The logo for DCLA INTERCOM features the letters 'DCLA' in a stylized, outlined font with red and white horizontal stripes. Three red stars are positioned above the 'D', 'C', and 'L'. To the right of 'DCLA', the word 'INTERCOM' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

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***District of Columbia
Library Association***

Established in 1894

*Serving Washington, DC
Area Libraries and
Librarians for 112 years*

DCLA is a chapter of ALA

Contact Us

<http://www.dcla.org>
202-872-1112 (messages only)

Intercom

Back issues are on our website.

*DCLA's Archives
Are located in the
Washingtoniana Division
of the
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Library*

January 2007 issue dead-
line: December 15.

Send electronic submissions
to:
Barbara Conaty
bcon9876@gmail.com

**The Teatism Accord
By President Elaine Cline**

On a rainy September evening, the DCLA Ad Hoc Committee on Communications met at Teatism to discuss a strategic plan for DCLA communications. The result of this discussion was a proposal that was approved by the DCLA Board and that I have dubbed *The Teatism Accord*.

The Teatism Accord is based on the premise that, given the many ways now available for communication, a proactive organization should take advantage of these new methods to communicate with the membership. The *Accord* outlines a communications strategic plan to include the Association's newsletter (the *Intercom*), the website, and the listserv.

The tenets of the Teatism Accord are:

- The *Intercom* will be published six times during 2006-2007 on a bi-monthly schedule.
- The new *Intercom* will feature articles and columns of interest to the membership; give members an opportunity to contribute content; provide a forum for the Association's critical business such as elections and reporting on programs and events; student loan program, etc.
- The primary communication outlets for timely information – current awareness – announcing programs, posting job announcements, etc. – will be the listserv and the website.
- While preserving the name *Intercom* on the listserv and website, the committee recommends that a new name be selected for the newsletter. The new name would be chosen by a contest with the winner announced at the Spring Banquet. [Details Inside]
- The option to receive the newsletter in print via the mail will continue to be available at the request of the member.
- Throughout the year input about this new approach to communications will be solicited from the membership. At the end of this year the new communication policy will be reviewed and evaluated by the Board.

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee are Susan Randolph, Kathryn Ray, Anne Osterman, Barbara Conaty, and myself. Throughout this transitional year we all look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Libraries Are Information Powerhouses

In a March 2006 telephone survey of Americans using a national random sample of 1,203 adults and buttressed by 34 in-depth interviews with national and community leaders, Public Agenda, Americans for Libraries Council, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation found that respondents prize public library service and see libraries as potential solutions to many communities' most pressing problems such as universal access to computers and better options for keeping teens safe and productive. In contrast, though, the study found that few Americans are aware of the tenuous financial picture faced by many libraries. Forty-five percent give an "A" to their local community for maintaining well-run libraries, far ahead of any other community institutions, including schools, parks and police. Those who think public libraries are primarily used by folks who can't afford bookstores are clearly mistaken -- higher-income families are even more likely to use public libraries than low-income families.

Some details of the findings include:

- Majority of the public says local libraries use money well.
- Most people say libraries perform an essential service for their communities and if libraries closed, the community would lose something important.
- Most Americans think top priorities for libraries are having enough books for kids, good reference material, and knowledgeable, friendly librarians.
- But also, computers and online services rate very high for two-thirds of the respondents.
- Many leaders pointed out that libraries fall to the bottom of the list when local decision-makers are forming their budgets.
- Even non-users would raise taxes rather than cut back services or charge fees.

The bottom line? "As we look ahead in an information age with rapidly changing technology, we see the library as an information powerhouse available round-the-clock...anywhere...to anyone with a library card and a computer with an Internet connection", pithily stated by Jerry E. Abramson, mayor of Louisville, Ky.

This summary is based on material prepared by Public Agenda. For the full report, go to publicagenda.org for a free download.



On Left ~ DCLA President Elaine Cline

Below Left to Right
Andrea Gruhl, Jewel Player, Bernadette Bailey



Members Party at Sumner School

Returning and new DCLA members shared the evening of Oct. 26 for catching up on news and developments since the last big chapter gathering in May. The gracious rooms of the Charles Sumner School provided congenial space for enjoying an attractive buffet. Reception master Liane Rosenblatt got a resounding round of bells and whistles for her expert melding of menu and venue for this annual reception for the DCLA membership.

DCLA president Elaine Cline welcomed the new and newly-returned members of the chapter with a thumbnail sketch of the year, including the community service component of the upcoming ALA Annual Conference scheduled for June 21-27 in the District of Columbia in the new convention center. Cline noted that several new members have already taken on jobs for DCLA; Anne Osterman is the web-master, Sara Schoo and Megan Sheils are interest group chairs.

