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Natural Resources Division

Marion Johnson

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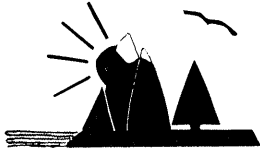
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NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION



SLA

Marion E. Johnson
Chair

From the chair

It seems no time since those of us fortunate enough to have attended the Anaheim conference came home enthusing about the speakers we had enjoyed. Now plans are coming along well for Denver. If you have not marked SLA on your next year's calendar, please do so: June 11-16, 1988, "Expanding Horizons: Strategies for Information Managers." On the Monday afternoon, June 13th, NRD is participating in a Technical Session "Energy and the Environment — Where Horizons Meet." Five divisions are cooperating in putting this together, and I am sure that it will be a highlight of the conference. There will be smaller roundtables on Tuesday, and Thursday field trips will be arranged as subsets of the Monday program.

On Tuesday, June 14th, the Forestry/Forest Products Roundtable, from 2:00-4:00, is going to be of great interest to all information people in any branch of forestry. Seung Ja Sinatra, who is now working in the NAL Building on the FS INFO Project (Forest Service Information Network Online), will present this system and discuss future participation with other networks.

As it has been decided by the U.S. Forest Service that its librarians will hold their annual departmental meeting in Denver (instead of Washington) the week before the SLA conference, they and other forestry librarians, such as Canadian, industry or state employees, have an added incentive to attend SLA and meet each other again. It has been several years since there has been a large representation from the forestry sector.

I am sorry to report that our newly-elected treasurer, Liz Close, has resigned from this office as she has accepted the position of the Intermountain Research Station's Public Affairs Specialist. I want to thank her for all her enthusiasm and work contributed to NRD over the past years, and I know we all wish her great success in her new appointment. And I also want to thank our previous treasurer, Cheryl Alexander, who had just passed on the office to Liz, for now graciously agreeing to continue as NRD Treasurer. Thank you very much, Cheryl.

One last note: Pete Evans has put together the SLA-NRD/EID Merger Committee consisting of Barbara Condron, Carol Green and himself. They are developing a questionnaire which will be sent out to NRD members in October. Please give the questions your best thoughts and return the form to the Committee. They want your input.

Marion E. Johnson
Chair

SLA Conference Program

June 10, 1987

A Further Look at Biotechnology:

In a session co-sponsored by the Natural Resources, Biological Sciences, Business & Finance, Pharmaceutical, and Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Divisions, three speakers discussed business, information, and ethical issues of biotechnology.

Coleman Owens of Fritzche, Panbinchini & Associates, talked about biotechnology as a business venture. He believes that biotechnology will be a bigger business in the future since the applications help to feed and clothe people and keep them healthy. He defined biotechnology as the genetic selection and manipulation of cells and molecules at the molecular level. The techniques used, such as gene splicing or cell fusion of monoclonal antibodies, have many applications for medicine, agriculture and industry.

In considering biotechnology as a business, certain questions need to be asked: What does the business intend to do from a product standpoint? Why should it be done? Why is this the method to do it? Biotechnology permits doing something already being done — but better, faster, cheaper, or a combination of these (example: human growth hormone). Biotechnology lets us do things that have never been done before such as developing immunomodulators; interferons and interleukins for treating leukemia allow treatment without drugs and are easier on the patient.

Mr. Owens then discussed the mechanisms of financing the biotechnology business. The first of these is private funds provided by the entrepreneur's personal investments, venture capitalists and/or private issues of stock. A second method, not normally used, is to incur debt by getting a loan from a bank. Thirdly, one can obtain money in the public market through a stock issue, either over-the-counter or through other exchanges. Strategic partnering forms a fourth alternative: A large company provides money for future rights (such as for marketing) or multiple financing for rights in different countries is provided by several partners, or funding is provided for the right to different facets of the business in the U.S. and other countries. Government grants are another possibility. Mr. Owens concluded by saying that biotechnology will continue to be a large business venture because it affects large segments of life.

