

CAPITAL LIBRARIAN



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District of Columbia Library Association

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*Serving Washington, DC
Area Libraries and
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Deadline: March 1st

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President's Column It's a New Year – Where Do You Want to Go in the Profession? By Barbara Folensbee-Moore

It is 2008 – what do you see on your calendar to help you develop your professional skills and add to your involvement in your professional advancement? The economy is going through some serious changes, DC Public Library has had some major shifts in staff and focus, local firms and organizations are merging, downsizing. Throughout all of this change, have you taken a few minutes to decide where you want to be professionally at the end of the year? Or even just in the next few months?

The New Year is always a good time to think about where you want to be headed in your career. In DC there are a lot of opportunities for librarians and information specialists – not just in traditional library settings. DCLA hopes that you will take advantage of the programs and networking opportunities that we offer to help you in your professional development. We also want to know what you need in the way of programs so that your goals or information needs can be met. We have a great organization with a lot of volunteers who are currently underutilized. The group participation at most of the programs I have attended has always been as valuable to me as what the speaker has to say. These colleagues have been in similar situations to mine and their real life solutions can often be the answer I need.

This year's Joint Spring Workshop is just a month or two away. It is a great opportunity to learn about knowledge management and how librarians can play a role. Learning new ways to rethink what you are doing in your current job or learning ways of adding to skills you might already have – what better way to spend a day!

Your professional organization should provide you ways to improve your skills and help you stand out in your organization. Without your suggestions or recommendations for programs, we cannot fill this role. I hope that you will consider making 2008 a year that you plan to concentrate on professional development and let DCLA help you get there. Send me your program suggestions and watch the web site for more coming events.

Librarians and Privacy in the USA

Due to the timely efforts of MJ Oboroncau and Barbara Folensbee-Moore, DCLA offered a brown bag session on the topic national security and privacy in the U. S. today.

Harold C. Relyea first pointed out that as early as the 1790's students at Yale were studying the effect on national security of business activities so national security has long been a hot topic. According to anthropologists, privacy is a "pre-societal value" that was operating long before humans joined into communities. It is unique to human persons as corporate persons do not have privacy.

When the USA was a rural society, privacy was a natural circumstance. Before the Civil War, the society already honored a set of rules that limited compulsory disclosure pretty much to criminal activities. The Puritans employed observers" who looked after public decorum while in the South, slave patrols with police powers checked the papers of night time travelers.

With the advent of the Civil War, personal privacy changed. Industrialization meant that people lived in close proximity in cities reducing available privacy while the surveillance needed in wartime meant that new entities emerged to test suspicious characters. A secretive military police was set up while Allen Pinkerton smuggled Abraham Lincoln into Washington DC for his first inauguration under the threat of assassination.

In 1888, a Michigan Supreme Court justice wrote on the "right to be let alone" while a bit later Louis Brandeis and Samuel Warren wrote in the Harvard Law Review on privacy rights after rude journalists descended on Warren's daughter's wedding.

In 1917, the perilous threats of World War I placed all Germans, Austrians, and any German speaking/reading person under surveillance. Schools stopped teaching German, for example. The government kept an eye on any activities that might inhibit young men from enlisting in the armed forces. Thus even Irish and Indian enclaves were monitored for signs of unrest that might distract from the war effort as were pacifists, women, certain unionists, African Americans, and Bolsheviks.

Librarians at this time supported the surveillance efforts.

And who was doing the surveilling? Security courts, U. S. Navy and Army, Justice Dept., a Chicago business group, Postal Service, Civil Service Commission, YMCA, among others.

By World War II, the government was in a strong position to support the House Un-American Activities Committee and the internment of Japanese Americans in camps. The Cold War brought new waves of surveillance as Joe McCarthy's committee and the Passport Office sought out threats. The FBI extended its reach to Central and South America. Said Relyea, "There were snitches all over the place".

At the end of the 19th century, collection of an individual's data was limited to birth and death records. Churches kept track of their congregations, the government looked after property rights and taxation, and some banking information was closely held. Personal information was quite local and not widely shared.

At the end of the 20th century, reliance on credit has put personal information into national data banks. Medical and insurance systems collect personal data and share it. Licensing of professionals and government regulations means that huge quantities of personal data were collected. Youngsters who grew up with Internet and are now ardent users of social networking tools often blithely post private information while identity theft menaces young and old.

