From the Division Chair

Greta Marlatt, Naval Postgraduate School. gmarlatt@nps.edu

SLA 2010 is over and we are now looking ahead to MLW 2010. Many thanks go to Carol Jacobson for putting together some excellent sessions that benefited our membership and all the other folks who attended. Gloria Miller did a nice summary for this newsletter - thanks Gloria! If you missed it, the MLD Twilight Party [aka Vampire night] was a great success and enjoyed by all. We even had two tables of people working on jigsaw puzzles. This was a great networking and socializing opportunity and many people joined in, even if only briefly. One was a flat puzzle and the other was three dimensional. Both were vampire themed and needless to say, both were difficult. I am happy to report that one was even completed...though not the one I worked on!

I hope you have marked your calendars for MLW 2010 in Destin, Florida. Deborah Keller and her team are working hard to put together a very interesting program and will be trying some new ways of doing things so I hope you will come with an open mind. Some of you may have participated in the SLA Habitat for Humanity event which involved spending a day helping a New Orleans community in the ongoing Post-Katrina need for rebuilding. Deborah is investigating the idea of providing an opportunity, for those who are interested, to spend part of a day helping with the ongoing Deepwater oil spill cleanup efforts that will no doubt still be needed by December so watch for that. I know not everyone would want to, or even be able to get the time from their commands, to participate in such events but I think it would be a great thing for the MLD community if, going forward, we were to try to add community assistance efforts to future MLW and SLA events. There are always plenty of environmental and/or community service oriented organizations that need help or we could focus on things like visits to VA hospitals or other military oriented assistance opportunities as a means of giving back to those who have served. Just a thought as we go forward.

I hope you all are having a good summer and taking some time to rejuvenate and for those of you in the "heat belt," I hope you can find some place to cool off a bit.

Dream Big and Aim High!

Greta
Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of Military Libraries. In this issue you will find articles on a variety of topics including the University of Florida’s new Digital Military Newspapers Library, the MLD-sponsored tour of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, a review of a children’s book series, member news, and a short piece by a recent library school graduate who hopes to become a military librarian.

The newsletter content is only as interesting and varied as the submissions I receive, so please consider contributing something about your library, your professional interests and activities, or your opinion about a military library-related issue or concern.

You may notice some changes to the newsletter format now and in the coming months. Please let me know what you think.

I hope to hear from many of you in the coming weeks and months!

Ways to Stay Current on Division Activities

Most of you are probably already aware of the various ways, in addition to this newsletter, that you can both stay current on division activities and communicate with your MLD colleagues. However, I thought it would be useful to compile them in one place:

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*to receive twitter posts by text message on your cell phone or PDA, just text ‘follow SLA_DMIL’ (sans quotes) to 40404 to receive SMS text messages (via Twitter) whenever content is updated.
The Digital Military Newspaper Library is a pilot project at the University of Florida which focuses on organizing, preserving, and ensuring access to military newspapers and periodicals from Florida, Southern Georgia, the Panama Canal Zone, and Cuba. The project was recently recognized as the American Library Association’s June 18, 2010 Digital Library of the Week: http://www.ilovelibraries.ala.org/diglibweekly/.

The future goals of the Digital Military Newspaper Library include supporting contemporary and historic US military newspapers and periodicals from Florida and the Caribbean. Many important historic events are covered in these publications including World War II, the increasing presence of women in the military, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the development of new military technologies. Additionally, several of the contemporary military newspapers in the collection feature articles written by military spouses about the unique experiences of military families. Other culturally significant materials include comics. “Droopy the Drew Field Mosquito,” a comic penned by Harry Lampert, co-creator of DC Comics superhero The Flash, appeared in Drew Field Echoes, a World War II publication at Drew Field Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

The Digital Military Newspaper Library is a sub-collection of the Florida Digital Newspaper Library, supported by the University of Florida Libraries. The University of Florida Libraries began collecting newspapers in 1930, and the goal was to archive newspapers representing every county in Florida. In 2005, the UF Libraries received a Library Services and Technology Act grant, which enabled prior newspaper microfilming to transform into newspaper digitization. The Digital Military Newspaper Library is a pilot project. It began in October 2009 when William Canova, Newspaper Projects Coordinator, was awarded a grant from the University of Florida Libraries. Kaitlin Wilson, a graduate student in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida was hired to assist with the project. The goal is to seek sustainable funding.


For more information about the Digital Military Newspaper Library or to make a contribution supporting the project, please visit: http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/digital/dmnl.