With special nods to Roberta Shaffer, the new head of FLICC/Fedlink headquartered at the Library of Congress, and Ginnie Cooper, the new chief librarian of the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) system, Cline noted that DCLA Board member Bill Turner and she are the lead persons on the efforts to organize community service projects for the conference attendees. Cline explained that the community service at the 2006 annual conference was so valuable for the local recipients of the assistance and so rewarding for the participants that she urged DCLA members to consider participating in 2007.

DCPL chief Cooper was invited to address the group and used her few minutes to announce that there are job openings at DCPA and that the “work is easy”. She highlighted that DCPL is developing experimental models of service to bring the main and branch libraries up to the needed standard. Though securely in a multi-year contract with her previous employer, Cooper decided to take the DC plunge saying that as a silver-haired veteran librarian, she “felt badly for the national capital’s public library”. She introduced Nancy Davenport, aka “Cooper’s external hard drive”. Davenport, with a prior stint as president of the Council for Library and Information Resources, has agreed to serve as Cooper’s advisor during the initial planning stages of Cooper’s administration.

Davenport emphasized that there will be plenty of volunteer activities for DCLA members at the ALA annual conference. A DCPL booth on the exhibit floor and crowd control for the Scholarship Bash are just two of the many opportunities on offer.

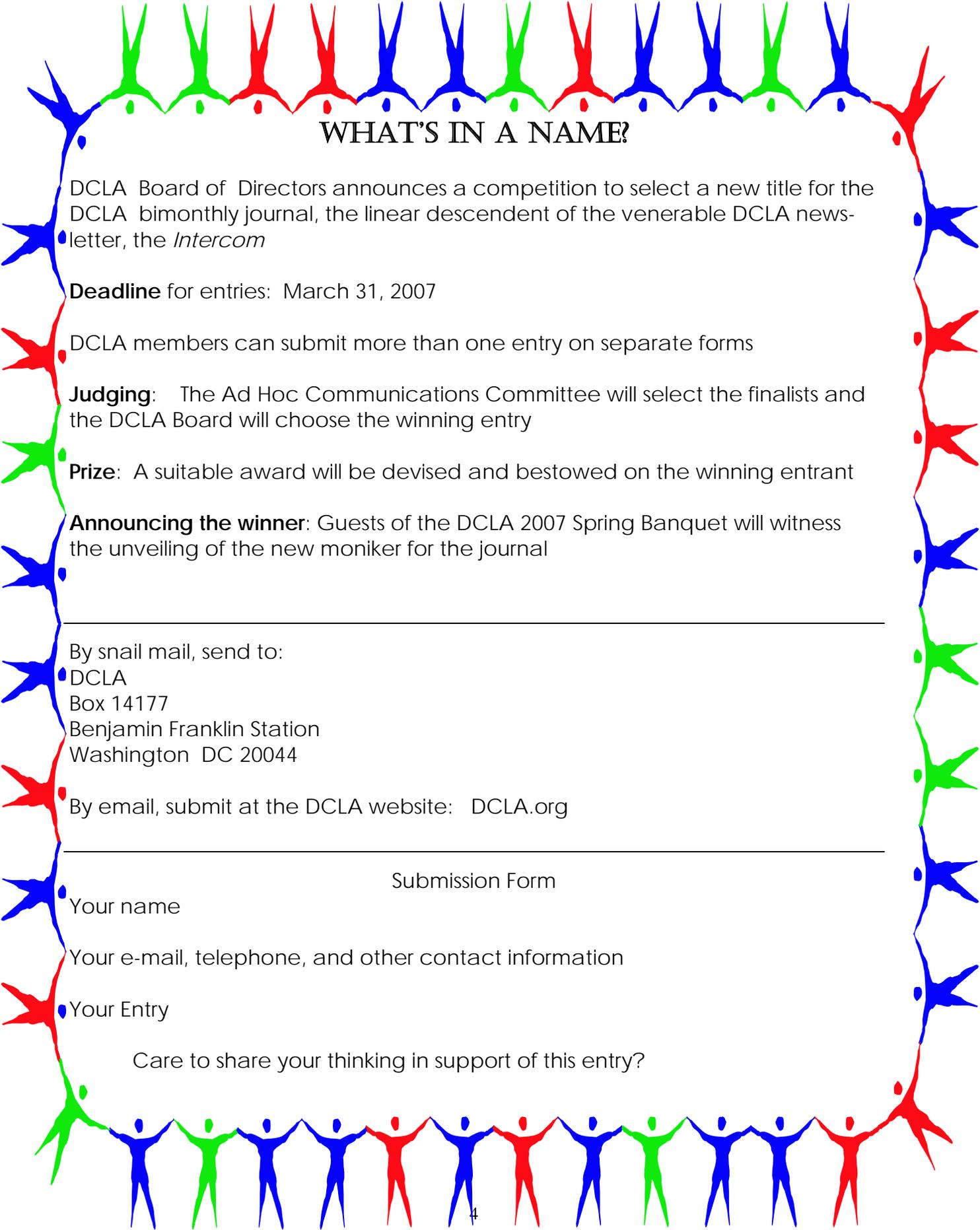
The evening included the pleasant background music of two flutists, Judy Bateman and Phyllis Benson, recruited by Bill Turner. They played a short program of light and sparkling airs, a pleasant complement to the hum of human voices in lively conversation.



