



# The Engineering Libraries Division: A Brief History

Michael White

Engineering Libraries Division

Sunday, June 14, 2015

Seattle, Washington

# Early History

- 1893 Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education (SPEE) founded
- 1910 First journal: *Bulletin of the SPEE*
- 1916 Title change: *Engineering Education*
- 1924 Title change: *Journal of Engineering Education*

## 1940s-1950s

- 1941 SLA establishes Engineering-Astronautics Section
- 1942 ACRL forms Engineering School Libraries Section
- 1944 SPEE has 3,700 members  
SPEE yearbook lists 17 librarian members (membership by election)
- 1946 SPEE becomes ASEE
- 1950 46 librarian members
- 1951 Engineering School Libraries Committee est. (members are primarily deans)
- 1952 ASEE sections also have their own ESLCs. For example, the Illinois-Indiana Section

# Librarian Publications, 1930s-1950s

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1938 | Lane, R. M. (1938). Place of the technical library in engineering education. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 28 571-581   |
| 1942 | Barcus, T. R. (1942). Carnegie study of the libraries of technological colleges. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 32 424-433.  |
| 1950 | Allerding, J. E. (1950). Integration of library service with teaching and research, in engineering school libraries. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 41 245-248. (UCLA engineering librarian) |
| 1951 | Bonn, G. S. (1951). Bibliodynamics laboratory. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 42 173-176.  |
| 1952 | Moriarty, J. H. (1952). How the library can serve engineering students. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 42 440-445.   |
| 1953 | Voigt, M. J. (1953). Undergraduate training in the use of printed materials in engineering and science. <i>Journal of Engineering Education</i> , 43 519-523.   |

## 1960s-1970s

- 1960 ASEE membership at 8,753
- 1961 ASEE hires Exec. Director, est. HQ in Washington, DC
- 1965 55 librarian members  
ESLC sponsors 9 papers at annual conference
- 1967 ASEE grants division status
- 1968 SLA establishes Engineering Division
- 1970 142 members  
ELD publishes first five guides to the engineering literature
- 1975 142 ELD members
- 1978 ELD adopts officer progression

# ELSC's Reasons for Division Status

- ELSC has **substantial and continuous record of contributions to ASEE**, particularly in terms of programs, publications and support;
- Annual **meeting programs are comparable to any sponsored by ASEE divisions**;
- Division status would recognize **“the important position of engineering libraries”** and would **“enable more engineering librarians to attend regional and annual meetings”**; and
- Rapid development of computer technology and information search techniques **“make it essential that the ELSC be able to work with the various ASEE divisions on an equal basis.”**