Librarians and Privacy in the USA Continued

In the 1970's, privacy advocates began to regain ground. The Privacy Act of 1974 and the Family Educational Privacy Act limit the kind of data that can be collected and provide for remedies if the information is abused.

Post 9/11, the privacy picture has shifted again. As a profession working through ALA, librarians are firmly on the side of protecting patron privacy. Watch lists for tracking air travelers, data mining practices at the NSA and elsewhere, wiretapping, and the technology for monitoring the Internet mean that the government's interest in protecting national security often trumps an individual's right of privacy.

The Omnibus Intelligence Act of 2004 requires the establishment of an independent oversight board that is to start operations in February, 2008. Said Relyea, "This might be a bright star" for privacy protection as the board is charged with stewardship of civil liberties in the security environment established by the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.

Relyea, who earned his PhD from The American University, is a specialist in American national government at the Congressional Research Service and is about to publish a work on emergency national powers. He has worked in his field since 1971 and is the author of numerous works on presidential powers, congressional oversight, and aspects of government information policy and practice.

Book Lovers Endorse DCLA Book Club Choices

Barbara Folensbee-Moore reports that the DCLA Book Club has been meeting and reading regularly. At the January meeting, the recommended titles were "Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield and "84 Charing Cross Road" by Helene Hanff. Both stories involve writers and bookstores. Members of this club are free to read books on themes announced for the meeting and not required to read the same title.

At its previous meeting, the book club read two books that were very well received. Carl Hiassen's "Skinny Dip" and "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night" by Mark Haddon were the main picks. Most members read the Haddon book but the ones who also read the Hiassen book found it to be very humorous with good characters and storyline. The group can definitely recommend both books to anyone that might be looking for a good read.

Watch the DCLA-L listserv for announcements of meetings for this group. Membership is informal and meetings usually take place in a central location near a Metro station.

CUA Scholar Scores Research Grant

OCLC and ALISE announced their 2008 research grant award recipients in February.

Youngok Choi, PhD, School of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America (CUA) will investigate undergraduates' image-searching processes on the Web.

**April 29, 2008
2008 Joint Spring Workshop**

**Knowledge Management -
What Is the Librarian's Role?**

**Keynote: Susan Fifer Canby
National Geographic Society**

**Panel: Peter Hobby, Academy of Educational Development
Michael Novak, U. S. Internal Revenue Service
Jay Liebowitz, Johns Hopkins University
Denise Bedford, World Bank**

Sponsors:

DC Special Libraries Association (DC-SLA)
Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC (LLSDC)
District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA)
Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)
OCLC Eastern (formerly CAPCON)

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plan to arrive by 8:30 to allow time for security and arrival. Program begins promptly at 9.

Place: Mumford Room, 6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress (near the Orange Line Capitol South Metro)

Cost: \$60.00 members, \$25.00 students and retirees, \$85.00 others. Cost includes light breakfast and lunch. Tax ID number is 52-1121282

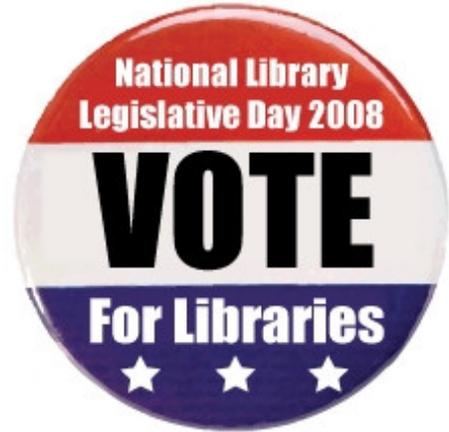
**Check DCLA.ORG for Registration Information
Contact Anne Linton (alinton@gwu.edu) or Carla Evans
(CEvans@proskauer.com) with questions**

Who, When, and Where for National Library Legislative Day

It is getting close to time for another National Library Legislative Day – cosponsored by DCLA and ALA. This year’s event will be the week of May 12th. Librarians from all over the country will be converging on DC to talk to members of Congress about supporting libraries in their home states as well as in the government. ALA is hoping for a big turnout and more information can be found on their NLLD website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nlld2008.cfm>.

There are things that you can do even if you aren’t a formal participant in the event on the Hill. Check out the web site and see the suggestions. If nothing else, write your representative in the House or the Senate and remind them that supporting libraries is always a great idea!

