Chair’s Column
By Samuel G. Boltik, boltik.sam@epa.gov

Greetings ERMD members!

I am glad to have this opportunity to write to you all so that I may touch base on the upcoming conference and extend my thanks to the membership, advisors, and the other ERMD board members for your interest and participation in ERMD and SLA overall. I’d like to welcome Abbey Gerken, Chair-Elect, and Eric Tans, Director who joined board here for 2014, as well as offer my thanks to our Past Chair, Mary Maguire and our Newsletter Editor, Bobbi Weaver for helping me overcome challenges and bring this article to you.

If you are reading this and are not yet a member of ERMD, I’d like to invite you to consider adding division membership when you next renew.

Here it is early May and the year is blazing onward, but the morning news – showing video of the extreme weather and tornados in the plains states, late season snows in Colorado and quick transitions of some 30 degree or more on the East Coast reminds me of the topic of last summer’s annual conference Spotlight Session; “Researching Emerging Issues: Climate Change through a Kaleidoscope” and kick starts even more thoughts of this year’s conference in Vancouver, BC.

I hope that all of you are preparing for the annual conference in Vancouver. It will be a full several days, with our Division Board Meeting and Division Business Meeting scheduled on the morning of Saturday June 7 and a plethora of great sessions offered throughout the conference June 8-10.

This year’s DERM Business Meeting on Saturday, June 7 at 10:00am will also include a presentation of "A Hot 30 in 30 Minutes" Environmental Website Highlights on a range of hot topics and emerging issues of interest to the environmental community, information professionals and concerned citizens. I invite all of you who are going to be in Vancouver to come to this session.

[continued on page 5]
Greetings:

This year is moving fast for me. In a few short weeks, we’ll be meeting in Vancouver. I wasn’t sure I would be attending this year, but I am grateful to win a travel grant from the Legal Division.

This trip will be my first to Vancouver. Although I’ve been to other cities in the Pacific Northwest, I never made it to Vancouver. I’m looking forward to meeting with SLA colleagues and exploring a new city.

Special thanks to the contributors of this issue:

- Samuel G. Boltik
- Kate Dougherty
- Debbie Jan
- Bobbi Weaver
Kate Dougherty to present session at international librarians’ conference

By Bobbi A. Weaver, baw@cswl.edu & Kate Dougherty, kmdoughe@uark.edu

ERMD Director, Kate Dougherty, will be presenting a session at the Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML 2014)(http://www.isast.org/) in Istanbul at the end of May.

The session will be on the topic of the use of visualization by information professionals. Specifically, she will discuss a Google mapping project, which was a collaboration between the libraries and the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) at the University of Arkansas. The map represented data on the international students’ countries of origin, and was then embedded on the OISS’ web site. It was also displayed on a large touch screen in the student union during the University’s International Education Week.

Congratulations, Kate, and have a safe trip to Istanbul.
Running out of time to plan my trip, I decided to check YouTube® for some travel videos about Vancouver. Below are some links to videos featuring things to see, places to eat, and people of Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Vancouver, B.C., Canada** (Lonely Planet, Mar. 6, 2012), 3:45, [http://alturl.com/ndo9p](http://alturl.com/ndo9p)
—Lonely Planet host, Robert Reid, takes viewers on a quick trip through Vancouver and its surroundings.

**10 Coolest Things to do in Vancouver BC, Canada** (TravelTherapy TV, Apr. 30, 2013), 2:32, [http://alturl.com/pgh95](http://alturl.com/pgh95)
—Karen Schaler, editor of TravelTherapy.com, gives viewers a “top 10” list, including trendy hotels, eateries, and shopping, as well as local nature sights.

—Along with some of the sights featured in the other videos, this clip also features some of the cultural activities one can enjoy in the city.

—Short music video featuring some of the many sights of Vancouver.

—This video clip features the shopping, food, and entertainment available in Granville Island, one region of the city of Vancouver.

—This video clip features the shopping, food and culture of Vancouver’s Chinatown.

**Life of Stanley Park** (Rajat Sharma & Trevor Zhang, Jan. 21, 2012), 6:57, [http://alturl.com/c4m37](http://alturl.com/c4m37)
—Though not as polished as some of the marketing films, this short documentary provides a lot of good information about Stanley Park, including the wildlife species that live within this park in an urban setting.

**Green Spaces of Vancouver** (Canada Explore, Dec. 10, 2009), 2:30, [http://alturl.com/jdftx](http://alturl.com/jdftx)

—This video set to music features photos from Queen Elizabeth Park ([https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/queen-elizabeth-park.aspx](https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/queen-elizabeth-park.aspx)).

—If you have any energy left by nightfall, this video clip features some of Vancouver’s famous night spots.

—This short clip features the various modes of transportation for traveling around the city. For more information on public transit in Vancouver, visit the TransLink page at [http://www.translink.ca/](http://www.translink.ca/).
The division is also co-sponsoring a couple of great sessions. “The Science of Politics and Sustainable Seafood” is scheduled for Sunday, June 8 at 1:30 pm with the Biomedical & Life Sciences Division as the lead and the session entitled “Digital Government Strategy: Building a 21st Century Platform to Better Serve Our Constituencies”, with the Government Information Division and Taxonomy Division, scheduled for Tuesday June 10 at 2 pm. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference and encourage you to attend these sessions.