To browse a list of newspapers and periodicals currently included in the collection, visit: http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?a=dmnl&m=hbball.
National World War II Museum Tour

Two division members share their experiences and observations of the MLD-sponsored tour of the World War II Museum offered at this year’s SLA Conference in New Orleans.

Janice Keeler, SLA Taxonomy Division Treasurer, organized this tour during SLA’s conference in New Orleans. Here’s an overview of what you will find at this new and expanding museum. Its initial focus was on D-Day [June 6, 1944] when an amphibious invasion by the Allies from England to the beaches of Normandy in Nazi-occupied France took place. That is still a strong concentration. But both the war in the Pacific and the war in Europe are covered extensively.

The introductory film “Beyond All Boundaries,” narrated by Tom Hanks, plays in the Solomon Victory Theater across the street from the museum. The podium that sits stage right as you enter the theater is in the shape of an old fashioned console model radio. It and the rich velvet drapery evoke the 1940s era. But that’s where sweet nostalgia ends.

The film is a 4-D cinematic experience. No colored glasses are needed. At one point the cockpit of a plane descends from the ceiling and then links to the rest of the plane in the film. At another point you share the soldiers’ winter as the snow falls in the theater and in the film. Vibrating seats, loud narration, the odor of smoke, and light strobes are used to full effect. The film refreshes our memories of the voices that shaped the era and the timeline of events. All of which prepare us for the greater detail in the museum itself.

A caution: this is not a film or museum for young children. The gore and horror of war are not omitted.

When you cross Camp Street back to the museum, you may encounter Al Sutton, a World War II Marine Corps veteran at the front desk. Mr. Sutton volunteers at the Museum and shares his experiences of two tours of duty in the South Pacific spanning two and a half years, which included 41 encounters with the enemy. He was never shot down but his Douglas Dauntless dive bomber was shot up a number of times.

The main gallery features planes, tanks, and the Higgins boat, a D-Day landing craft manufactured in New Orleans. This museum model was built by museum staff using the original mechanism. From this area you mount staircases to the second and third levels and the war unfolds. Oral histories are recounted in small alcoves, which lend an intimate feeling to the often moving stories. There are 2-minute spots that relate for example how a young wife overruled her controlling husband and went to work in a defense plant. Another story told how a soldier in the Pacific sleeping in his hammock was having a restless night. A recent nearby, nighttime Japanese attack had left one man beheaded. The sleeping soldier suddenly felt a huge weight hit his legs. He imagined himself paralyzed. It wasn’t till dawn came that he realized a coconut had fallen on his shins.

As you might expect the museum displays many artifacts from the war. One exhibit caught my eye. The Army outfitted each soldier with a special kit that was the envy of other Allied forces. Besides all manner of necessities, the kit included several brands of cigarettes and chewing gum. Interestingly, the perspective and voice of the enemy are also heard. Two audio clips I viewed showed the passion, hopes and fears felt by the Japanese and German soldiers.

A separate gallery is devoted to the war on the home front. A poster listed A Seven Key Plan to help the government hold down your living costs. In addition to the obvious admonition to buy your share of war bonds – it advised citizens to reduce overall debt as much as possible, provide adequate savings for the future, buy only what we need and make what we have last. [That poster should be on the required reading list still.]

Visiting this museum is a great way to become educated about this war. But it is the personal narratives in video and audio format, plus the accompanying artifacts that will stay with you.
MLD Tour of the National World War II Museum

Lily McGovern, National Defense University.

Thursday June 17 was a lovely day for the Military Libraries Division sponsored tour conveniently located just blocks from the New Orleans Convention Center. This museum was founded by Dr. Stephen Ambrose the noted historian and author. It is in New Orleans because the LCVP or Higgins boat, the landing craft used in every major amphibious assault of WWII, was designed, built and tested by Higgins Industries in New Orleans. They built 20,000 Higgins boats in Southeastern Louisiana during WWII.

The group met at 9:00, received a welcome and short talk by a curator, then walked across the street to the theater for a short introductory video and a 40 minute film “Beyond All Boundaries”. The film is quite an experience - narrated by Tom Hanks with 4-D effects to provide the sounds and feel of battle. After the film participants were free to explore the museum for the rest of the day.

Many of the museum volunteers are WWII veterans and happy to share their experiences and knowledge of the exhibits. Focus is on the home front, the planning and D-Day invasions in the Pacific and Europe. You can learn the story behind the famous photo of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi. Seeing artifacts along with the story of the ordinary people who fought the war touched me. I was so engrossed that suddenly it was 1300 and I was famished. The American Sector restaurant of Chef John Besh in the Museum is far above the usual museum eateries. In fact, I plan to go back for dinner if I get a chance.