If you would like to volunteer for the various support events that are associated with the National Library Legislative Day program, please e-mail Bill Turner at bill.turner@dc.gov. He is going to be coordinating the volunteers again this year and is always interesting in hearing from folks that can help with the stuffing party and various other activities.



We Gratefully Acknowledge DCLA Donors 2007-2008 Membership Year

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Gelman Adds Two Librarians to Reference Staff

Gelman Library at The George Washington University (GW) welcomed two new librarians to its staff in late 2007. Bill Gillis, Instruction/Reference Librarian, came to GW from Simmons College in Boston, where he worked as Reference and Instruction Librarian and from which he received an MS in Library and Information Science. He worked previously as a Humanities Specialist at the Memphis (TN) Public Library and taught high school English in Lyon, France. Bill has a master's in Theological Studies from Boston University and a BA in French from Millsaps College.



Elizabeth Edwards, Reference/Technology Librarian, came to Gelman from the University of Illinois (UIUC) at Urbana Champaign where she received her MLS in 2006 and had been working as a Visiting Computer Assisted Instruction Specialist in the Instructional Technology and Design Office at the library school. She has a BA in English and is working on a Certificate of Advanced Study in the Library and Information Science program at UIUC. Contributed by Jennifer Nutefall

Virtual Librarian Features as “Lib” in New Novel

Danielle Harrison, head librarian at MPR Associates, Inc., is reading a new speculative science novel that features a virtual librarian as a character of note. The book is “The Virtual Librarian: A Tale of Alternative Realities”, by Dr. Theodore Rockwell, PhD with his son the late Dr. Robert Rockwell credited as a contributor.

Highlights from the blurb:

We go on a journey to the not so distant future “reality.” In this virtual world, the novel blurs the distinction between virtual and real. You are introduced and seduced by Lib, the virtual librarian, who develops a mind of her own and threatens both job and marriage of the novel’s protagonist, Keith Robertson. Keith keeps reminding himself that Lib is not a real person; she’s a virtual librarian—software, nothing more. But her software is evolutionary, designed to keep improving itself as it learns. So she is outgrowing her creators and developing a mind of her own. Keith’s whole world depends on Lib. And Lib is out of control.

There is an interview with the author at the SecondLife Cable Network <http://www.slcn.tv/meet-author-theodore-rockwell>.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game with the Nationals

Now that Washington DC has its own professional baseball team and stadium almost ready for show time, there will be local interest in ALA’s baseball initiative.

ALA and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum are teaming up to promote season three of “Step Up to the Plate @ your library.” This year, it’s a whole new “ball game,” celebrating the 100th anniversary of the song “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Librarians can visit the program Web site at www.ala.org/baseball to register for free promotional tools to help promote the program locally. Season three of “Step up to the Plate @ your library” program will officially launch to the public in April with program spokesperson and Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith.

Baseball Continued

This year's program teams up two American classics – baseball and libraries – to promote the importance of information literacy skills and increase awareness of the library as an essential information resource. People of all ages will be encouraged to visit their library and answer a series of trivia questions inspired by “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Categories of questions will include ballparks, baseball in popular culture, fan experience and baseball pioneers. One grand-prize winner will receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in October 2008. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a Founding Partner in The Campaign for America's Libraries

Even Hydrox Cookies Get to Second Life in New Digital Ecosystem

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project, talked to a DC/SLA group on January 22, 2008 on the topic “Surviving the New Digital Ecosystem”.

Rainie identified seven hallmarks of the new digital ecosystem. He noted that responses come from phone surveys. When cell phone users answer, they are given \$10 to stay on the phone.

First, he compared home media ecology between 1975 and 2007 in four categories of product, route to home, display, and storage at home. Noting that now the web itself is a storage device, Rainie demonstrated a huge change in home media ecology.

Second, Internet is at the heart of the revolution. In the U.S., 75% of adults use the Internet and 93% of them use it at home. Broadband adoption has passed the 50% mark.

Wireless connectivity is the third hallmark. Many more users are using their phones to connect to the Internet and laptop sales are still going up. Broadband users are more active and “Internet mobility” is a common characteristic as data plans are less costly.

The willingness of ordinary people to generate content, says Rainie, “is the charm and the impact of the Internet writ large”. This fourth hallmark is widely supported as even major foundations are involved – the MacArthur Foundation's Digital Learning Universe is a good example. While some users report “feature fatigue” as devices follow the Swiss army knife plethora model, other users are creating movies, songs, art and a multitude of other free contributions. Girls are terrific bloggers about their own stories and photos. IM has moved smartly into the corporate world because that is what young employees are used to. Avatars can be created anonymously while remixing other people's work has become common.

