This year, specifically July 2nd, marks the Centennial of the Special Libraries Association. On the verandah of the Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, N.H., about 20 attendees adopted a constitution to found the SLA in 1909.

After 100 years, the Society most definitely is looking for a name change. And not just the name! SLA’s leadership (under Janice LaChance, CEO, and Gloria Zamora, President) has formulated the “Strategic Alignment” project, determined that the Association must adapt to the times, and keep pace with the changes. The leadership and board are focusing on:

1. The drivers in the current information marketplace
2. The value of the information professional
3. The skills that information professionals need to be most effective*

Conference highlights included Former Secretary of State General Colin Powell as the keynote speaker at the Opening General Session. An eloquent and entertaining speaker, he was very popular with the audience. (We especially appreciated his relating of how he brought the Dept of State up-to-date by weaning them from their Wang computers.)

The Closing General Session was a panel discussion of “thought leaders” moderated by noted journalist, Judy Woodruff. The panelists were great (too): Robyn Meredith, a journalist and author of The elephant and the dragon: the rise of India and China and what it means for all of us; Neil deGrasse Tyson, “star” of newsmagazine, NOVA ScienceNOW, author of several astrophysics books, and since 1996, the Director of the Hayden Planetarium. Most hopeful-sounding contributions came from John R. Patrick, IBM’s chief Internet Technology Officer. Their big hopes and concerns for the future involve technology helping us to accomplish much more, by making data and information more available, streamlining medical care, and educating children in math and science.

Librarian of Congress, James Billington, addressed the SLA President’s Series

SLA’s “INFO-EXPO” included a “Relaxation Station” where one could get a massage. There were Career Connection Activities available Monday through Wednesday.

Courses, “ticketed events” were held Friday, but mainly on Saturday and Sunday. Titles included: Bioinformatics Track: Genomes and Structures, It Can Be Easy to Be Green: An Overview of Green Engineering and Its Resources, Molecular Structures: Retrieval and Visualization, Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian, Diving into Patents: A Primer for Librarians, Genomes and Genomic Resources, Chemical, Carcinogens, Concerns: Environmental Health and Toxicology Information from the National Library of Medicine, Researching U.S. and International Standards Information: Methods, Sources, Secrets, Chemical Information Sources, Requests, Reference, Best Practices for Information Services:


Two new divisions are Academic and Taxonomy. Taxonomy is in the petition stage, but the Academic section has 230 members and has had 2 board meetings since January, 2009. Their business meeting of 6-16 was a brain-storming session of ideas, pursuits, and purposes. SLA Academic Division is being likened to ALA-ACRL. An appendix includes the listing. To find SLA Academic Online:

- Wiki: [http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLAAD/Home](http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLAAD/Home)
- Twitter: SLAAcad

Notes and Scenes from SLA2009:

There is an entertaining conference blog, found at [http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/](http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/)

From the blog, one can leap to Twitter: [http://twitter.com/sla2009](http://twitter.com/sla2009)

There were presumed to be 7 small (limit 50 attendees) “Unconferences” at this Conference...according to Lynn Blumenstein’s article, “SLA at 100: Conference Preview”, *Library Journal*, 5/15/2009.

The Science-Technology Division programs included:

- Science-Technology division Business and Awards Breakfast
- Future of Voting
- Annual Diversity Leadership Development Breakfast – Citation Tracking Tools: Evaluation and Vendor Update
- Forensics: Beyond the TV Shows
- Computer Science Roundtable
- Science of Imagination
- All Sciences Poster Session and Reception
- Institutional Repositories Roundtable
- Paradigm Shift in Scholarly Communication: Science and Technology Developments in India
• Tour: National Institute of Standards and Technology – Its Research Library and More

A couple of the several interesting posters were: “Citations to Wikipedia in Chemistry Journals” by Brad Brazzeal and Deborah Lee, and “What if you build it and they don’t come? Promoting Library Services for Scientific Information Workflow” by John Meier.


Mary Ellen Bates was in incredible form for her presentation: “Creating Groupies: How to Add Value, Make Yourself Irreplaceable and Beat the Pants off Google”. (SRO) Her presentations are available here: http://www.batesinfo.com/new.html

This has become an annual feature: “60 Websites in 60 Minutes” by John DiGilio & Gayle Lynn-Nelson. Here they are: http://www.sla.org/PDFs/SLA2009/2009_60SitesHandout.pdf

SLA is also held presentations on green libraries, and “embedded” librarians, their best characteristics and how they take many forms. They took full advantage of their Washington, DC location to call upon federal institutions, agencies and departments to give presentations or tours. There was a Toxicology Roundtable: Environmental Resources of the National Library of Medicine, sponsored by the Environment & Resource Management Division. And like ALA-STS, they are concerned with making themselves useful and visible, learning the latest technologies to communicate with clients/patrons.

There were many interesting tours offered. These were great:

• National Agricultural Library Today (Sponsor: Food, Ag & Nutrition Div)
• Folger Shakespeare Library (Sponsor: Museums, Arts & Humanities Div.)
• Naval Observatory (Sponsor: Physics, Astronomy, Math Division)

(The tour sponsored by the Sci-Tech Division was of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.)

CEO, Janet LaChance, spoke of Click U. now offering many free courses. More information about Click University is here: www.sla.org/clicku

Major Conference Partners were: Dow Jones, Dialog, and Springer.