PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I am closing the year, as well as my term as President, strengthened, transformed and armored with gratitude, a new attitude and altitude for service. My tenure has been steadfast and I have been encouraged because of the mental choices of courage and confidence. There were spirals of ups and downs; however the alignment to persevere and seek the winning challenges was always manifested in our Chapter outlook.

The varied themes for 2010:

- Embracing the Possibilities
- Throw away some of the covers and look ahead
- It’s Good News!
- On the Move in the Alignment Process
- Rolling along into fall: Where is your voice?
- It only takes a few knocks or a few steps to proceed
- Whatever the choice; leave the door open
- Giving thanks for skillful challenges and Leadership

As the year ends, I must say the Georgia Chapter has continued to strive for a greater presence within the Special Libraries Association. We embraced and embarked into new territory within headquarters. Sometimes the tread was “softly” because the “L” image has become so many things; yet we all remain focused in carrying out the mission of SERVICE.

Valuable knowledge has allowed me to “remain” focused as your President. I leave my position but remain committed to the Georgia Chapter and will continue to serve in any capacity.

Quote of the Month:

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity... it turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for TODAY and creates a VISION for TOMORROW”. —Melody Beattie

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It's been a great year. Let's continue to STRENGTHEN the Georgia Chapter of Special Libraries Association. We need your voice!!

Much appreciation for my year of service!!
Regina Woodard Cannon, 2010

Happy New Year!
**MEMBER NEWS**

**The Tanks are coming to Fort Benning**

The Donovan Research Library, Fort Benning, GA, and the US Armor Research Library, Fort Knox, KY, with a combined 150+ years of rich, Armor, Cavalry and Infantry history, became the Maneuver Center of Excellence Library Division on 1 October 2009 as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to move the Armor School to Fort Benning. The Armor School Research Library will be moving into a new facility in the Harmony Church area of Fort Benning February 2011. December 2011 will see the Donovan Research Library, now housed in a temporary fully functioning location, move into a new facility, and a brand new library located in an area adjacent to training for Senior Enlisted Soldiers and Soldiers enrolled in Officer Candidates School (OCS) open.

The Library Division's mission is to support the training of Soldiers and to provide academic reference, doctrinal research, and bibliographic services in support of the students, faculty, and staff of the Maneuver Center of Excellence. The Library Division provides reach-back capability from the forces worldwide to the MCoE.

The collection consists of several thousand books, historical documents, field manuals, military publications, pamphlets, periodicals, student papers, post newspapers and unit histories. The staff's efforts of acquiring, organizing, maintaining, and preserving these collections digitally will allow them to provide access to these materials via in-house and virtually.

Please come down for a visit or check out our website and virtual branch at: http://www.benning.army.mil/library

Ericka Loze-Hudson, MLIS
Maneuver Center of Excellence
Director, MCoE Libraries
G-3 Library Division
NIPR: ericka.loze@us.army.mil
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Member profile: Suzannah Lipscombe

I’m Suzannah Lipscomb and I’ve been nominated to be the next Director of Communications for the Georgia Chapter of SLA. Thank you for this nomination and your confidence in me. I thought you might want to know a little bit more about me. I have an MLIS from Valdosta State University, with an emphasis in Technology. I also have a J.D. from Georgia State University.

Currently, I work for Equinox Software, Inc. (http://esilibrary.com/esi/) as the Project Manager for Software Development. Equinox provides support, hosting, data migration and custom software development for Evergreen and Koha, both open source integrated library systems (ILS). People frequently ask me what open source is. Open source, when referring to software, generally means the code is licensed under an open source license, like the GNU General Public License (GPL), which allows users to study, change and improve the software. Open source software (OSS) is frequently developed in a public, collaborative manner. OSS is usually free, but not always. One example of OSS many people are familiar with is the office suite OpenOffice, sponsored by Oracle. People also ask me what is an ILS? An ILS (sometimes referred to as a library management system or LMS) is software designed to be an enterprise resource planning system for a library that is used to track items owned, orders made, bills paid, and patrons who have borrowed. It is usually built on a relational database with two user interfaces, one for the staff and one for patrons. The ILS usually has distinct modules, based on functionality, such as: Acquisitions (ordering, receiving, and invoicing materials); Cataloging (classifying and indexing materials); Circulation (lending materials to patrons and receiving them back); Serials (tracking magazine, journal and newspaper holdings); and the OPAC (online public access catalog).

