain to a revenue generator?

News libraries and research centers across the country are taking the plunge into information marketing and product development and the News Division's education program June 6 in Cincinnati will show you why and how.

Developing and Marketing News Library Products and Services will include sessions on how to talk management into — or out of — the idea, how to set up shop and make yourself known to clients, how to schedule and price your work, and how to be alert for legal and ethical pitfalls.

A panel of big thinkers will talk about the possibilities for new approaches and new products and should spark a few ideas for your own operation.

Real-life examples of what you can do and what it takes to do it, will be displayed. Look for sample budgets, proposals, promotional material, logos, rate schedules, and products.

If you are doing information marketing at any level, please send some samples of your work to include in this display. Send your samples to: Dargan Richards, Library, *State-Record* Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202.

BYLAWS AMMENDMENTS 1992 OFFICIAL RESULTS

To delete special language for the term of office of directors:

For - 222 Against - 0

To add program planning as a responsibility of chair-elect:

For - 220 Against - 2

To add a Director-Education and a Director-Publications:

For - 221 Against - 1

To change quorum requirement for business meetings. For - 215 Against - 7

To require that two past Chairs serve on the Awards committee:

For - 208 Against - 13*

* One ballot did not vote on the last amendment.

Total members voting - 222
Approximate percentage of News Division membership - 30%.

Respectfully submitted, Linda L. Henderson Bylaws Chair

News Division, SLA
c/o Mona Hatfield
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