Another key meeting that will occur in Vancouver in June 2014 is a planning meeting for the 2015 SLA Conference that will be held in Boston, MA. Our Chair-Elect, Abbey Gerken, is our lead planner for that upcoming conference and I know that she would be glad to receive input from all of you about potential topics and interests for that conference as well.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the division. If anyone has thoughts or ideas to share, would like to discuss ERMD business, or may be interested in becoming more involved through volunteering or board participation, please feel free to contact me. Contact information for members of the board is located on the ERMD Website.
If anyone is interested in joining me, I plan to volunteer at the First United Church Community Ministry Society in Vancouver on Wed., June 11, 9am-1pm. I planned on helping with internet research, which involves searching for obituaries and updating contact information. However, if others want to join me, I’m flexible.

I have communicated by email with the center. It can use a few of us for a one-time volunteer activity. Here are the categories as proposed:

--1 to 4 people helping with Meals & Hospitality
--1 to 2 people helping at the main reception window
--1 to 2 people helping with computer research (as described above)

For those with mobility issues, the representative indicated that one of the reception window volunteers could be sitting as well as one or two of the computer researchers.

First United Church
Community Ministry Society
350 E. Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC
http://firstunited.ca/

Information about the center is available at http://firstunited.ca/. You can also email volunteers@firstunited.ca to learn more about the volunteer opportunities. It appears to be accessible via the Route 135 bus (http://www.translink.ca/). If you are interested, please email me your contact information. We can meet somewhere and travel on the bus together. My personal email is bobbiannweaver@gmail.com.

I usually try to volunteer each year with a community group. I think it is a good way to give back to our host cities and meet the people who live there. I’m not volunteering as part of any unit, but I thought I would extend the invitation to anyone who would like to join me.

Thank you.
Notes from the SLA 2014 Pre-Conference Webinar
By Bobbi Weaver, baw@cwsl.edu

The Business & Finance Division along with the Baseball Caucus presented a pre-conference webinar on Wed., May 14. The program was sponsored by Springer (http://rd.springer.com). Stay tuned for notices on Springer’s “Lunch and Learn” programs.

Patricia Cia and Christina de-Castell from the Western Canada Chapter presented some great tips about visiting Vancouver. Patricia started by highlighting some of the transportation issues and some of the sights to see while visiting.

Patricia indicated that the Convention Centre is located on the waterfront. English is the most commonly-spoken language in Vancouver, but about 17 percent of its people speak Mandarin Chinese. She also noted that alcohol is not sold in drugstores or grocery stores but in designated shops.

With reference to climate, Patricia indicated that Vancouver usually enjoys a moderate climate of about 15-21°C or 58-69°F. She advised to bring an umbrella or a rainproof jacket for rainy weather as well as sunglasses for sunnier days. She also advised to bring a light jacket in the event the temperature drops a little.

Canadian dollars and coins are used in Vancouver, but pennies are no longer given in change. Currency can be exchanged at the airport, most banks, and currency exchanges throughout the area. Patricia noted that credit and debit cards are widely-accepted.

When first arriving at the Vancouver Airport from outside of Canada, travelers will have to first go through customs, Patricia indicated. She also noted that the walk from customs to the baggage claim area is rather lengthy. Transportation options from the airport to the Convention Centre and area hotels include the Canada Line train to the Waterfront or City Centre station ($9), taxi (around $35) or town cars ($45). For attendees using the Canada Line train and exiting at the Waterfront Station, Patricia advised to look for the “Way Out” sign, and then go to the left for the Granville St. exit and right for the Cordova St. exit. Information about the Canada Line and other mass transit in Vancouver can be found at http://translink.ca.

Patricia also gave some safety tips. She noted that because of the moderate climate, Vancouver tends to attract many panhandlers and mentally ill people. She urged attendees to use common sense by walking with someone at night, removing your conference badge when outside of the Convention Centre, and leaving your conference bag in your room when exploring the city.

For attendees planning to rent a car, she noted that parking in the downtown area is very expensive. She advised renting a vehicle after the conference when you intend to leave the downtown area.

Patricia also noted some of the neighborhoods to see in Vancouver. She indicated that Chinatown is in the downtown area, and it is best to visit during the day when the shops are open. She added that it is possible to walk over the bridge to Granville Island, but the walk will take about an hour from the Convention Centre area. For those who do not want to walk, Patricia indicated that ferry service is available. (See, False Creek Ferries at http://www.granvilleislandferries.bc.ca/ for schedule, route, and fare information).


