



Engineering Libraries

Division Newsletter



December 2003

Message from the Chair

Larry Thompson

Ten years ago. My first ASEE conference, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. I attended because my supervisor at the time asked if I would co-present at a session. I'd heard about ASEE and ELD, and figured this would be a good chance to see what it was all about.

I was officially welcomed at the first ELD session, and made part of the ELD clan with my "New Member" ribbon. That, along with the ELD ribbon hanging from my nametag, made me look quite official. So much so, that as I walked across campus to a session, a non-ELDer attendee mistook me for a "somebody" and began asking why the conference was set up in some particular way. I had no idea what he was talking about.

Of course, the sessions were great. I recall sitting in a lecture hall and watching as someone demonstrated a new software product. Something called Mosaic. He was able to retrieve a weather map from Australia. I had no need for a weather map from Australia, but the fact that it could be done so easily and quickly blew me away.

That first conference hooked me on ELD. I left feeling like I'd just stumbled upon the mother lode of engineering librarianship.

Five years ago, Seattle. By now a seasoned "veteran" of ELD, I moderated my first technical session. Beth Brin was the program chair, and during the year as I organized my session she patiently and graciously walked me through the process. As I recall, I had about a hundred questions: Why were the deadlines set up the way they were? Why was the ELD schedule set up the way it was? Couldn't we just tell ASEE what we wanted and when we wanted it?

Beth answered every one of those questions. And I began to understand a little about the work that was necessary to set up the conference. And about the tightrope dance that program chairs perform as they balance ELD needs with ASEE scheduling.

And, I left the conference feeling amazed that there were folks who could pull this all together.

One year ago. Sitting at Virginia Tech with a list of topics in front of me, and I'm supposed to sort them out and come up with a program for Nashville that will challenge the veteran ELDers and not overwhelm the rest. E-mails to Gretchen and Mel, my immediate predecessors in the position, gave me the help I needed.

And in the midst of setting up the program committee and choosing moderators and figuring out the schedule, one of the participants sent an e-mail to me saying that it will be great for her to have "the opportunity to work with some of ELD's big names."

Continued page 5

Inside this issue:

Salt Lake City Programs	2
Liaison Reports	3
New Members	4
Directory News	5

June 20 - 23, 2004

ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition

Salt Lake City, Utah

www.asee.org/conferences/annual2004

The ELD program for the 2004 annual conference is taking shape with a lineup of outstanding sessions and receptions. The technical sessions being planned are:

- Libraries as a Place: Planning Innovative SciTech Library Facilities and Services for the 21st Century. Moderators: Doug McGee, U.S. Naval Academy, and Gay Woods, University of North Texas.
- Assessment & Statistics in Libraries. Moderator: Liz Mengel, Johns Hopkins University
- Federated Searching. Moderator: Bill Mischo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Engineering Ethics Case Studies. Moderator: Jay Bhatt, Drexel University
- Instruction Issues. Moderator: Najwa Hanel, University of Southern California
- Rethinking Collection Development. Moderator: Julia Gelfand, University of California at Irvine

ELD Sponsors Distinguished Lecturer: Roy Tennant

In a competitive process, ASEE selected ELD's nominee, Roy Tennant, as a distinguished lecturer. The distinguished lecture (a.k.a. mini-plenary session) will be held during a no-conflict time on Tuesday morning, June 22, 2004.

Mr. Tennant is an award winning, internationally recognized pioneer in digital library development and Internet training. As User Services Architect for the California Digital Library, he works to explore new methods of resource discovery and scholarly publication. Mr. Tennant has written and edited four books (one in press) and published dozens of articles. Since November 1997 he has written the monthly column "Digital Libraries" for Library Journal. He also developed the popular network publication Current Cites, which provides monthly reviews of information technology literature, and has been published continuously since 1990.

Mr. Tennant's talk will be titled "Library Systems as if Users Mattered." Libraries provide access to a diverse range of resources that seem to defy building simple user interfaces. But there are nonetheless things that can be done to make library systems easier to use and more effective. And in a Google world, librarians must get good at creating such systems or be content with being ignored by all but an ever smaller minority of information seekers. Hear what libraries can and should do to better fulfill their missions, in a presentation aimed at both librarians and library users.

In addition to delivering the distinguished lecture, Mr. Tennant will also conduct a session "XML in a Nutshell" moderated by Karen Andrews, University of California at Davis, and participate as a panelist in the Federated Searching session moderated by Bill Mischo.