Thanks to MLD, I’m putting this museum on my list of things to do if I ever get back to New Orleans. Construction is underway for the museum to expand so there will be even more to see.

More information on the National World War II Museum is available on their website at: http://www.nationalww2museum.org/education/
Photos and videos, including the two above, are available at: http://www.nationalww2museum.org/media/image-gallery.html

Go.USA.gov: Create Short, Trustworthy.gov URLs

Adapted with permission from Federal Librarian Vol. 28, #4, Summer 2010

Go.USA.gov is a URL shortener that lets anyone with a government email address create short, trustworthy .gov URLs. This service only shortens government URLs – that is: .gov, .mil, .fed.us, and .si.edu URLs. This is important because commercial URL shorteners provide no clues about the destination of the URL. Go.USA.gov is designed to create a better user experience for people who interact with the government online. People can click on Go.USA.gov URLs knowing that they will be directed to an official source of government information.

So far, Go.USA.gov users have shortened over 9,000 URLs that have been clicked over one million times. The most clicked URL is from the Library of Congress. They used Go.USA.gov to shorten http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2010/04/how-tweet-it-is-library-acquires-entire-twitter-archive/ down to http://go.usa.gov/ik4.

If you would like to use Go.USA.gov and have a .gov, .mil, .fed.us, or .si.edu email address, you can create a Go.USA.gov account now and begin shortening URLs right away. If you are a government employee but are unable to register due to these restrictions, please email go.usa.gov@gsa.gov.

Read the complete article in FAFLRT’s Federal Librarian online at: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/faflrt/newsletters/2010_Summer/go.cfm
Turtle Books Collection Addresses Special Needs Children (Review)

Sharon Lee Butcher, AEDC Technical Library, Arnolds AFB.  sharon.butcher@arnold.af.mil

The Turtle Books Collection, from Jason Nordic Publishers, Hollidaysburg, PA, is an impressive collection of juvenile fiction. The books deal with various types of physical handicaps in children, and are tastefully illustrated and easy-to-hold for little hands. These affordable and highly endorsed books cover the range from cerebral palsy, to Down Syndrome, to autism, to deafness/blindness, muscular dystrophy and more. They have been shown to improve self-esteem and to motivate these special children when so few resources otherwise exist for them and for instructors, parents, classmates and friends.

Publisher Norma McPhee, wife of a retired USAF chaplain, and grandmother of a child with severe cerebral palsy, developed these materials some years ago as there was a dearth of such materials. She, and a cadre of authors/educators skilled in child development issues, have created this series of 22 books. They are available in hard-bound and perfect bound format. The reinforced hard-bound have easy-to-clean covers, and are light weight for readers of all ages. Several talented illustrators have lent skillful hands and much research to illustrate the books, featuring youngsters in wheelchairs, braces, and other devices, offering encouraging and interactive stories (camp experiences, sports, etc.) involving other children with special needs or new friends such as puppies. The series provides sensitivity instruction for peers and encourages acceptance and positive relationships with people, regard-

See the complete list of Turtle Books at the Jason Nordic website at http://www.jasonandnordic.com.
SLA Conference Session Notes

Gloria Miller, HQ Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal.  
gloria.a.miller@us.army.mil

Editors note:
Many thanks to Gloria for sharing these notes about the sessions she attended at SLA in June.

Program: Coaching & Mentoring Federal Librarians.  
Carol Ramkey, Library of the Marine Corps & Jane Sanchez, US Department of Justice
Mentoring of federal employees is required by the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-411). Mentor or coach programs can be formal or informal. Often, peer networks provide informal coaching; these employees may be GS, NAF, and/or contractor. The FLICC mentor/coach program is an outgrowth of the Federal Librarians Competencies working group.

Program: Preserving long-term access to digital collections.  
Liz Bishoff, The Bishoff Group
How do we preserve “born digital” documents? Migration of file formats will be essential. But corruption of data is possible. The previous standard for preserving digital documents was on gold CDs and DVDs. We have now learned that all CDs become corrupt over time. CDs are useful for transport, but not for storage. Proprietary systems are hard to migrate to other systems, especially if the company is no longer around; use standards instead. The ALCTS PARS site has good definitions of digital preservation.

Preservation does not equal backup. Backup is for short-term data recovery after loss or corruption; it does not ensure long-term preservation. The OAIS (Open Archival Information System) developed by NASA is becoming an ISO standard. It defines 6 functions of a digital archive.

