Info Index

Suncoast Information Specialists

Info Newsletter

Volume 11 -- January 1997 -- No. 1

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Jackie Jackson

This edition of the newsletter is going to be short and to the point as I have been sabotaged by one of the many forms of flu presently circulating (no pun intended). Never has chicken soup tasted so good, for so long, in such quantities! At this beginning of another New Year I would like to repeat again a previous request for membership input in the form of your announcements, items of interest, notices of meetings, or anything else you might like to share with your colleagues. This newsletter is for the membership and we would like to broaden the content. I hope you have had a chance to look at the SIS homepage which has been put together by Shirl Kennedy. She has done a really nice job and she also is looking for your input in the form of favorite web sites.

FEBRUARY MEETING
by Joyce Burkhart

At the suggestion of many members, the next SIS meeting will be a dinner get-together with a program following. It will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 3rd, at the Valencia Gardens Restaurant, 811 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa. (It is near the University of Tampa and has a large parking lot.) The program will be a discussion on The Perils of Downsizing, with Coping Strategies for Same. Harriet Thompkins will speak from her own experience, with others who have survived similar situations adding their words of wisdom.

The cost of the dinner is $13.95, which includes salad, coffee or tea, tax, and gratuity, in a private room. To whet your appetite and give you one more decision in your life to ponder between now and the meeting, there are three choices of entree:

- Steak Milanesa - One of their specialities, a breaded steak, fried in tomato sauce with parmesan cheese.
- Chicken Cacerola - A half chicken, baked in Spanish gravy with diced ham, potatoes and mushrooms.
- Snapper Alicante - Fish baked in wine gravy with green pepper and onions.

If you would like any more information, or would like to share your own downsizing story,

including close calls, tips for prevention, etc. call Joyce Burkhart at 341-4732 or email her at burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us. We're expecting an evening that will be both enjoyable and edifying - hope to see you there!

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING
by Tina Neville

Approximately thirty people attended the December meeting at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library on the St. Petersburg Campus of the University of South Florida. Vice President Joyce Burkhart presided over the meeting as President Lana Bullian was unable to attend. The business meeting began with Treasurer Betsy King reporting that there was $502.99 in the SIS account and that we have sixty paid members for this membership year so far. She anticipates that the total membership will approach one hundred before the end of the year. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to send in your 1996/97 SIS membership dues. Joyce provided an update on the goals for 1996/97: SIS now has a permanent mailing address, thanks to the Tampa Bay Library Consortium:

Suncoast Information Specialists
c/o Tampa Bay Library Consortium
10002 Princess Palm Avenue (Suite 124)
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 622-8252

TBLC staff will forward mail and refer callers to the appropriate SIS contacts. Thanks also to the generosity of TBLC, the SIS web page is now a reality. We are fortunate to have the expertise of SIS member Shirl Kennedy to help us in the creation of our web page. Check out the SIS site at: http://snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us/sis/ Shirl has asked that SIS members send her information about their favorite web sites. Please include the URL and a twenty-five word summary of why you like the site. Shirl's e-mail address is: skennedy@pobox.com

A permanent address and the creation of the SIS web site should help to broaden our visibility and increase membership in our organization. Joyce Burkhart encouraged any SIS member with ideas for the web site or for expanding our membership to send their thoughts to an SIS officer.

Additional announcements included a notice that our own Betsy King had been mentioned in a Tampa Tribune article in early December. The Florida and Caribbean Chapter of SLA is sponsoring a workshop on telecommunications and the Internet in St. Petersburg in April. Check out the TBLC newsletter for details. After a quick break for pizza and sodas the conversation, as it so often does, turned to the Internet. Participants were asked to comment on how they use the Internet in their daily work assignments. Joyce Burkhart began the discussion by describing the Internet introductory class that she teaches at St. Petersburg Junior College. These popular one hour sessions are offered every Friday at SPJC and are concentrated on how to use the Internet for research. Topics covered include how to locate a site with a known address, a comparison of several search engines and a discussion on how

to browse large subjects. The sessions have already been presented to two hundred people with future plans to advertise the sessions in the newspaper. Betsy King commented that she regularly uses the government sites. She downloads actual proposals and finds these sites very useful for locating marketing information. Several other sites which were recommended are: the National Library of Medicine, the Internet Public Library and the Virtual Hospital, which contains a lot of useful consumer information on health related topics. It was also suggested that printing off materials from large sites can be made more efficient if you change to a smaller font.

