

SAIL Regional Group Annual Report 2005 – 2006

Submitted to the IAMSLIC Executive Board
September 19, 2006

SAIL had another very busy year during 2005-06. In August Liz DeHart from the University of Texas Marine Science Institute was elected the new SAIL representative to the IAMSLIC Executive Board for the term 2005-2007. Janine Devereaux, former SAIL representative, had indicated that she could no longer serve due to ongoing cancer treatment. With many great Blessings, she is currently doing much better!

The major event of the year was the annual SAIL conference held at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, hosted by Joyce Shaw, GCRL and LaGena Fantroy from the National Marine Fisheries Pascagoula Lab. The meeting was a great success; most notably, Joyce and LaGena are to be commended for hosting the conference despite the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Their desire and persistence truly added to the great success of this year's conference. They proved beyond any doubt that libraries can recover and rebuild from one of the worst natural disasters to hit the United States. Their experience is certainly an inspiration to all of us who manage libraries in hurricane prone areas.

Annual SAIL 2006 Conference / Financial Report / Evaluation Summary

SAIL 2006 Annual Conference Financial Report

SAIL held its 16th annual conference in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, May 9-12, 2006, on the campus of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). Conference hosts were Joyce Shaw, Head Librarian at GCRL and LaGena Fantroy, librarian at the National Marine Fisheries Service Pascagoula Laboratory. Fifteen people attended with ten presenters, vendors, and exhibitors.

A generous \$1000 IAMSLIC grant was used to provide travel grants and to defray conference expenses. Travel grant recipients were Liz DeHart, University of Texas Marine Science Institute and SAIL representative to IAMSLIC (\$400) and Vielka Chang-Yau from the Smithsonian Institution Tropical Research Institute in Panama (\$400). Ms DeHart arrived two days early to assist with last minute event details. Ms Chang-Yau presented a program on her library and research institute. The remainder of the grant was used for breakfast and break snacks.

Other sponsorships for meeting events were: Thomson Scientific, EBSCO, Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant, University of Texas Marine Science Institute, CYAMUS, and SAIL.

Expenses of the conference including a welcome reception and end-of-conference banquet aboard the Biloxi schooner, Glenn Swetman, were covered by sponsorships, registration fees, donations from local businesses, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Lunch on Wednesday was provided free of charge by the Rotary Club of Ocean Springs at their regular weekly meeting.

The theme for the 2006 Conference was "Preserving the Past—Focusing on the Future." Talks covered both library and archive topics and marine biological topics. Participants enjoyed several round-table discussions including one on the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans. The conference co-hosts received severe damage to their libraries located in Ocean Springs and Pascagoula, Mississippi, and were able to provide first-hand the steps in recovering from a major natural disaster.

A conference packet accompanies this report and has been submitted to the IAMSLIC archives.

Conference Evaluation Summary

Total number of evaluation forms received: 13

1. Overall evaluation of program

Excellent	10
Very Good	3
Good	
Satisfactory	
Poor	
2. Mix of science and library topics

Balanced	13
Too much science	
Too much library	
3. Potential usefulness of materials/information presented

Excellent	6
Very Good	7
Good	
Satisfactory	
Poor	
4. Sufficient interaction between participants and presenters

Yes	13
No	
5. What did you like about the program? Comments:
 - The atmosphere was inviting and comfortable
 - Good mix of topics & balance
 - Networking and learning about other facilities
 - Disaster information
 - Timeliness of the topics
 - The inclusion of science topics
 - The balance between theory and practice—what librarians do and the scientists and science we serve
 - Theme—Hurricane Katrina and archives
 - Ideas to take home
 - Variety of topics and length of presentations
 - The people
 - Program diversity
 - “Considering that the Gulf Coast has endured one of the worst storms on record, I think it is highly commendable that Joyce and LaGena were able to put together 2 ½ days of worthwhile discussions about science and libraries along the Gulf Coast. I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other librarians to discuss activities and challenges experienced by them at their institutions.
6. How would you improve the program?
 - Start at 9 am (start time was 8:30 am)
 - Stay on schedule, make sure equipment works, more time for business meeting
 - Resolve computer problems in advance (mentioned several times...we had computer problems)
 - Include a talk on OCLC and cataloging
7. Which presentation was most useful, enjoyable and informative?
 - D-Space (mentioned several times)