Things to consider:  Risk management – your assessment of risks, and strategies to manage that risk. Collection policy needs to include your digital holdings. Sustainability and succession plan (where will the archives be held if your organization no longer will do it). Policy framework must be written (not oral tradition); includes planning, audit of repository using DRAMBORA or another tool that proves it is a “trustworthy repository.” Local host or vendor host? It’s a tradeoff between staff & money. Either one may be open source or commercial. “Long term” is a long time.

Moderator: Robyn Frank
Elizabeth Moore, Law Library of Congress: The Law Library of Congress is creating a digital law library, international in scope. It is being modeled after the World Digital Library, and includes local, state & national laws from every country. For example, they help Iraq recreate their collection of laws online by digitizing holdings from LC & other libraries.

James King, National Institutes of Heath Library: While the National Library of Medicine is for doctors, the NIH Library is for the researchers at NIH. Strategic planning is important—to decide where you want to go and how to best serve your customers. In 1993, there was an article titled “Blow Up the Corporate Library” by Tom Davenport and Larry Prusak, one of the first on embedded librarians & embedded information. The NIH Library has created an information commons on the main floor. It is much more useful now to its distributed customer base.

Richard Pearce-Moses, until recently at the Arizona State Library & Archives; soon to become Dean of the Archivist program at Clayton State University, Atlanta: Digital archives are important for government libraries. Instead of “just in case” or “just in time,” archives keep materials “just because.” Risk management includes planning and thinking about the possible risks. Gartner described the “hype cycle” of all new technology; digital archives are going through that now. Digital archives provide transparency in government. We must also be concerned with authenticity – how do you prove the item is authentic while you preserve it.

Final question for the audience: Does your Library have a marketing department, and do you use it to market to your users?

Program: Embed Yourself: the Librarian is IN.
Medical Librarians are commonly embedded; in other areas, the concept of embedded librarians is catching on.

Ruth Kneale, National Solar Observatory: At the Advanced Technical Solar Telescope, the librarians are formally embedded. Her title is Systems Librarian, within the Systems Engineering section. One of her major functions is to describe how the different engineering & technical sections fit together.

Jake Carlson, Purdue University: Data is constantly being produced; it may be used for other projects later on. How do you understand what data is available? They are collecting metadata from the school’s studies, and making it available. This is Data Curation.

Embedded Librarians need many skills: teamwork, support, entrepreneurship, risk, translation, talk AND listen, get out of comfort zones, get outside the box.
Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity (HECSA) Library Opens Branch


In an era when many libraries have scaled back their operations, the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity (HECSA) Library opened its first branch library in the HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers, on 2 June 2010. MG Meredith “Bo” Temple, Deputy Commanding General, USACE, and Ms. Ann Parham, Librarian of the Army cut the ribbon. Over 175 HQ personnel sampled cake and punch at the open house, where staff introduced them to the library’s services. The event was made even more memorable by the quite unexpected building-wide Shelter-in-Place drill that occurred just as the ribbon was cut.

Several years ago, HECSA Library was moved from the HQUSACE in the District of Columbia to the Corps’ campus in Alexandria, VA. Its distance from its primary customers has allowed the Library to develop many virtual services and an embedded librarian program. Reference staff travel to customers in the HQ each day, and a Library Liaison works full-time in the HQ. But until the new branch was opened, the Library had no physical presence from which to deliver services and no collaboration area or user training space.

This new branch represents a great step forward in supporting customers who do not have easy access to the main library facility. It provides a comfortable browsing area for customers and a small professional development book collection. But most importantly, for the first time in many years, Library staff are again visible, accessible and equipped to provide critical support to customers.

Why I Want to Be a Military Librarian

Naomi Chiba, Defense Language Institute

As a library school student studying for my MLS at UCLA, I began to explore my interest in serving diverse user communities. I became interested in helping the military since I wrote a term paper in my archives class about veterans dealing with trauma from the wounds of war. I wrote other papers on the military’s information needs and became profoundly aware of the sacrifices those in uniform make. I realized this user community and the military librarians who serve them were understudied in library schools and the library and information science literature.

When doing a literature review, I came across a quote by Janet Le-Chance, the head of SLA, when recognizing the Military Libraries Division back in 2007. Paraphrased, she said, “The work that these librarians do exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism, delivering services and materials in the most adverse of conditions. So much of their hard work has been unrecognized.” Because of the dedication our armed forces make in defending and protecting the American people, I would like to help them by becoming a military librarian.