Christina de-Castell of the Western Canada Chapter spoke next, and featured dining and sight-seeing options. She indicated that there would be various dine-arounds on Saturday and Tuesday, and that the chapter would also be holding “tour-arounds” on Saturday. The tour-arounds will include the following:

- Downtown in-person & in books
- Vancouver Aquarium library
- Richmond Night Market
- Granville Island

[continued on p. 8]
Christina noted some of the main sights to see in Vancouver include—

- Gastown (http://www.gastown.org/)
- Vancouver Art Gallery (https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/)
- Vancouver Aquarium (http://www.vanaqua.org/) and Stanley Park (http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx)
- English Bay and the Seawall (https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/seawall.aspx)
- Science World (http://www.scienceworld.ca/)
- The Museum of Anthropology (http://www.moa.ubc.ca/)
- Capilano Suspension Bridge (http://www.capbridge.com/)
- Grouse Mountain (https://www.grousemountain.com/)

Christina noted that the last two sights listed above are outside of the downtown area, but there are tour buses available to take travelers to these areas. Additional information about visiting Vancouver for SLA 2014 can be found at http://vancouver.sla.org/.

Dee Magnoni, Chair of the SLA 2014, was the final speaker for the webinar. She spoke about conference highlights.

She gave some pointers for first-time conference attendees. She encouraged them to bring a lot of business cards. When distributing business cards, she urged attendees to make a note on them to give the context of how you met the card’s recipient.

Dee also encouraged first-timers to attend the events geared toward them as well as other good networking opportunities. She urged them to visit open houses and go to the business meetings of their divisions.

Dee noted that the continuing education classes were being held on Fri. June 6 and Sat. June 7, prior to the conference. The classes will be featuring topics such as copyright and knowledge management.

The theme for this year’s conference is “Beyond Borders.” Dee added that this theme encompasses the idea of working across cultures and industries as well as geographic borders. She noted that each day of the conference would feature programs from three sub-themes: embedded information services (Sun., June 8); digital content and Big Data (Mon., June 9), and leadership in the Human Age (Tues., June 10).

The opening session on Sunday, June 8, 9-11 am, will feature a keynote speech by John Wilbanks (http://www.ted.com/speakers/john_wilbanks). Presentation of the various awards will also be made during this session.

Dee added that this year’s conference will feature a variety of “Quick Takes.” These programs are short, 15-minute sessions that will provide a brief introduction to a particular topic.

She noted that the Info-Expo hall will feature a variety of vendors that support information professionals. She also discussed programs focusing on global issues; science and technology issues; and arts, humanities and social sciences issues.

Dee accentuated the importance of networking at the conference. She noted the various units would be hosting open houses. There will also be a Social Media Lounge, tours on Saturday and Wednesday, and an opportunity to meet the SLA board candidates.

In her conclusion, Dee commented on the leadership and SLA business sessions for SLA 2014. She indicated that the SLA Board meeting would be held on Sat., June 7, 10 am to 4 pm. On Monday, June 9, the Division and Chapter cabinets would be meeting separately from 5:30 to 6:15 pm and coming [continued on p. 9]
Pre-conference webinar

[continued from p. 7]

together for a joint meeting at 6:15-7 pm. The 2014 annual business meeting will be held on Tues., June 10, 4-5 pm, followed by the closing session.


Reviewed by Bobbi Weaver, baw@cwsl.edu

In his book, Moskowitz, a professional wildlife tracker and photographer, presented a detailed account of his observations of wolves in various habitats in the Pacific Northwest. The book is supplemented with excellent photographs of wolves as well as other fauna and flora in their habitats.

The author observed and documented wolves in packs living in the U.S. states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and the Canadian province of British Columbia. The book begins with a timeline on the evolution of the wolves of the Pacific Northwest. This chronology begins approximately 1.8 to 2.5 million years ago when wolves and coyotes became two separate species and the ancestors of today's Pacific Northwest wolves migrated to Eurasia. The timeline ends in 2011-2012, when the states of Washington and Oregon estimated their wolf populations to be about 30 animals each, and Idaho began a hunting and trapping program, which reduced the state's wolf population by 50 percent.

The back-and-forth relationship between the wolves and humans is noted at several points throughout the book. When the Western U.S. was settled in the early 19th Century, the fur trade began to flourish. Wolves were hunted for their pelts and became scarce by the beginning of the next century, Moskowitz wrote.

In the 1960s, British Columbia instituted a wolf-eradication program, which virtually eliminated the wolf population on Vancouver Island. In the U.S., in 1978, wolves were listed as endangered and given some protection under the Endangered Species Act, but were later removed from the endangered list in 2009.

Over the years, wolves have moved and adapted to various habitats, including areas in the Pacific Northwest, Moskowitz wrote. He described the behaviors, prey and habitat of wolves in this region.

In some chapters of the book, Moskowitz described the wolf packs from various sub-regions within the Pacific Northwest. In Chapter 5, he wrote about the wolves inhabiting the Central Coast of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. One interesting observation he noted was how the wolves' behavior and prey varied somewhat because of the marine environment of the area. Though ungulates were still the wolves primary source of prey, they had also been observed hunting for salmon in shallow waters and occasionally preying upon other marine life.

Moskowitz also discussed the relationship between wolves and ravens in Chapter 5. Wolves will often leave part of the animal carcass behind. With regard to salmon, they generally eat just the head and leave the rest. This practice is actually beneficial in that the wolves are less likely to contract a dangerous parasite by eating the head only. The remains of the carcass are left for other scavengers, including the ravens. Moskowitz noted that some Native artwork reflects this relationship as well.
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