- Volunteers, SPARC talk on scholarly communication/open access (Julia Blixud)
 - The two scientific presentations (Whale Sharks; Marine Mammals)
 - Smithsonian library in Panama (mentioned several times)
 - Archival collections; marine mammals
 - All had useful information
 - Documenting the laboratory: selecting materials for an archival collection (mentioned several times)
 - Katrina recovery
 - BioOne, Web of Science presentations
8. List topics you would like to have discussed at the next meeting
- Copyright; scholarly communication; open access
 - Alternative funding sources for SAIL libraries
 - IAMSLIC grants to regional groups
 - Recruitment and retention of science librarians
 - Digitization projects and their management—including equipment and software
 - Presentation on a specific library
 - OCLC and cataloging
 - Best practices in marine science librarianship, disaster planning
 - Collecting and managing data sets
 - Website development and content
 - Natural history of Panama
 - Vendor negotiations
 - Special collections
 - Commercial information providers
9. Activities for future conferences:
- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|------|---------|
| • Round table talks | yes 10 | no 3 | other 0 |
| • Field trip | yes 11 | no 0 | other 2 |
| • T-shirt/mug exchange | yes 9 | no 2 | other 2 |
| • Opening reception | yes 12 | no 0 | other 1 |
| • Dutch dinner | yes 12 | no 1 | other 0 |
10. Have you attended other SAIL meetings?
 Yes 11 No 2

Upcoming 2007 Conference

SAIL is extremely pleased that 2007 will bring the annual IAMSLIC Conference to our region. Susan Stover and Barbara Butler will host the combined IAMSLIC/SAIL Conference in Sarasota, Florida, October 2007. This combined conference will allow many SAIL members their first opportunity to participate in an IAMSLIC Conference.

SAIL Activities

In the summer of 2005, the SAIL listserv changed hands from Jim Hendee at NOAA, AOL in Miami, Florida to Duncan McClusky at the University of Georgia in Tifton. It was a smooth transition and SAIL membership was certainly indebted to Dr. Hendee for the many devoted years in maintaining and monitoring the SAIL listserv. SAIL very much appreciates all of his successful efforts!

2005 will be the most unforgettable year for all SAIL members, in fact, for everyone. The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season became the most active season in recorded history. Dennis, Emily, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma were categorized as major hurricanes and caused most of the destruction, with Katrina as one of the deadliest. There were 27 named storms that year and because 21 names were exhausted, the Greek alphabet had to be used for the remaining ones.

Because of the active hurricane season, concerned SAIL members were dutifully committed to stay in touch and communication efforts were rampant. Everyone affected by a storm was encouraged to provide an update to the membership just as soon as it was feasible. Throughout September, SAIL colleagues continued to share information about Hurricane Katrina and evacuees.

In October Peter Fritzler joined the IAMSLIC Membership Committee, representing the SAIL regional group. [see summary report below]

The SAIL web site was constantly changing throughout the year. Updates included: adding new members to the directory, creating a link in the directory for retired and former members, links to SAIL annual reports and a list reflecting current and past SAIL representatives.

Liz DeHart helped organize the annual SAIL Conference in May 2006 by writing and submitting documents for the SAIL web site and registration packets.

Membership Status:

Joining the IAMSLIC Membership Committee as the SAIL representative in October 2005, Peter Fritzler began working with Liz DeHart to review and provide a more accurate reflection of SAIL membership. By comparing and analyzing the SAIL membership directory with the IAMSLIC membership directory, results reflected 61 members in SAIL, 31 of which were not listed in the IAMSLIC directory while the IAMSLIC directory included 39 SAIL members, 9 of which were not included in the SAIL directory. In a most recent review of SAIL membership (September 15, 2006), results indicated 84 individuals as SAIL members although only 56 of them were identified as being members of IAMSLIC. A concerted effort is being made to encourage all SAIL members to become members of IAMSLIC. Several of the IAMSLIC members who were listed as SAIL members in the IAMSLIC directory, but not in the SAIL membership directory, indicated that they thought they automatically became SAIL members and didn't need to sign up on the SAIL web site. Peter and Liz hope to find a workable solution so that SAIL will know about new IAMSLIC members who indicate they are in the SAIL membership zone.

In conjunction with efforts to expand the geographic scope of SAIL to include the entire Atlantic coast of North America including eastern Canada, Caribbean, eastern Mexico, and Panama, Peter and Liz have continued to clarify membership statuses between the IAMSLIC and SAIL directories while working to recruit unaffiliated members from these regions as well. It is Peter's intention to complete the membership directory review by the end of the first quarter of 2007 and continue recruiting new members from outside SAIL's historical region should the vote for expansion be passed.

From the SAIL Representative

Liz DeHart will serve as SAIL Representative until Fall of 2007 when an election will be held for a new representative for the 2007-2009 term.

It has been an exciting and rewarding year for me as SAIL representative. Correspondence, participation and decision-making on the IAMSLIC Executive Board have certainly kept me busy and I enjoy working with all of my colleagues. We have seen an increase in numbers with membership, visible proof that SAIL's current expansion of its geographic scope is working.

For the remaining term, I would like to concentrate on a plan for the future development of SAIL, involving more members in projects and committee work.

by Liz DeHart, SAIL Representative, 2005-07; Janine Devereaux, Editor; Joyce Shaw, SAIL Conference Host; Peter Fritzler, Membership Committee. 18 September 2006.