On Left
DCPL Chief Librarian
Ginnie Cooper



Above, Left to Right
Sharon Lenius & Liane Rosenblatt



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

DCLA Board of Directors announces a competition to select a new title for the DCLA bimonthly journal, the linear descendent of the venerable DCLA newsletter, the *Intercom*

Deadline for entries: March 31, 2007

DCLA members can submit more than one entry on separate forms

Judging: The Ad Hoc Communications Committee will select the finalists and the DCLA Board will choose the winning entry

Prize: A suitable award will be devised and bestowed on the winning entrant

Announcing the winner: Guests of the DCLA 2007 Spring Banquet will witness the unveiling of the new moniker for the journal

By snail mail, send to:

DCLA
Box 14177
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington DC 20044

By email, submit at the DCLA website: DCLA.org

Submission Form

Your name

Your e-mail, telephone, and other contact information

Your Entry

Care to share your thinking in support of this entry?

National Library Workforce Short on People of Color Says ALA

"Diversity Counts" is ALA's thorough-going study of gender, race, and age in the library profession. Based on 1990 and 2000 census data, the study shows that the nation's 110,000 credentialed librarians are primarily white, female, and in the 45-54 age bracket. The study was conducted by the ALA Office for Research and Statistics, ALA Office for Diversity, and the research firm Decision Demographics.

Recall that in 1997 the ALA began a multi-year campaign with a \$1.35 million fund for the Spectrum Scholarship Program to encourage more people of color to become MLIS librarians. The Institute of Museum and Library Studies (IMLS) in 2004 granted funds that allowed some 400 students to receive scholarships, mentoring, and other professional opportunities. The 2000 census data – the most current available – does not reflect the efforts during the 1990's to boost diversity initiatives.

Here are some comparison figures:

About 25% of Americans are non-white while 11% of librarians are non-white. African Americans make up 12.3% of the population but only 5% of the library profession. Latinos number 12.5% of the overall population and only 2% of the profession. Native Americans number about 9% of the population and less than 1% of the profession. Asian Pacific Islands rank at 3.7% of the population and 3% of the profession.

Admissions to MLIS programs remained stable for the decade at close to 4,900 graduates yearly. Roughly half of the librarians working today will reach retirement age in the coming decade. Mean salary for all library positions in 2000 was \$45,121. Men make up 18% of the credentialed librarian population.

To view the entire study, visit www.ala.org/diversitycounts.

Reading What Your Colleagues Recommend I

Jennifer E. Jones, Adult Librarian at the West End Neighborhood Library and DCLA's treasurer, urges DCLA to "check out the website for this book *Black Belt Librarians*. It is short but very informative and Mr. Graham has a good sense of humor. I highly recommend it for any librarian, even if you don't deal with the general public, you may learn something or at least sympathize." Check it out at <http://www.blackbeltlibrarians.com/book.htm>

Kathryn Ray and Stacey Marien jointly contributed a chapter to *New Librarian, New Job: Practical Advice for Managing the Transition*. Theirs is Chapter 12, *New Managers Speak*. Publisher Scarecrow Press advises that the "volume is designed to provide practical knowledge in all major areas of librarianship for new and existing professionals. In addition, it provides in-depth information on professional competencies and the processes for acquiring the essential job skills to perform effectively. This book fills the gap between theoretical textbook information and the true library profession through practical job and career advice for new graduates and professionals in academic and public libraries." Kathryn is the immediate past president of DCLA. Stacey Marien, Business and Economics Librarian at American University Library also picks *The Accidental Library Manager* by Rachel Singer Gordon. Available from Information Today, it was published in 2004.

Sharon Lenius, National Guard Bureau, recommends a look at the big picture by reading the remarks of David M. Walker, comptroller general, Government Accountability Office, who spoke recently on "*The Privilege of Public Service*." These short remarks can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/cghome/d07192cg.pdf> Sharon also recommends Mr. Walker's earlier remarks at the Independent Sector's CEO Summit. His look into the future, "*America at a Crossroads*" can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/cghome/d07171cg.pdf>

NCLIS Examines Mass Digitization of Google and Major Research Libraries

In March 2006, there was a public forum at the University of Michigan to encourage scholars, librarians, publishers, government leaders, and others to discuss the implications of the partnership between Google, Inc. and five major research libraries to digitize 10 million unique titles. The U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) co-sponsored the symposium with the University of Michigan and held its own regular meeting at the symposium as well. Some 500 people attended the two-day meeting in Ann Arbor.