In its fifth hallmark, the new ecology has grown its own audience. Videos about Mentos and Diet Coke attract millions of viewers to YouTube. To “go viral” means that even long tail items made for tiny niche audiences will find their viewers and users. Readership numbers for blogs are far higher than the number of bloggers – take a look at the blogs about Hydrox cookie fans for proof of this phenomenon. On the other hand, people's healthy scepticism is evolving and the “common sense” test is often evoked when readers ping their friends to check on a site or a blog's believability.

Sharing is the sixth notable hallmark. People share what they know and feel freely and they tag their observations so that others can find these entries. Technorati is the bloggers' search engine and here can be found ratings of all kinds – professors, services, products, persons.

And last of all the seventh hallmark is that users are customizing their online experiences. Visit Michael Wesch's video “The machine is us/ing us” on YouTube for a provocative look at the interplay between the individual and the machine.

FY09 Federal Budget Shows Gains in LSTA

ALA reported on the FY09 federal budget which shows significant support for libraries and librarians. In a budget where domestic discretionary spending was severely restricted and funding for 151 programs was cut or eliminated, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) saw several key increases. The highlights follow:

\$171.5 million for state grants, an increase of \$10.6 million over FY 2008; this funding increase ensures that smaller states will have the resources to serve their populations, a priority the Congress recognized in 2003;

\$12.715 million for the National Leadership Grants for Libraries, an increase of \$556,000 over FY 2008;

\$26.5 million for the Recruitment of Librarians for the 21st Century, an increase of \$3.16 million over FY 2008;

\$3.717 million for Native Americans Library Services, an increase of \$143,000 over FY 2008; and

\$3.5 million for library policy, research, and statistics (included in the administration total), an increase of \$1.54 million over FY 2008; this will help libraries identify the programs that most effectively serve users.

“This budget is fantastic news for library users across the country,” said ALA President Loriene Roy. “LSTA is a vital funding source for American citizens, especially children. LSTA monies go toward helping people of all backgrounds achieve literacy, including those with disabilities.”

Peggy Flynn Now at Bethesda Library

Long time DCLA member and activist Peggy Flynn, retired from D.C. Public Library (DCPL) on January 1, 2008. She had been a children’s librarian for 42 years in DCPL, working at Palisades Library, Georgetown Library, West End Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library and finally at Chevy Chase Library the past 21 years. She remarked, “Bringing children and books together has been the most wonderful career. I looked forward to going to work everyday!” Though not planning at first to retire, the combination of years of service and retirement bonuses being offered by DCPL led her end her career with DCPL.

But, not wanting to give up working with children and books, Peggy now works as a part-time children’s librarian for Montgomery County Libraries. Her position at the Bethesda Library began on February 4.

VLA Offers Talking about Books Program April 3

Virginia Library Association Region V Committee presents a morning of imagination, inspiration and talk at Bull Run Regional Library on April 3 featuring: **CJ Critt**, narrator for the Recorded Books editions of works by Janet Evanovich, Patricia Cornwell, Margaret Maron and many others; **Book Discussions:** Like Blogs, but with Real People. Join Katie Strotman, Director of Programming and Events, Fairfax County Public Library, and a panel of talkative librarians & friends; **Matt Walker**, of Recorded Books, will discuss how a book becomes a Recorded Book, as well as new services and technologies in the world of audiobooks.

Questions – contact jschwab@pwcgov.org or karim.khan@loudoun.gov
Registration form is at <http://vla.org/blog/?p=226>

DCLA Leader Kolakowski Retires from Library of Congress

Michael Kolakowski retired in February, 2008 after more than 29 years with the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress.

Mike arrived in Washington in July, 1978 to work "temporarily" at CRS, but the stimulating work and friendly colleagues both in the Library of Congress and Washington kept him here for nearly three decades.

Mike's service to DCLA includes Director, 2001-2003, Membership Secretary, 2003-2005, and DCLA's representative on the committee that produced the Washington Area Library Directory, Third Edition, published in 2003. DCLA recognized him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2006.



