

Report from the Special Libraries Association Annual Conference

June 16-20, 2017 – Phoenix, AZ

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In 2017, the Special Libraries Association held its Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ. The conference had 1,515 attendees, including 132 exhibit personnel. Overall conference attendance continues to decline; 2,511 attended in 2016 and 3,002 in 2015.

The SciTech Division did not hold a business meeting or open house during the Annual Conference but chose to concentrate efforts on the All Sciences Poster Session and other sessions outlined in more detail below.

Overview of the SciTech Division Programming at SLA 2017:

1. SciTech Division No-host Dinner
 - a. held the evening before the Opening General Session
 - b. focused on bringing newcomers together with mentors/existing members and helping them make the most of the conference
2. All Sciences Poster Session
 - a. co-presented with Biomedical and Life Sciences Division; Chemistry Division; Engineering Division; Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Division; and Physics, Astronomy and Math Division
 - b. 14 posters were included in the session; many of them will be made available on the Division website: <http://scitech.sla.org>
 - c. included the SciTech Division Awards presentation as the division didn't have a separate business meeting or open house during the meeting
3. Sci-Tech Division Kiosk
 - a. part of a new initiative at the Annual Conference called Main Street, the Division had a kiosk in the Exhibit Hall along with other divisions and caucuses
 - b. these kiosks provided an opportunity for different divisions and caucuses to showcase themselves as well as volunteer and professional development opportunities
4. SciTech presented sessions:
 - a. "Infographics for Publication: Taking Data Viz Further"
 - i. the 2017 installment of the long-running SciTech 101 series
 - ii. interactive session that provided tips, tricks, and tools for creating infographics
 - b. "Interweaving ACRL's Framework into an Information Literacy Program"
 - i. master class panel discussion that explored how threshold concepts have influenced the work of science and engineering librarians in academic and special libraries

The 2017 Annual Conference signaled a change in SLA's approach to developing the conference programming with headquarters taking a more hands-on role with the various tracks and sessions offered. The SciTech Division, which in past years has also co-presented sessions with other Divisions, sponsored fewer sessions at the 2017 conference.