James Koellegger of EIC Intelligence, producer of "Telegen" and several environmental databases, spoke on information sources in biotechnology. There is a need for accurate, objective information; most information easily available comes from groups with axes to grind. Practitioners in various fields such as biology, chemistry and physics wear disciplinary blinders which distort information. Also, the rise of desktop publishing tends to eliminate peer review and other quality controls. There are multiple viewpoints, all well documented, but a broader, interdisciplinary view is needed to avoid misconceptions. More and more sources are available with the same information published and republished daily, weekly and monthly; each piece says a little more, but it needs to be managed somehow.

Mr. Koellegger thinks of his company as a structure to manage information by targeting markets in business, engineering applications, and R&D, and creating an architecture to provide various information products. EIC aims for balance with advisory boards which shape

acquisition policy and help with tracking of the field. These boards ask the questions which need to be asked when handling new technologies. Markets, regulation, and failure to consider the social impact can kill technology.

Andrew Kimbrell, policy director and legal coordinator for Jeremy Rifkin's Foundation on Economic Trends presented his views on the ethical issues of biotechnology. We are facing a major technological revolution affecting all aspects of society. In other technological revolutions such as the nuclear one, questions were not asked at the beginning as to the consequences of the revolution, and now we have such problems as nuclear waste disposal and Chernobyl. More questions should be asked at the start of the biotechnology revolution. However, less than two per cent of USDA's work in the field has dealt with risk assessment. A GAO report shows there is profit in getting products released but not in doing risk assessment.

In agriculture, there is genetic manipulation of species across species boundaries. The Patent Office says new species can be patented (in the United States; European laws prevent this). There is alarm over this from both religious and environmental groups concerned over such issues as suffering of animals, reverence for life, and the release into the atmosphere of new forms of animal life. Questions also arise as to what economic and social problems a product will cause in the future. There has been no legislation at any level on biotechnology. Eight federal agencies are regulating technology under seven different statutes, none of which were promulgated after the development of biotechnology. The first order of business should be a full public discussion of biotechnology followed by the enactment of legislation, or there will be the same problems as there have been with earlier technologies. The general problem is that when technology comes on line, it affects our lives more than any legislation. This problem needs to be addressed before it becomes a fait accompli; at that point, it is too late. Human choices should control technology, not vice-versa.

Barbara Glicksberg
Seattle, Washington



SLA Annual Conference Program June 10, 1987 Global Technical and Economic Information

This program was arranged in cooperation with the Social Sciences Division. Speakers were Marydee Ojala, former Manager of Library & Information Services, Bank of America, and Sue Dyer, Librarian, Sectoral Library, World Bank. The discussion was moderated by NRD's Barbara Rodes. We hope to see a paper based on Sue Dyer's presentation published in an association-wide publication. Marydee Ojala's comments are summarized here.

Marydee's opening question was "Why are people interested in global economic statistics?" We live in an interrelated world with securities and commodity trading going on around the clock. The local newspaper in a small Kansas town, to which she has recently moved, noted the impact of Japan on *local* business.

There are three basic requirements for statistics: they need to be reliable, comparable and timely. They also need to "exist." Getting accurate statistical information from U.S. government agencies is becoming more and more difficult. There is not enough money to get accurate data in some areas, and some statistics are no longer gathered at all. Other countries have different ideas about numbers: how factual they are is not as important as the way they can be used to maintain government or corporate advantages.

Statistics must be comparable. Considerations include live numbers versus index numbers and average versus end-of-period figures. The CPI market basket is changed every so often or a base date is altered. True comparison is then impossible. Lack of comparability is a problem especially when data comes from several different sources.

Currency is always an issue, and electronic communications have changed the perception of timeliness. All data reports lag, especially those from governments. Periodic reports may be interrupted for extensive time periods by war, changes in government, etc. However, Iran and Libya continued publishing statistics during all the recent upheavals.

Sources of international technical and economic statistics include *Business Information Sources* (University of California Press), George Kurian's *Sourcebook of Global Statistics* (Facts on File) and SLA's *Directory of Business and*

Financial Services. Data come from governments, private firms and international organizations. The United Nations is great for historical research, and the International Monetary Fund publishes *World Economic Outlook*, an annual survey. *The Economist's Intelligence Unit* (EIU) publishes country studies and its Business International subdivision makes economic forecasts in newsletters indexed by PTS PROMT. Bank of America's "World Information Services" provides a set of country outlooks for 36 countries and country data forecasts for 100 countries using 23 indicators.