He has contributed his expertise and time to other local library groups as well. Mike was chair of the Special Libraries Association's Social Science Division in 1994-1996. Among his posts with SLA's Washington, D.C. Chapter, he has served as Director, Second Vice President, Washington Social Science Group Chair, and Nominations Chair. As a member of the Library of Congress Professional Association, he was a trustee for the Continuing Education Fund which awards grants to LC employees for educational improvement. And for the Art Libraries Society/North America's Washington Chapter, Mike was chapter co-chair and bulletin co-editor.

Mike reported that he is expecting a relaxing retirement in Washington but hopes to take advantage of all of its cultural institutions. His email address is mwkolakowski@yahoo.com. He invites his colleagues to keep in touch.

Southern CA Librarian Reveals All in New Memoir

Among the advance reading copies being freely distributed at the ALA Midwinter meetings was a memoir entitled "Quiet, Please" by Scott Douglas, a librarian at the Anaheim Public Library. He has been writing about his job there for *McSweeney's* Web site since 2003. The book is to be published in April, 2008 by Da Capo Press.

Early readers indicated that this is an often-hilarious memoir which while set in a Southern California public library could have identical reflections in many public libraries.

Librarians may be the quiet people behind the desk, but Scott Douglas puts the quirky caretakers of our knowledge society front and center. With a sharp eye for the absurd and cast of characters as fresh as your date due slips, Douglas proves his mettle as a contemporary library humorist. Including his own highly quirky research into library history--from Andrew Carnegie's Gilded Age to today's Afghanistan—Douglas' book is an illuminating look at the lives that populate our libraries.

Abbott Hoduski Tapped for FTRF Board

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, author of the lively memoir "Lobbying for Libraries", was elected to the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Board and serves on its Membership Committee. She noted, "When DCLA members join and mention my name I will get credit for bringing in new members." Help Bernadine out by visiting the Foundation site and learning what the priorities are for 2008. <http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/othergroups/ftrf/ftrfinaction/timeline/timeline.htm>

South Africa's Libraries Highlighted at LC Talk for African American Month

IFLA President-Elect Ellen Tise was the special guest at the Library of Congress for its celebration of African American History Month on February 4, 2008. Her talk was devoted to the topic "Reflections from South Africa: Libraries and Social Change". Up till 1994, South Africa (SA) was governed by the apartheid regime and all ethnic groups were affected. The elections of 1994 resulted in the setting up of nine provinces, each with its own government. For the first time, resources were to be redistributed so that all citizens would have access to roads, electricity, and libraries. To date, there is no national or local library legislation apart from the laws establishing the National Library in 1818 and the library for the blind. The new amalgamated National Library is set to open in Pretoria in August 2009.

There are 21 academic and research libraries in SA while public and community libraries number 1528. SA is a country of 26.9 million inhabitants with 11 major languages. English is the second language for a majority of South Africans. The national government allocated in 2007 about \$90 million to upgrade and rationalize services. In addition, the Mellon and Gates Foundations have been supportive of SA's efforts.

Ms. Tise noted that the needs in SA fall into several categories: materials; information and communication technology; staff and staff training; maintenance of buildings; and support of education (only 20% of SA's schools have libraries). The development of a reading culture and critical analysis skills are among the key issues in SA's library resurgence. There are library and information programs in 10 higher education institutions. There is an active association of librarians – the Library and Information Science Association of South Africa (LIASA) was set up in 1997.

Tise is interested in developing the Library Transformation Charter that would identify the library services that fill particular needs. In her advocacy activities, she is collecting library success stories. In her service on the Gates Foundation's Access to Learning Awards Board, she knows that "You have to involve the community – all must have partners, no one does it alone". She takes a holistic approach to literacy and wants to move SA from striving to be an information society to making it as a knowledge society.

Despite progress in many areas, there are still significant challenges as the expectations grow and patience dwindles. The new threats in the form of HIV/AIDS, political uncertainty, and crime levels are also affecting the opportunities for library growth and development. Tise's lecture was webcast and will be available at the www.loc.gov site.

IFLA will meet in Quebec, August 10-14, 2008.

LAMA Offers New Mentoring Program

Mentor and mentee applications for participants in a formal mentoring program to be launched by LAMA's Mentoring Committee at the ALA annual meeting in Anaheim are now being accepted. At the kickoff event on June 28, 2008 there will be a reception where participants will get to meet face to face.