Here are the nine major questions that are important for the nation's information policy. Summaries of the Commissioners comments come with each question.

How should important aspects of copyright be handled in digitization projects?

The consensus is that laws need to be updated for the digital world. Google's program allows publishers to opt-out if they do not want their materials to be included, a method that has fewer costs than the opt-in model.

When is the quality of optical character recognition (OCR) not good enough? What about quality of content and authentication?

OCR lets errors creep into text so mass digitization threatens to reverse progress made over centuries of careful and high-quality printing. Some feel contemporary OCR quality is good enough and in any case we will learn from mistakes. Authentication means there must be watermarks that encourage trust in documents.

What is the library's role in a digital age?

Mass digitization will increase usage of libraries' collections. Libraries should cooperate to prevent redundant digitization. Librarians can look to new transformational services and use of spaces.

Who will take on long-term ownership of books, journals, and other media? What about preservation?

The federal government has the main role in preserving government documents in perpetuity while libraries are the trusted agents for preservation of digitized materials.

What about standardization and interoperability – will the digital initiative projects communicate with one another?

The current rush to digitization in several unrelated initiatives may result in "silos" that cannot be searched in a unitary way. Standards of interoperability can prevent such free-standing silos.

What are the roles of booksellers and publishers?

Some in the book industry distrust Google while others feel the Google/Library project will make more books available and accessible for purchase.

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What business models are needed? How will the open access movement affect the economics of digitization?

The free or ad-supported model is currently the predominant model while some experts doubt the sustainability of the open access model.

What about information literacy?

Librarians, publishers, authors need to raise the level of information literacy so that searchers go beyond simple web searches. Search engines can be “tuned” for different users.

What types of assessment are being used? Is digitization meeting real needs?

Ongoing market research is necessary but it needs development of standard questions and other methodological improvements. Research shows that users on campus already rely heavily on electronic resources.

The webcast of the symposium is at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/mdp/symposium/>

Read What Your Colleagues Recommend II

And from Judith Russell, the Superintendent of Public Documents comes a short list . She writes, “We welcome your comments or questions about any of these documents. Please send any comments or questions to: jrussell@gpo.gov”.

“Knowledge Will Forever Govern” – A Vision Statement for Federal Depository Libraries in the 21st Century. Final Version.

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/dlcvision092906.pdf

This vision document was prepared by the Federal Depository Library Council for discussion at the 2006 Fall Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington, D.C. It outlines seven goals that should be accomplished to ensure the continued relevance of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and challenges libraries to meet the needs and habits of 21st century clientele.

Depository Library Council Vision Blog

<http://dlcvisionoutline.blogspot.com>

The Depository Library Council (DLC) has set up a blog, DLC Vision: Future Scenarios, to collect and share comments on the future of Government information and the FDLP. Included on the site is a discussion paper, The Federal Government Information Environment of the 21st Century: Towards a Vision Statement and Plan of Action for Federal Depository Libraries.

Federal Depository Library Handbook

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/handbook/index.html

GPO is consolidating and updating its various FDLP instructions and manuals into a single online publication. Members of the depository library community wrote fifteen chapters on every aspect of operating and managing a depository library. Seven chapters have been posted online and the remaining chapters are still under development.

A Strategic Vision for the 21st Century

<http://www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf>

This document presents a vision for the creation and use of Government information in the new century and GPO’s roles in its production and dissemination. This document was presented to the 108th Congress and serves as the basis for planning for the GPO of the future.

Annual ALA Conference + DCLA Members = Community Service Results

DCLA is teaming up with ALA to plan a series of community service projects to be held as part of the 2007 annual conference in Washington, DC, June 21-27, 2007. The planned projects will build on the success of the "Libraries Build Communities" program at the 2006 annual conference in New Orleans (June 22-28, 2006), in which hundreds of ALA volunteers performed tasks ranging from construction, painting and gardening to shelving, weeding and packing books at libraries and other sites needing help with recovery from Katrina. (Volunteer stories appear on the ALA 2006 New Orleans Wiki Main Page at http://meredith.wolfwater.com/ala2006/index.php?title=Main_Page.)

DCLA will take the lead in determining the project sites in our own community, working closely with ALA. If you would like to suggest a school, library or other site for ALA volunteers to fix up one day during the annual conference in June, or if you would like to help with the planning, please contact Bill Turner at bill.turner@dc.gov or Elaine Cline at clinece@state.gov.

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