Useful online databases include "Chase Econometrics," NEXUS "Kaleidoscope," the I.P. Sharpe time series, PROMT, and Citibank's "Global Report." The latter is menu-driven and updated constantly.

Sue Terry

Natural Resources Division

Minutes

Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 1987
Anaheim, California

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by the Chair, Barbara Rodes. There were twenty-seven in attendance including Board Proctor — Hope Coffman.

2. **Remarks of the Chair.** Barbara Rodes reported that the Division has 142 members, including 24 new members. Twenty-eight NRD members registered for the 1987 conference. She introduced and thanked Board and Committee Members and expressed regret at the resignation, due to position changes of two former NRD executive members — Marjorie Lock, Past-Chair and Bill Coons, Secretary. Secretary duties have been assumed by Alice Solyma.

Committee Chairs

Nominating Committee — Carla Heister
Membership Committee — Lynda Larsen
Newsletter Editor — Sue Terry
Forestry & Forest Products Roundtable —
Ginger Rutherford and Linda Martinez

Incoming Board

Chair — Marion Johnson
Chair-Elect — Peter Evans
Treasurer — Liz Close
Secretary — Alice Solyma

3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the June 10, 1986

business meeting were approved as published in *Sci-Tech News*. Motion carried.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of Cheryl Alexander, a printed treasurer's report was presented by the Chair. The report was approved as presented.

1987 Allotment from SLA (153 members @ \$6.15) — \$940.95

Expenditures 1986/87 — \$1,516.85

Closing balance, May 15, 1987 — \$1,111.06

5. **Nominating Committee.** Carla Heister reported the elected as

Chair-Elect 1987/88 — Peter Evans (University of California, Berkeley)

Treasurer — Liz Close (U.S. Forest Service, Ogden, Utah)

6. **Membership Committee.** In the absence of Liz Close, Lynda Larsen presented the Committee's printed report. Key points:

The Committee's focus has been on the NRD membership directory (completed 1986) and membership survey (1987). The objective of the NRD survey, designed by Barbara Rodes and Liz Close, was to determine who had held leadership posts in the past and who would be willing to take on leadership roles in the future.

Survey results indicated 21 NRD members are willing to help in recruitment or provide lists of prospective members.

Survey captains included Barbara Glicksberg, Helen Lee, Deanna Hall, Laura Christensen, Lou Tilley, Eve Dowie, Bill Coons, and Alice Solyma.

The Special Projects Committee has been dissolved with the resignation of Marjorie Lock, former NRD Chair.

1987 NRD Directory will not be published as a new SLA Directory will be available in November. A current NRD roster will be maintained and made available upon request.

Members are requested to list their affiliation rather than home addresses on their SLA membership renewals. The new SLA Directory will be indexed by business affiliation in addition to chapter, division and surname.

SLA membership renewals should be sent in before the end of the year as the SLA allotment to divisions is based on the number of members registered by the end of December.

Recommendation: That the Membership Committee be expanded to include two Co-Chairs — a Membership Records-Directory Chair and a Recruitment Chair.

7. **Newsletter.** Sue Terry reported that NRD news was published in *Sci-Tech News* four times.

Articles included reports on the U.S. Forest Service microfiche catalog, Boston programs/field trips, summary report of the Long Range Planning Committee, two library profiles, a book review and short booklist. Sue requested more library profiles which could be published. NRD Survey results indicated 20 members interested in working on the newsletter.

8. **Old Business.**

9. **New Business.**

a. *Membership Recruitment* (Barbara Rodes)

A historical review of NRD membership shows a continuing decline in numbers — 1978 (306); 1983 (189); 1986 (153); 1987 (142). In comparison, the EID Division membership has remained relatively constant — 1983 (210); 1986 (198); 1987 (over 207).