## 1980s-1990s



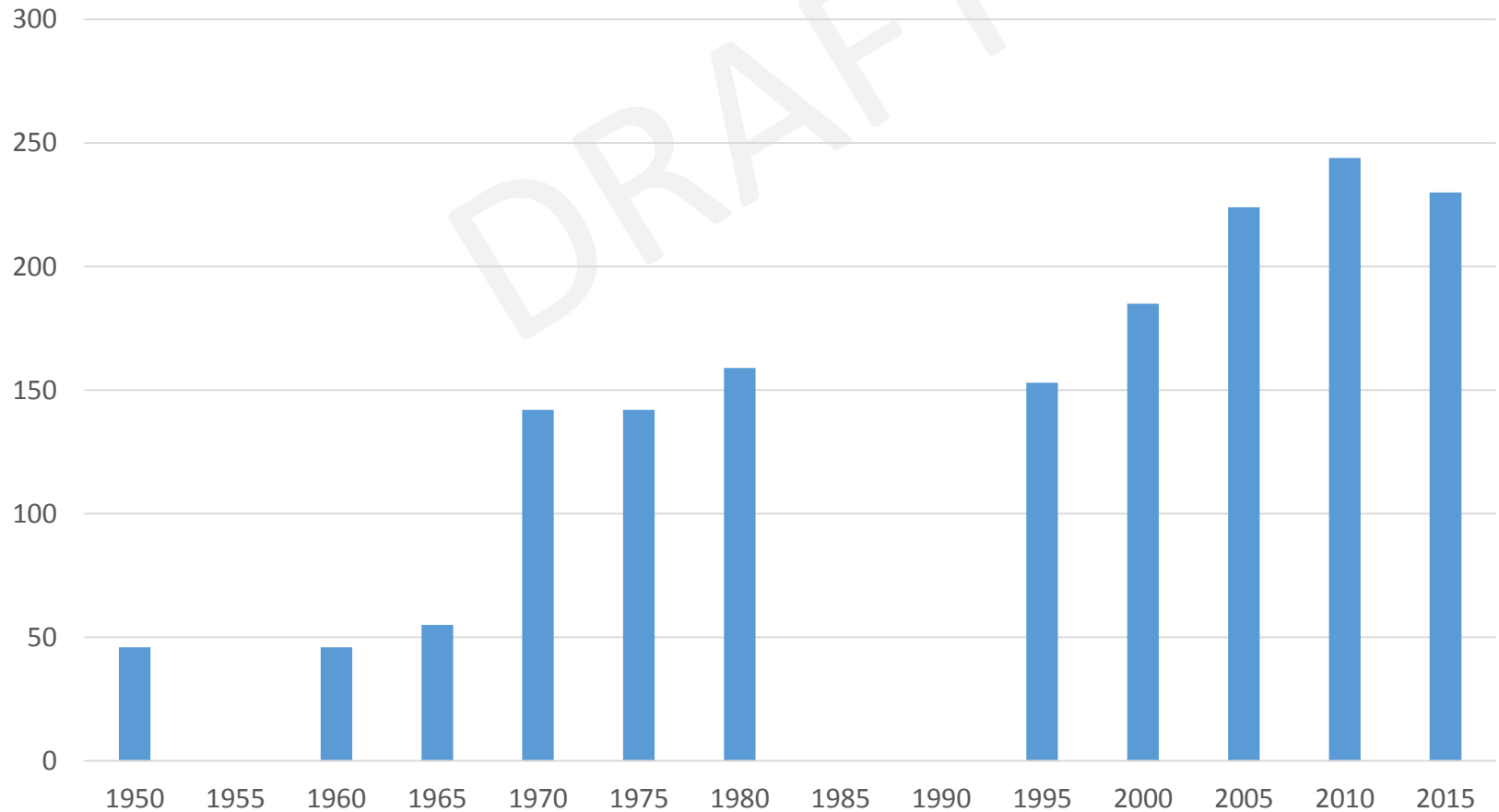
- 1980 159 ELD members
- 1985 ASEE concerned about declining and aging membership:  
9,300 down from 13,000 in late 70s. Average age is 57
- 1990 Homer Bernhardt Award est.
- 1991 ELDNET-L list est.  
Frank L. Huband becomes ASEE Exec. Director
- 1995 153 ELD members (a few librarian ASEE members are not  
members of ELD)
- 1998 ELD-L list est.  
Best Publication Award  
Best Reference Work Award

## 2000s-2010s

- 2000 185 ELD members (1.7% of ASEE membership)
- 2003 ELD logo approved
- 2006 Best Poster Award
- 2010 ASEE membership reaches ~14,000  
244 ELD members (2%)  
Frank L. Huband retires  
Best Reference Work Award replaced by Innovation in Access to Engineering Information Award
- 2011 Norman Fortenberry selected new Exec. Director
- 2015 ASEE membership drops to 12,000  
230 ELD members (2%)