My day-to-day job at Equinox involves managing development projects, drafting responses to procurements, meeting with clients, meeting with other staff members, troubleshooting bugs, and drafting and negotiating statements of work and quotes for requested development, writing blog posts about development (like the ones at http://www.fulfillment-ill.org/blog/?p=7 and http://www.fulfillment-ill.org/blog/?p=5) and more.

People also ask me about my career change from attorney to librarian. For me, it was really more about industry change, from healthcare to library. Since college, I had always worked in healthcare in one form or another. I worked for a large, non-profit hospital before and during law school. After I graduated from law school, I went to work for a law firm which had hospitals as clients. Then I went to work for the State of Georgia at the Department of Community Health, doing more healthcare-related work. It was at the Department of Community Health where I started managing projects. I also oversaw and evaluated procurements, managed litigation, responded to open records requests and audits, helped with the overhaul of the Contracts department that involved designing an Access database to better manage contract information and the (continued on next page)
(Member profile, continued)

implementation of electronic scanning for all contract documents, trained coworkers on contract issues, ran public meetings, engaged in strategic planning, drafted rules, regulations, legislation, and policy and procedures, contracts, amendments, and other assorted legal documents like non-disclosure and data exchange agreements, served on various committees, conducted legal and business research, and drafted memos and opinions.

So, you might be wondering what prompted me to jump ship from the healthcare industry to the world of libraries. In retrospect, I guess I had one of those ‘aha’ moments. This ‘aha’ moment occurred after hiking to the top of Dead Woman’s Pass, at 14,000 feet, on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru, when it just hit me like a Mack truck that I wanted to do work which I found more fulfilling. So, I started doing some research and conducting informational interviews. I interviewed a number of local librarians, who took me under their wing and generously offered their advice and time. In no time at all, I was sold! This led me to start work on my MLIS and to become involved with professional library associations, like SLA. As part of my MLIS, I did an internship for a semester at GSU’s Law Library. While finishing my MLIS, I worked briefly as a part-time reference librarian for Westwood College. It was a very small library, so I did I bit of everything, but what I enjoyed most about that job was being able to provide research instruction to students. The business students especially appreciated when I showed them what they could find on specialized business databases, when they knew what to look for and how to find it. I graduated from Valdosta State last December and started working full-time for Equinox in March.

At Equinox, I have the good fortune to work with some very talented, smart, and nice people. Every day brings new challenges and exciting opportunities. I constantly strive to find ways to do things better, faster and simpler. It’s been really interesting for me working for a vendor after working for the state for a number of years, where I was the client. Working for Equinox has changed my perspective on the vendor/client relationship and the software development process, because I have a much deeper understanding now. Simply put, I have more appreciation and respect for vendors now. I look forward to the future as Equinox grows and branches out into new territory. I also look forward to serving as the Director of Communication for the GA-SLA chapter and doing what I can to continue and support the important work of the chapter. 2011 will be an exciting year!

Suzannah Lipscombe
Equinox Software, Inc.

CHAPTER EVENT REPORTS

Sharing Skills and Impacting the Community

Parker’s on Ponce, 116 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur
Sarah Mauldin and Terrence Manion
September 14, 2010

On this fall evening, 28 SLA Georgia Chapter members and ALLA members had dinner together in a private room at Parker’s in Decatur. Over main entrées of oven-roasted chicken, grilled steak, Scottish salmon or rigatoni, members dined, reconnected with each other and met fellow professionals.