More Special Guests: Donald King and Carol Tenopir

We also will be privileged to hear Don King, University of Pittsburgh, and Carol Tenopir, University of Tennessee, speak about their recent research related to readership surveys and changes in the communication patterns of engineers. Professors King and Tenopir have recently published a book entitled *Communication Patterns of Engineers* <<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-047148492X.html>> and an article "Patterns of Journal Use by Faculty at Three Diverse Universities" in *D-Lib Magazine* <<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october03/king/10king.html>>. This talk will be included in the Assessment & Statistics session moderated by Liz Mengel.

Social Events

In addition to the technical sessions, there are plenty of informal opportunities to interact with fellow ELD members. On Monday morning, the Get Acquainted Session, moderated by Alice Trussell, Kansas State University, allows members to meet their colleagues and then break into special interest groups for topical discussions. The Monday evening New Members Reception provides an opportunity for new and veteran ELD members to interact. And of course, the ELD Banquet on Tuesday night is always a "must" event.

Thanks to everyone who helped to plan the ELD program, submitted abstracts and volunteered to moderate!

Andy Shimp, Program Chair, 2003-2004
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Organizational Liaison Reports: American Chemical Society

ACS 226th National Meeting September 7-11, 2003

Report by Ibronke Lawal, ELD ACS Liaison

I presented a report of ASEE/ELD activities to be placed on the ACS/CINF E-News website.

Education Committee:

- Current initiative is to educate chemists on copyright, trademark and intellectual property issues. (There is potential here for collaboration. I will keep ASEE/ELD informed.)
- There was another session of the Workshop on Teaching Chemical Information: Tips and Techniques. This workshop holds twice a year, one at the Fall Meeting and the other at a Regional Meeting. The next Regional Meeting is in the Midwest.
- There was a Chemical Information Literacy symposium in New Orleans, last spring. The report is not yet ready.
- The issue of undergraduate schools and access to chemical abstracts is still a concern for the committee. As a result of the division of Chemical Information (CINF) intervention, Chemical Abstracts Source (CAS) came up with some pricing options that could help small undergraduate schools, but this is still not good enough. Since this committee has exhausted all options with CAS, other avenues were suggested. One is to informally mobilize Nobel Prize winners in Chemistry and get them to write an open letter to CAS.
- Another issue directly related is how to help small institutions with information since most of them cannot come to the meetings due to poor funding. It was suggested that there should be two interactive spots on our website, one for Academic and one for Corporate to gather feedback on what we can do to help.
- A new website is being constructed for this committee. Suggested items for the website will include:
 - Membership
 - Minutes
 - Meeting Schedules
 - List of Resources
 - Evaluation Forms
 - Assessment
 - Link to the workshop and Resources
 - Interactive spots for feedback
- Suggestion for a symposium or Poster
 - Issues in Scholarly Communication – tied in well with the initiative mentioned above. This will involve educating chemists on the issues of copyright, intellectual property, initiatives such as SPARC, Open Access Initiative (OAI), MIT D-space, and PLoS. This could be cosponsored by National Chemical Information Symposium (NCIS), or by mainstream Chemistry Committee. (This is where ASEE/ELD could be a cosponsor as well).

The session on using PDA's for Chemical Information is interesting and will be of interest to members of ELD. PDA's are fast becoming very popular as information and teaching tools. (I suggest we should do a session on PDA's as well, possibly at the 2005 conference. Science and Engineering PDA resources could be found at:

<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Library/Training/pda.html>

For further information on ACS/CINF activities see the division's website at:
<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/swain/edcinf/edcinf.html>

New Members

Susan Boyd is the Engineering/Math Subject Specialist and Reference Librarian in the University Library at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. Prior to starting her academic career, she was Research Specialist at Nortel Networks--also in Santa Clara. Susan was selected to participate in ACRL's Information Literacy Immersion Program held August 1-6, 2003 at the University of Rhode Island. She will be presenting at the Annual ASEE Conference next year in Salt Lake City.

