

## Student Convenes National Caucus

*by Erin Hoopes*  
On February 13, the Special Libraries Association issued a press release announcing the creation of a new Archival and Preservation Caucus, convened by Drexel student and SLA Drexel President-Elect Sandra Schock.

According to the SLA website, a caucus is "an informal group within the Association intended to serve as a focus for the interaction of members who share a common interest not covered by any Associa-

tion Chapter, Division, or Committee."

There are now eleven SLA caucuses: Archival and Preservation, Association Information Services, Baseball, Gay and Lesbian Issues, Information Futurists, International Information Exchange, Labor Issues, Natural History, Non-Traditional Careers, Retired Members, and Women's Issues. The first SLA caucus, Retired Members, was started in 1989. To learn more, visit [www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org).



Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

Photograph by Gary Kaplan

## Copyright Clearance Center: Practical Tool for Practicing Librarians

*by Gary Kaplan*  
If you've taken INFO 520 (Professional & Social Aspects of Information Services) you've probably had an introduction to copyright. But you wouldn't be alone if you still think of it in lofty, abstract terms. Scott Spencer, our November tour guide and solo librarian at Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA; [www.pcaphl.org](http://www.pcaphl.org)), gave us a thoroughly practical lesson on copyright.

His library subscribes to many print and electronic newsletters of interest to his organization's staff. As a current awareness service, he routes them the tables of contents.

Even though he isn't providing document delivery of articles—they come in to the one-room library to read or copy for themselves—just the act of copying and distributing the tables of contents should give you pause.

Scott determined that this use required permissions. His solution? Use Copyright Clearance Center ([www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com)). For a fixed annual fee, he secures the right to include in his TOC program any of the publications that participate in the CCC. Almost all of them do. (A search of their catalog for works published by the SLA returned 44 items, including *Information Outlook*.) The administrative

overhead is low: he doesn't have to maintain with the organization a list of which publications he receives, or detailed usage statistics. CCC provides various options depending on your organization's needs, such as electronic agreements for those who wish to email or post on their website copyrighted materials.

Librarians need to know their professional responsibility concerning copyright not only for their own services, but to instruct their users. In its guidelines for how to create a copyright compliance policy for an organization, CCC suggests...

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by Anita Chiodo

## President's Message:

### Join the SLA Drexel Leadership Team

Graduation draws near for many of us leading the [Drexel Special Libraries Association Student Chapter](#). We are looking for students interested in four leadership roles that will become vacant by the end of this academic year.

As some of you may be aware, those who hold leadership roles at the professional level of the SLA serve for three years performing a different phase of the same position for each year: a year of shadowing, a year of active duty, and a year as mentor.

The president of SLA, for example, will be President-Elect, President, and Past-President. This eases the transition of knowledge and leadership from one leader to the next. While a commitment to the Drexel University SLA Student Chapter is much shorter, we would like to mirror a condensed version of the same process to ensure a stable future for our group.

Holding a leadership role in Drexel SLA is a great way to meet people, network with professional librarians, and acquire strong leadership skills. It looks great on your resume and is a perfect way to differentiate yourself from all those "other" newly graduated MS (LIS) students. The Drexel SLA Student Chapter has become something very special. It has provided us

with a strong connection to librarians and created opportunities to explore the many facets of librarianship. Visit our website to see what we've been up to lately: [www.cis.drexel.edu/slادrexel/](http://www.cis.drexel.edu/slادrexel/).

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The following positions are available:

(1) Co-Newsletter Editor (1 of 2 positions open):

- Coordinate, write, and design the Drexel SLA Student Chapter Newsletter published online Bi-annually or Tri-Annually. <http://www.cis.drexel.edu/slادrexel/content/archive.htm#news>.

- Interview and write the featured librarian articles published periodically online via the Drexel SLA website. For example, visit: <http://www.cis.drexel.edu/slادrexel/content/archive.htm#featuredlib>.

(2) Program Chair(s) (this can be a single or shared position):

Organize and coordinate programs, events, and tours in ac-

cordance with the interests of student membership.

(3) Secretary (1 position)

Take minutes of all Leadership meetings (two or three times, yearly)

(4) Knower Fund Liaison:

Serve as student liaison to the SLA-Philadelphia Chapter Knower Fund. The Knower Fund is a student scholarship fund sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter to encourage students to participate in professional events and conferences.

If you are interested in any of the above positions or would like more information, **please respond** directly to Anita Chiodo, President, Drexel University Special Libraries Association Student Chapter, [adc35@drexel.edu](mailto:adc35@drexel.edu).



**Copyright,**  
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"Solicit the advice of *corporate librarians* and legal counsel who have special expertise in both interpreting policy and understanding your company's usage of copyrighted **w o r k s .**" (<https://www.copyright.com/CopyrightResources/GuidelinesInstructions.asp>; emphasis added).

What advice will you give?

## Need to Improve Your Technical Skills? Look No Further...

*by Karen Kozak*  
 Today's job market is tough. Our degrees from Drexel will certainly help us get an edge on the competition, but should we consider additional training? I think we should, especially since there are a lot of inexpensive training options available. I started tracking down online courses that may be of interest to librarians and library students. Below is a description of just a few that I found.