Following our meal, ALLA members Sarah Mauldin and Terrance Manion presented their legal information institute modeled after a program created by Legal Research Institute (LRI) in South Carolina called “Circuit Riders.” The program is intended for public librarians. Why? The University of Georgia Law Library and county law librarians offer only restricted service to the public. Within the Fulton County library system, legal research requests are up by 15%. Sarah and Terrance also hope to reach rural librarians who have no access to local libraries.

Sarah’s animated presentation tested our knowledge on the legal systems and the constitution. We found that some of us could use a few reminders from our high school civics class days. Terrence and Sarah requested librarians to review their podcast and give them feedback. The podcast is accessible at:

http://gsu.edu/podcast/index/ALLA

The login is ALLA and the password is LRI2010.

Next steps include collecting feedback, tracking usage, and developing supplemental content.

This joint SLA/ALLA program, “Sharing Skills and Impacting the Community” was conceived and organized by Casey Long, Past President of the SLA Georgia chapter. Dinner participants had a first-hand look at how two law librarians are marketing their skills and bringing value to their communities. [Please note: attempts to contact the presenters for an update on this project were unsuccessful prior to publication.]

Lynda Larsen | Research Solutions Consulting | larsenlynda@gmail.com
Chapter members volunteer with Books for Africa

On August 21st members of the SLA Georgia Chapter arrived at 2971 Olympic Industrial Drive in Smyrna for a volunteer day with the not-for-profit organization Books for Africa. The members sorted and packed books destined to support children in African schools. The books were donated by publishers, schools, libraries, individuals, and organizations, and then shipped via sea freight container to various non-governmental organizations for distribution to children throughout Africa. Books for Africa distributes books to libraries, orphanages, adult literacy programs, and community centers as well. The chapter is looking forward to volunteering with Books for Africa again sometime in the near future so please watch for information and consider joining the Chapter for this volunteer opportunity.

David Thibideau | David.Thibodeau@gcsu.edu

Corporate library closings in the Georgia Chapter

One of the subjects that the Grassroots Caucus (Anne Bao, Deanna Morrow Hall, Irene McMorland) selected as an area of interest was to identify all the organizations (associations, businesses, government, etc.) in the Georgia chapter that no longer have a formal corporate library function. We define this function in terms of the following occupational definition from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles:

CODE: 100.167-026
TITLE(s): LIBRARIAN, SPECIAL LIBRARY (library)

Manages library or section containing specialized materials for industrial, commercial, or governmental organizations, or for such institutions as schools and hospitals: Selects, orders, catalogs, and classifies special collections of technical books, manufacturers’ catalogs and specifications, periodicals, magazines, newspapers, audio-visual material, microforms, journal reprints, and other materials. Searches literature, compiles accession lists, and annotates or abstracts materials. Assists patrons in research problems. May key information into computer to store or search for selected material. May translate or order translation of materials from foreign languages into English. May train other workers engaged in cataloging, locating, filing, or copying selected material. May be designated according to subject matter, specialty or library, or department as Art Librarian (library); Business Librarian (library); Engineering Librarian (library); Law Librarian (library); Map Librarian (library); Medical Librarian (library).

We compiled a list of 29 organizations that we knew had closed their libraries. We then sent the list to all SLA/GA members, asking them to search their memories for any other organizations that should be added to the list. Here is the resulting list of 33 organizations:

For-profit Businesses
- Arthur Andersen & Co.
- Atlanta Business Chronicle
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- BioLab, Inc. now Chemtura Corp.
- CH2M Hill
- CIBA Vision
- Cox Enterprises, Inc.
- Crawford Long Hospital now Emory Healthcare
- Equifax
- Georgia-Pacific Corp.
- Heery Engineering
- Home Depot
- Hospital Corp. of America now HCA
- Kimberly-Clark Co.
- KPMG LLP
- Law Engineering
- Rolls Royce North America, Inc.
- Scientific Atlanta
- Spencer Stuart
- Towers Perrin

