

SAIL 2005 Activity Report

Submitted to the IAMSLIC Executive Board
August 1, 2005

In October Janine Devereaux of the NOAA Coastal Services Center was elected the new SAIL representative to the IAMSLIC Executive Board for the term 2004-2006. She was unable to attend the 2005 conference due to illness. In her absence, Evelyn M. Poole-Kober of the NERL - Atmospheric Sciences Modeling Division Library, chaired the business meeting at the conference.

Roots of Knowledge — Returns on Information, was the theme of the 15th Annual Meeting of SAIL, which was held April 19-22, 2005, in Baltimore, Maryland. Susanne Ridenour, Staff Librarian at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, planned and hosted the meeting.

Building on the theme, *Roots of Knowledge*, Susanne invited guest speakers who emphasized the art of narrative negotiation, storytelling, and scanning the environment. Certainly, these topics are based in our cultural roots of knowledge. The Keynote Speaker, Dr. David J. Eaton, is a Bess Harris Jones Centennial Professor in Natural Resource Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. In his address, *Water, Conflict, and Narrative*, Dr. Eaton discussed how the long-time water conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians was resolved recently in Austin by using narrative skills. He showed a series of discussions between the representatives of Israel and Palestine, along with others participating in the meeting.

Dr. Eileen G. Abels, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies, used her address, *Forecasting for Smooth Sailing*, to discuss the aspects and values of scanning the environment for information and how this process will influence the future of special libraries.

Dr. Roberta J. Shaffer, Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies, used her address, *Storytelling for Adults: This is not a Fish Story*, to illustrate how storytelling is being used as a communication tool in the business community. Dr. Shaffer said storytelling has found a welcome place in the boardroom.

SAIL members and Aquarium speakers discussed activities occurring in their libraries or in their work at the Aquarium. Other speakers included vendors who presented information on their newest products.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore hosted a lovely reception Tuesday evening in the Knott Harbor View Room in the Aquarium. SAIL members and guests were treated to an evening of entertainment by “The Pyrates Royale”, an east coast Renaissance Festival favorite (privately sponsored by an independent donor). Prior to the receptions, the Aquarium allowed the attendees to tour the facility and view the Dolphin Show.

An Earth Day Celebration at the World Trade Center (WTC) in Baltimore—Top of the World Observation Level—concluded the meeting. With a 360 degree panoramic view

overlooking Baltimore City's sunrise and surrounding network of waterways, a WTC staffer pointed out interesting sites and stories from the five sides of the building. Ms. Delores Owens' (an Aquarium staffer) "Earth Day" blue/jazz performance was truly inspirational.

Although the host always wants more librarians to attend, 20 librarians registered for the full conference, with a number of others registered for one or two days. Before leaving Baltimore, some attendees toured the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Law and Health Science Libraries of the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

The addresses by the Drs. Eaton, Abels, and Shaffer are available on the SAIL web page at <http://www.mrl.cofc.edu/sail/SAIL2005web/index.html>

In July, Janine Devereaux notified the membership that she could no longer serve as the SAIL representative to IAMSLIC due to ongoing cancer treatment. An election was held to select a new representative. On August 1, Liz DeHart from the Marine Science Library of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute was named the new SAIL representative to the IAMSLIC Executive Board for the term 2005-2007.