Recommendation for 1987: That there being a need to increase membership, each NRD member should therefore attempt to recruit at least one new member.

b. *Membership Survey Results* (Barbara Rodes)

153 Questionnaires distributed

127 Questionnaires returned (80%)

56 Questionnaires returned blank

14% of respondents indicated they have attended SLA conferences (7% of which attend only if conference site is nearby).

c. *Sponsorship*

Motion: That NRD find a vendor to provide \$500 financial support for *Sci-Tech News*. Motion carried.

d. *Department of the Interior Library*

In response to the management study by Price Waterhouse commissioned by the Department of the Interior, the NRD executive has drafted a letter to be sent to Hazel Wilson, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Information Resources Management, addressing concerns about recommendations made in the report.

Motion: That the letter drafted by the NRD executive be sent with an amendment providing archival information. Motion carried.

e. *NRD Division Events* (SLA '87)

June 7: Open House (sponsored with EIN)

June 8: Open House (sponsored with BIO)

June 9: Lunch and Business Meeting

Forestry Roundtable — Discussion of Global Climate Warming

Open House

June 10: Global Technical and Economic Information (sponsored with SOC)

A Further Look at Biotechnology: Business, Information and Ethical Issues (sponsored with BIO, B&F, FAN, PHM)

Open House (sponsored with ENG, M/M)
June 11: Field Trip — San Diego Wild Animal
Park (sponsored with BIO, PHM) — Sold out.
f. *NRD-EIN Resolution*

Motion: That the Natural Resources Division establish a Committee to study the benefits, process and procedures and possible resulting Division structure (including possible roundtables) of merging with EIN; and that representatives of this Committee meet in Denver in 1988 with a separate EIN Study Committee to draw up possible merger scenarios for their respective Division executive boards. Motion carried.

g. *Other*

Interest in a regional meeting with TAPPI.

karl Schneider (NAL) will submit a list of major NRD reference sources to SLA Headquarters for inclusion in a national bibliography.

10. **Transfer of Chair** from Barbara Rodes to **Marion Johnson**.

11. **Adjournment** at 1:55 p.m.

Interior Library Update

In her capacity as Chair of the Natural Resources Division, Barbara Rodes wrote letters to the Department of the Interior and Senator Quentin N. Burdick, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, regarding the Price Waterhouse study of the

DOI Natural Resources Library. She expressed deep concern in particular about the recommendation that the Library cease cataloging agency publications and instead, that these documents should be made available through NTIS. Barbara stated that this action would “substantially undercut the agency mission and the public right to know.” Costs could escalate and “... we are unclear who will guide the public in accessing this information. At the very least, we recommend that agency bureau libraries — Indian Affairs, Land Management, Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife, Parks, Mines, and USGS — be given clear guidelines on what agency material to collect and that these Libraries become repositories for this material.”

In reply, the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative Hazel A. Wilson's letter contained the following key paragraph. “The study of the Department of the Interior (DOI) natural Resources Library (NRL) has not been completed and the report is still in draft. No decision has been made on the draft report recommendation that the NRL discontinue cataloging DOI publications and make the publications available through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Potential impacts and costs of using NTIS are being examined to determine if using NTIS is feasible and cost effective for the library's users. Your recommendations regarding the bureau libraries will also be included in our considerations.”

STATEMENT of ownership, management, circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3695; Title 39, United States Code)

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2. Date of filing: October 1, 1987
3. Frequency of issue: 4 times a year in January, April, August, October.
 - A. No. of issues published annually: 4.
 - B. Annual subscription price: \$13.00 domestic, \$15.00 foreign.
4. Location of known office of publication: *Sci-Tech News*, P.O. Box 1414, Canoga Park, CA 91304-0414.
5. Location of the headquarters or general offices of the publishers: 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.
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7. Owner: Special Libraries Association, Inc., 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.
8. Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: none.
9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.
10. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average mo. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest to filing date
A. Total no. copies printed (net press run)	3,028	3,032
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions	2,690	2,663
C. Total paid circulation	2,690	2,663
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier or other means. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies	8	10
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D)	2,698	2,673
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled, after printing	330	359
2. Returns from news agents	None	None
G. Total (sum of E and F should equal net press run shown in A)	3,028	3,032

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Virginia A. Ford, Business Manager, *Sci-Tech News*.