Aнна Gold is Head, Engineering and Science Libraries, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining MIT Libraries in July 2003, Anna was Head of the Science & Engineering Library at UC San Diego, where she led electronic reserves and participated in a variety of digital library initiatives. Anna's earlier professional experience includes five years at the National Science Foundation as a librarian and then as web site manager, and twelve years at the Library of Congress. Anna has an MS in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Tech, an MLS from Catholic University of America, and a BA in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Chris Jocius began his position as head of reference at the University of Missouri in Rolla in July. His previous positions include working in reference at Aurora University in Aurora, IL, serving as reference and collection development librarian at the Illinois Math & Science Academy, and managing technical information at the Library Research Center for the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. In addition, Chris served as a lecturer in the foreign language department of the Agricultural University of Warsaw for two years. Chris has a degree in history from Kalamazoo College and a master's degree in Russian history from the University of Kansas. He is also a member of ALA and AAAS.

Doug McGee
For the past year, Doug has held the Engineering Librarian position at the U.S. Naval Academy, serving as liaison to five departments (Mechanical, Electrical, Aerospace, Weapons & Systems, and Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering). Previously, he served four years as an Assistant Engineering Librarian at Princeton University and two years as the Engineering Librarian at the University of New Orleans. Doug has a BA in History from the U. of Dayton and an MLS from the U. of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

Andrea Jascur Metz has been working since August as a Reference Librarian at Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology in Kansas City, Missouri. Prior to that, she worked at Cardinal Stritch University Library in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and held a number of non-library jobs before going back to school to get her library degree. Andrea has a bachelor's degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and recently married her husband whom she met in library school—he is also a reference librarian!

Stephanie White began her position as Resource Librarian at Olin College of Engineering, Needham, MA in March 2003. The whole university is a "start-up" so, in addition to her official duties of reference, instruction and collection development, she gets to lend a hand wherever it is needed. Olin College is a new school that currently has only freshmen and sophomores. The library is starting from scratch with collections, services, and policies. Stephanie says, "It is an exciting place to work when so many new things are happening all the time." Stephanie received her ALB (Bachelor of Liberal Arts) in extension studies with concentration in the natural sciences and environmental sciences from Harvard University in 2000. She received her MLS from Simmons College in 2003. Before completing her MLS, she worked as an Information Specialist at Gradient Corporation and as Senior Library Assistant at MIT's Barker Engineering Library.

ELD Directory News

Updates from ASEE HQ are being cross-checked with the directory. I have a database structure set up for the new directory and hope to have all the data moved by the end of December. I will then be working with Linda Martinez to get the mentor information into the database. A new directory should be available by the end of January.

Liz Mengel, Editor, ELD Directory of Members
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Message from the Chair continued...

I wondered, who are the “big names” she’s glad to work with? Then, I realized she thinks I’m a big name. And, I think back to the day when I was asked if I’d like to go to the ASEE conference at UIUC. And I remember how I peppered Beth with all the questions about the Seattle conference and I didn’t have a clue about how it was set up.

Me? A “big name?” Not.

I was able to navigate through the Program Chair responsibilities last year, and will be able to navigate the Division Chair responsibilities during the remainder of this year, because I’m able to lean on the experience and knowledge of other ELDers.

During the past ten years I’ve been fortunate to work with ELDers who were knowledgeable enough to answer my questions and insightful enough to question my assumptions, ELDers who creatively challenged the status quo without discarding traditions, and ELDers who led the organization while at the same time mentoring those who would lead in the future.

ELD doesn’t depend on “big names.” ELD depends on willing contributors. That contribution can run the ELD gamut, from a quick reply to a question posed on ELD-L, to offering to serve on or chair a committee or task force, to agreeing to run for an ELD elected office, including the “it-sounds-worse-than-it-is” four year gauntlet of Secretary-Treasurer / Program Chair / Division Chair / Past Chair. Or, it could mean contributing in a way that doesn’t yet appear in the ELD organization. Yes, we’re open to suggestions for new ways that ELDers can contribute to engineering librarianship!

In the next few months there will be specific opportunities to contribute. Gretchen Sneff and the nominating committee are seeking candidates for both the Director and Secretary-Treasurer positions. The Executive Committee will soon be looking for candidates to replace committee chairs whose terms are expiring. When the announcement for those positions shows up in your email, don’t send it to the trash bin. Take a moment to consider if you’re able to fill one of those vacancies.

In the meantime, if you’ve got questions about any of the positions, or, if you’ve had a brainstorm on a new way that you can contribute to ELD, send me an e-mail. Whether you’ve been a member for one year, or five, or ten, ELD really does depend on willing contributors. Take the opportunity to be actively involved with ELD!

Larry Thompson, ELD Division Chair
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