Not-for-profit organizations
- Art Institute of Atlanta
- High Museum
- Institute of Paper Science & Technology
- Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
- Lignin Institute
- Massey Business College now Herzing College
- Technical Association of the Pulp & Paper Industry (TAPPI)
- Zoo Atlanta

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Government agencies

- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Federal Home Loan Bank
- State of Georgia/ Dept. of Trade & Industry
- U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

This survey provides stunning evidence of the attrition of corporate libraries in the Georgia chapter over the last 30 years. It would be interesting to know the bases of the decision to close each one. This thought brings to mind the book:


Matarazzo studied five organizations that had closed their libraries, and identified seven "factors which appear to have a significant impact on the decision to close the library or eliminate the position of the librarian" (pp. 137-139). These factors are:

- Decline in the relative importance of the company library; specifically, a reduction in the number of library users due to a change in functional objectives of the company (5 companies);
- Decision to close/reduce the library at the highest corporate level (5 companies);
- Lack of evaluation of library service (5 companies);
- Evidence of the impact of a single individual in the establishment of the library (3 companies);
- Evidence of a financial crisis (4 companies);
- Influence of external library resources; specifically, a perception that external resources could replace internal resources without reduction in service quality (4 companies);
- Different perceptions of managers and the librarian on the reasons for closure or reduction (4 companies).

Looking at these factors from the viewpoint of each company, Matarazzo found that at least five of the seven factors were operative in each company’s decision to close the corporate library, and in two cases, all seven factors were operative. Matarazzo published a new study this year¹ that looked at news libraries in particular, which includes a list of more than 70 news libraries that have undergone reductions in force, or complete disbanding since 2005. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is on this list, showing 15 staff layoffs, and library services discontinued.

Matarazzo received the SLA Professional Award (sponsored by Springer) in 1983 for his book. Given that this book was published in 1981, when the closing of corporate libraries was in its early stages, this book does not seem to have achieved the general awareness that it deserves within the corporate library community.

Deanna Morrow Hall | Corporate Information Resources, Inc. 
dmhall@mindspring.com | 404.297.5727

Closing out 2010: A final thought from outgoing President, Regina W. Cannon

“GIVING THANKS FOR SKILLFUL CHALLENGES AND LEADERSHIP”

Economics can be blamed when there is no place to turn; however if we embrace whatever we do in a positive manner much can be achieved. In a position of leadership it is sometimes hard to envision the responsibility because it is acquired, bestowed, gained and experienced through personal integrity, and knowledge.

It is further enhanced by one’s vision and mission of success. Sometimes we falter; but we get up fully armored with more eagerness and courage to create an assembly of effective skills.

We understand with every experience there are challenges. In the Georgia Chapter we endure complex components within our region because we cover the entire state of Georgia. We overcome obstacles and labor to work towards achieving long range goals and commonality because we know that in the short run there may be some failures.

We can’t all be PERFECT! Don’t steal someone else’s energy… step FORWARD… strengthen someone’s dreams… We are all EXTRAORDINARY!!!

MOTIVATIONAL quote:

“You will face many defeats in your life, but never let yourself be defeated.” -Maya Angelou

Regina W. Cannon

It’s time for the 2011 Brown Bag Lunch Series, sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of SLA

The Brown Bag Lunch Series, a FREE event sponsored annually by the Georgia Chapter, offers an opportunity for you to enjoy a personalized tour of local libraries/ information centers and network with colleagues!

**Auburn Avenue Research Library**
Francine Henderson, Library Director
101 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-4001 (phone)
404-730-5879 (fax)
http://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/aafa/search
January 20, 2010
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Limit -20

**Robert W. Woodruff Library**
Atlanta University Center
Loretta Parham
CEO and Director
233 James P. Brawley Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30314
404-978-2018 (phone)
lparham@auctr.edu
February 16, 2010
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Limit -20

To reserve your spot, contact Clara Williams at 770-407-1047 or crwilliams@argosy.edu
Space is limited, so sign up and mark your calendars!

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