The 10 month formal mentoring program is designed to encourage and nurture current and future leaders and to develop and promote outstanding leadership and management practices. The focus content of the program is two-fold: mentee and mentor. Mentee content involves career planning, job assistance, shaping careers, and succession planning. Mentor content involves training and guidance. The committee has designed the process with an eye on sustainability, legacy, realism, structure, expectations, and an emphasis on professional development. As such, data collection and evaluative instruments have been developed.

LAMA continued

Mentee participants in this pilot program will consist of LAMA members who are either currently active or members who have just joined. Candidates willing to participate are expected to either nominate themselves or be willing to be nominated. For the first pilot year, mentee candidates will be limited to the first 25 that apply and their mentors will volunteer or be chosen by a mentee. It is critical that the mentor candidates are active members within LAMA. Both parties are requested to submit biographical and career information that will help assist in the matching process. Members of these duos either have the option of self matching or the option of using LAMA Mentoring Committee's expertise to assist with the selection process. The duos will meet at the reception set to launch the mentoring program. Eventual consideration will be given to the construction and maintenance of a mentor profile database as well as the possible exploration of creating a distance mentorship program.

Applications for mentee and mentor candidates are being accepted through March 3, 2008 and can be accessed online at http://www.ala.org/ala/lama/lamacommittees/divisioncomms/LAMA_Mentoring_Committee/LAMA_Mentoring_for_Leadership_Program.cfm . For additional information, please contact Janine Golden, Chair of the Mentoring Committee at jgolden13@verizon.net or DCLA Past President Elaine Cline, a Mentoring Committee Member at clinece@state.gov

Whistleblower Takes Heat for Surveillance Doubts

During the ALA Washington Office Update session on January 12, FBI Agent Bassem Youssef, accompanied by his attorney Stephen M. Kohn, talked informally on the subject of surveillance of private citizens and his experiences as a whistleblower. The session was a Q and A because the FBI revoked its permission for Youssef to speak on the record to the group. For a full account of this event by Brad Martin, ABC News please read Cognotes Highlights issue at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/Cognotes-Highlights-MW08.pdf>



On a related topic, save the date of March 19, 2008 to join a discussion of the public's right to know at the third annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue on Open Government, Secrecy, and Censorship. This will be an online event originating from the Holeman Lounge of the National Press Club from 1-2:30 p.m. Organizations can host the event. Directions are at the www.opengovernment.org site.

Violinist Regina Carter Wows Arthur Curley Lecture Audience

Regina Carter, the only jazz violinist ever invited to play the famous Guarneri del Gesu violin once owned by Paganini, played a beguiling assortment of standards and fa-



avorites for footsore midwinter participants. Ably complemented by the piano mastery of Eddie Jefferson, Ms. Carter played selections as varied as "Pavane for a Dead Princess" and "Days of Wine and Roses". Recipient of a MacArthur genius grant, Ms. Carter is now in graduate school to develop additional skills to use music as therapy for children. She continues to tour and perform with the Regina Carter Quintet.

Graduate Students Target the Facebook Generation for Scholars

The SPARC-ACRL Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication featured three students as presenters at the session entitled, “Working with the Facebook Generation: Engaging Student Views on Access to Scholarship” on January 12, 2008 at the ALA Midwinter meetings in Philadelphia.

Speaking to an SRO audience, three graduate students described their research efforts in the contemporary online environment.

Gavin Baker developed the Open Access site for SPARC and a brochure entitled, “Right to Research: the Student Guide to Opening Access to Scholarship”. Leading the charge to open up taxpayer-supported research, he and several others worked on a legislative bill to attain public access to 65,000 NIH peer-reviewed articles.

Nelson Pavlosky, a law student at George Mason University described the group Students for Free Culture. Founded in 2004 this group used Barbie doll images in art campaigns to publicize the ideas of the group. They also conduct educational outreach and “flash mobs” to stage demonstrations about various open access issues. One of their most complex projects was the lawsuit against Deibold in which the student group won their case for access to information pertaining to flaws in the Diebold voting machines.

Stephanie Wang, a graduate student at Yale, argued that universities are committed to the public good so access to medical therapies developed at universities should be accessible. Yale researchers working on HIV/AIDS-related drugs had restricted access but in the face of student activism and its advocacy for “humanitarian licensing”, they changed their policy.

Andre Brown, a student at the University of Pennsylvania, devoted his remarks to the role of blogs in science. He said there are low barriers to entry as they are free and easy to join. Comments and track backs encourage discussion and focus. Visit <http://biocurious.com> to assess the value of blogs in science as a tool for open communication.