Editor’s Note: I recently met Naomi Chiba when she came by to see the Naval Postgraduate School’s library and learn about opportunities in military librarianship. She is living in the Monterey area while she is a Workforce Recruitment Program intern for the Army at the Defense Language Institute. I know she’d love to receive advice and encouragement from MLD members.
Member News

Deborah Keller has moved to the Department of Homeland Security. She is now part of their Research Library and Information Services Program.

Tammy Thetford Lowery is now Cataloging/Electronic Services Librarian at Aiso Library, Defense Language Institute-Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey.

Joint Forces Staff College welcomes three new reference librarians:

John Girard came to Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA after working at Ingram Content Group, both as a Digital Content Specialist and a Collection Development Librarian. Prior to his time at Ingram, he worked as a Circulation Supervisor and Librarian with the Nashville Public Library. In his current duties at JFSC, he is responsible for reference and systems work with an emphasis in knowledge management and information sharing.

Dawn Joines has worked in libraries since 1994 and received an MLIS from Drexel University in 2008. She previously worked at the Pearl Bailey Public Library in Newport News, VA as the Senior Reference Librarian for Adult Services. Now at the Joint Forces Staff College, Dawn is the primary bibliographer and Reference Librarian for the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, and the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) distance learning program. Dawn is a member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and Tidewater Area Reference Librarians (TARL).

Catrina Whited's duties at JFSC include providing reference services, instruction and creating informational material for distance learning and in-residence students, staff and faculty. She is also the liaison to the JFSC’s distance learning program and maintains the library organization within the course management system. While attending library school, Catrina worked as a serials assistant in Technical Services at Ball State University. Most of her professional positions were in reference at public libraries in Las Vegas, North Myrtle Beach and Noblesville (IN). Several years ago she transitioned from public to academic, as a Reference/Clinical Librarian at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA.

Do you have news to share about your library’s staff and their activities? If so, please share them with your MLD colleagues by submitting them to Military Libraries at mld.newsletter@gmail.com. Pictures and other graphics greatly appreciated!

MLD is currently working with FEDLINK to enable FEDLINK members to pay for the Military Libraries Workshop with FEDLINK’s Training Fund (FT) account.

For Your Calendar

- Web Search University 2010, Washington, DC, 27-28 Sept. 2010
- Internet Librarian 2010, Monterey, CA, 25-27 Oct. 2010
Member News, continued

CARL’s Kathy Buker Honored With Archivist Award

Pamela Bennett, Combined Arms Research Library.

Ms. Kathy Buker, Special Collections and Digital Project Librarian, at the Combined Arms Research Library in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas received the Award of KCAA Fellow in June. Ms. Buker was honored with the award at the Kansas City Area Archivists Annual Spring Luncheon & Awards on June 17th at the Pony Express National Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The Award of KCAA Fellow recognizes persons deserving of special recognition and acknowledgement for their professional achievements. Ms. Buker interests in the preservation of the CARL collections have grown exponentially throughout her service here at the CARL. She is the coordinator of the CARL Digital Library, a leader of the CARL Digital Consortium, a member of the FLICC Preservation & Digitization Working Group and the founding member of the Kansas City CONTENTdm Users Group. Ms. Buker has also become a regular on the speaker’s circuit on digitization. She is recognized as the Army’s premier resource for digitization projects and has trained numerous Army librarians.

We at the CARL are proud of Kathy and her accomplishments and all of us find ourselves extremely grateful to have someone with her professionalism and continued interest in the preservation of military documents and history.

Army Librarian Carol Koenig Retiring

Amy Tursky, Defense Technical Information Center.

Carol Koenig, an Army librarian for 32 years, will retire from the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) in mid-August. She came to the Army library program with two Bachelor’s degrees and two Master’s degrees; her Library Science degree is from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

After previous school and academic library experience in NC, Carol became an Army NAF post librarian in Europe, where she remained for 16 years. As the European Recreation Society’s Legislative Advocate, she was instrumental in obtaining passage of the first NAF/APF Portability law in 1991. Although Carol “converted” and became an APF employee, she is pleased to be retiring in the Army’s NAF Retirement and 401k plans.

Carol’s first Army CONUS employment was as Rare Book Cataloger at the West Point Cadet Library; she moved to NGIC in 2002 and has been active in MLW and Intelligence Community librarian groups.

Although originally from Wisconsin, Carol plans to move to Fearrington Village in NC where she would be happy to receive visitors. Congratulations can be sent to carol.koenig@us.army.mil.
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