Kovacs Consulting offers a variety of online courses from electronic collection development, electronic collection development for health and e-medicine libraries, competitive

intelligence, and cataloging fundamentals. Tuition ranges from \$100 to \$175 dollars.

They also offer several free online workshops including "Finding Graphics on the Internet" which covers copyright issues and help in finding free graphics archives. Their training website is <http://www.kovacs.com/training.html>.

If you are looking to increase your HTML programming skills you may want to try out the free online tutorials for HTML and CSS at [www.webreference.com/html/tutorials](http://www.webreference.com/html/tutorials). For more intensive training in web programming you may want to

spend a few bucks (\$59 to be exact) and try one of the many courses available through Alliance Library System at <http://www.ed2go.com>.

Alliance Library System also offers a six week online course in grant writing for only \$69. This course teaches how to research and develop mutually beneficial relationships with potential funding sources, organize a grant writing campaign and keep track of all funding sources, requests and donations. Students learn how to prepare complete proposal packages, and submit one hundred proposals a year in ten hours a week.

## UP TO DATE

### IST Students Offer Advice on Staying Current in the Information Profession

*by Loretta Dunne*  
 Last month, I had the opportunity to help organize the "Rush at Rush" and to meet some of the librarians who are officers at the Philadelphia SLA chapter. For me, this was a double opportunity. It assured that I would make it to the Rush, which sounded like something definitely worth checking out. Also, I knew that I would be making contact with some members of SLA. If there is one thing that I have learned so far concerning the library and information field, it is that networking matters.

As an online MLS student, I had joined the Drexel SLA chapter specifically to meet other

students and professionals in the field. I had heard that the Philadelphia Chapter of the SLA was very active and I wanted to participate. Also, I was impressed with the programs offered by the student chapter and I wanted to be more involved. All of these factors made participation attractive.

The "Rush at Rush" an annual event at Drexel's Rush building, is sponsored by the Philadelphia chapter of SLA. A number of organizations are invited to participate and pizza is provided. The event is normally held just before the start of evening classes. During this year's Rush, representatives from a number of organizations

each spoke briefly to describe the benefits of their groups. Before and after the presentations, there was time to meet the representatives, ask questions and browse their literature.

As a student, there are lots of benefits to joining organizations. Most organizations have listservs to join. Receiving emails from others in an area of interest can offer real insights into potential careers. Plus most groups have meetings and training opportunities. The extra bonus of low student membership rates equates to low risk opportunities to investigate organizations and find those that are right for you.

## *Straight from the Stacks* Is a Must-Read for Future Librarians

by Loretta Dunne

Although I know that the field of library science is for me, I still have not found my niche. Therefore, I have been attempting to learn as much as I can about the possibilities.

One source I have turned to is *Straight From the Stacks* by Laura Townsend Kane, published in 2003 by the American Library Association. This book attempts to give the reader insight into the different types of librarianship, the educational background required to pursue those roles, and the best associations to join for each type of librarianship.

The book is divided into public, school media, academic, nontraditional, medical, and law librarianship, as well as library directorship. Each section spotlights a number of librarians in the field. A few pages are dedicated to each librarian with de-

scriptions of their current role, their background and expertise that led them to that role, and the librarians' own suggestions as to what classes, background, skills and abilities are important to perform a job such as theirs.

At the end of each section there is a summary of the field, the job description, education and training, and recommend memberships.

This is not the kind of book to read from front to back. I browsed, finding descriptions that drew me in. At times, it was a bit difficult to tell whether the role itself was fascinating or the person because some of these librarians have had very interesting careers.

There is Cindy Altick Cunningham, a librarian at Amazon.com, or Pamela Anderson Kerns, the Northeast Sales Coordinator for Majors Scientific Books, who travels throughout



the Northeast working with library accounts. Others are in more traditional settings.

All of the spotlights taught me something I didn't know about their field or librarianship in general. And some of my questions were answered in this book, such as whether you need to have a law degree to be a law librarian or whether you must have an additional Masters in a specialty area to work in an Academic Library.

If you know exactly which field you plan to pursue or you are still searching, as I am, this book is worth a quick read.

### SLA Drexel Leaders

Anita Chiodo  
President and Webmaster

Gary Kaplan  
Co-Program Director

Sandra Schock  
Secretary

Marti Smith  
Faculty Advisor

Erin Hoopes  
Vice President, *SLA Drexel* Editor

Karen Kozak  
Co-Program Director

Loretta Dunne  
Prof. Development Liaison

### Special Thanks

Special thanks to Stacie Byas for leading our January 24 tour of the National Archives and Records Administration Mid Atlantic Region, and to Jenny Hohenstein ('97) for leading our February 9 tour of Jenkins Law Library.

### Mission Statement

*The SLA Student Chapter of Drexel University is a platform for students to explore special librarianship and the information profession; an opportunity to engage with library and information professionals; an opportunity for networking, interaction, and community building; a promotion of the Special Libraries Association.*

### Website

[www.cis.drexel.edu/sladrexel](http://www.cis.drexel.edu/sladrexel)