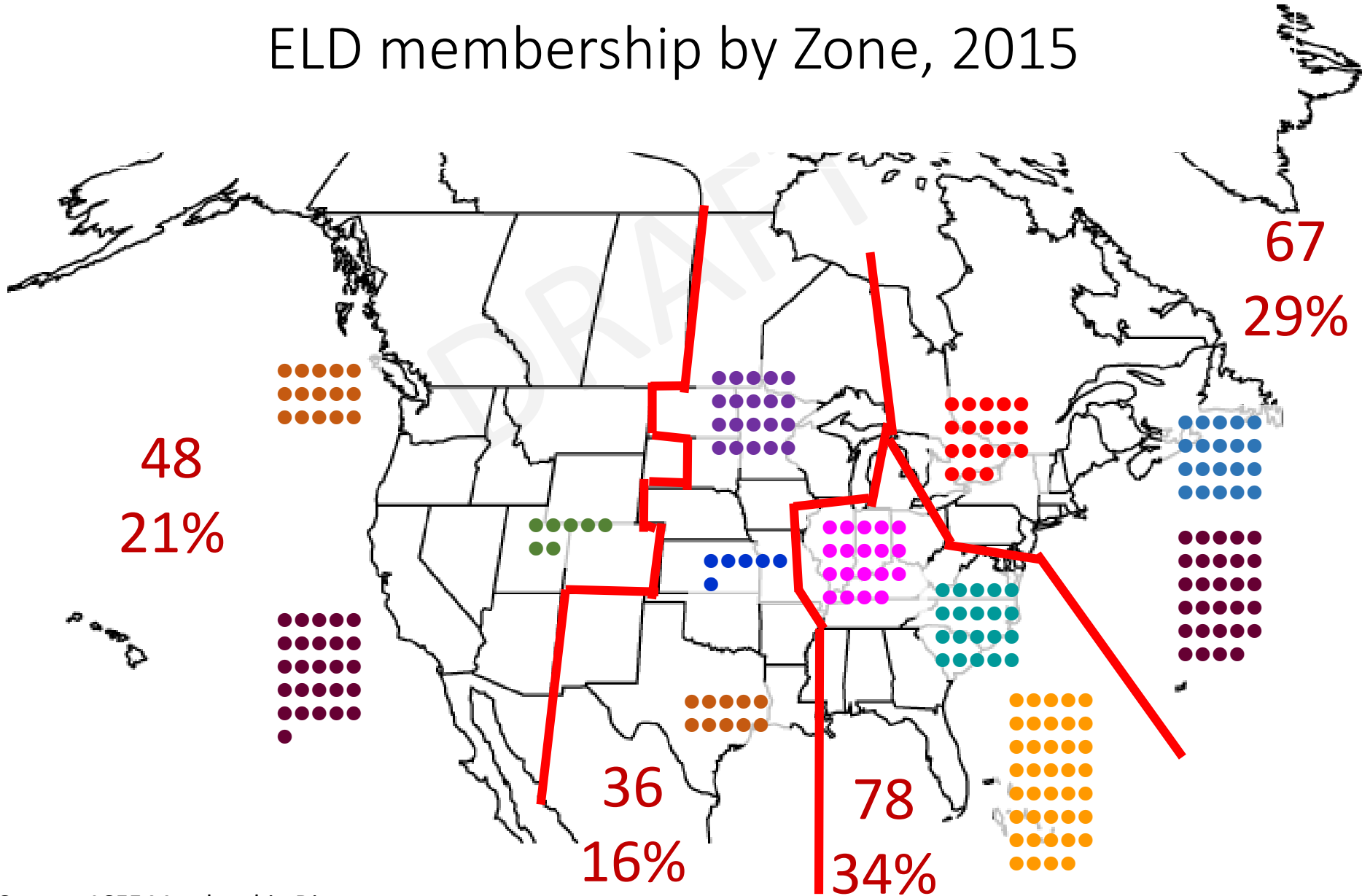


# ELD Membership, 1950-2015



Sources: ELD newsletter, Journal of Engineering Education

# ELD membership by Zone, 2015



# ASEE Mission and Vision

## MISSION

ASEE is committed to **furthering education in engineering and engineering technology...** by **promoting excellence in instruction, research, public service, and practice**; exercising worldwide leadership; fostering the technological education of society; and providing quality products and services to members.

## VISION

ASEE will serve as the **premier multidisciplinary society for individuals and organizations** committed to advancing excellence in all aspects of engineering and engineering technology education.

# PIC IV, Council for General Issues in Engineering Education (Bylaws, Article I)

1. To provide a formal organizational structure **to promote, encourage, and facilitate ASEE activities pertaining to engineering education with emphasis on** teaching and learning and related research, diversity, **libraries**, graduate studies, and technology.
2. To provide a forum for the discussion of problems and exchange of information pertaining to these topics.
3. To provide programs at meetings.
4. To establish and maintain liaison with other organizations concerned with these topics.

# ELD Objectives (Bylaws, Article II)

1. To **initiate, support, and promote the exchange of information in engineering** through leadership within ASEE and cooperation among librarians, information specialists, engineering information providers, educators, researchers, practicing engineers, and professional organizations;
2. To **promote and strengthen the role of the library/information center as an integral part of engineering education**; and
3. To support the objectives of the ASEE Professional Interest Council (PIC) of which the Division is a member