For those who find listservs overwhelming, it was suggested that Usenet sites can be very useful. In response to a question about staff policies for Internet use on the job, a member from one library indicated that their library required a minimum level of competency on the Intenet. These competencies are included in their performance appraisals.

Mention was made about the TV "black boxes" that have recently become available. The target market for these devices seems to be households that already have computer access and are looking for a way to provide additional access to the Internet. In order to keep this all in perspective it was recommended that everyone read the (print!) volumes entitled: Minutes of the Lead Pencil Society and Technopoly. The December meeting concluded with a tour of the new Poynter Library. This 81,000 square foot building opened in August of 1996. It currently contains approximately 150,000 volumes, periodicals, media items and many public terminals for access to LUIS, the CDROM network and the Internet. The new facility also contains an electronic instruction lab, a special collections area, expanded media offices and a distance learning studio which can be used to broadcast or receive classes. This beautiful building stresses light and open spaces and has waterfront views from all three floors -- as USF President Betty Castor stated at the library dedication, "...there is not a book or a bookshelf without a view".

Shirl Kennedy
January 16, 1996

Suncost Information Specialists

INFO NEWSLETTER

VOL. 11 -- MARCH 1997 -- NO. 2

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Jackie Jackson

  "My lifelong love affair with books and reading continues unaffected by automation, computers and all other forms of the twentieth century gadgetry."

> **Books in my Life**
> **Robert Downs (1903-1991)**

More and more references are appearing in the library literature concerning the demise of the book and or/library (depending on the focus of the author) due to the expansion of information sources available on the Web, and the perceived threat to libraries from the mega-bookstores. One such reference that caught my eye recently was in a copy of American Libraries. An amusing incident was reported about a woman with an armful of books who walked into a bookstore and asked where she should return them. I wondered whether anyone pointed her to the nearest library with a suggestion that she donate the books (assuming, of course, that she had previously bought them at the bookstore).

However, doesn't this incident demonstrate the fact that libraries and books are still *very much alive*, while technology is a tool of great flexibility to be used in accessing information be it in book, journal or electronic format?

APRIL MEETING
by Joyce Burkhart

The next SIS meeting will be held on April 7th, 1997 at the Allstate Center Library of St. Petersburg Junior College, 3200 34th Street South (US 19), St. Petersburg. Those traveling south on I-275 should use the 22nd Avenue South exit; those coming north will find getting off at 54th Avenue South more convenient.

The event will start at 11:30 a.m. in the library, and will include a short business meeting, lunch, and discussion of continuing education for information providers. An optional tour of this state-of-the-art facility for criminal justice training and education will follow.

Lunch this time will be in the dining room at the Allstate Center. The cost is $4.95 per person and includes sandwich makings of all sorts (yes, vegetarian, too), pasta salad vinaigrette, dessert, and

beverage. No tips, no tax. Reservations are not necessary, but contact Joyce Burkhart by phone (341-4732) or email (burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us) for more information. Hope to see you there!

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING
by Tina Neville

Approximately twenty-five people attended the February 3 dinner meeting at the Valencia Gardens restaurant in Tampa. The business portion of the evening began with a reminder by Treasurer Betsy King to check the expiration date on the printed mailing label of your copy of the newsletter. It is not too late to send in your dues if your membership has expired. Membership in SIS is still one of the best bargains in town! Members are also reminded to send their favorite Web sites to Shirl Kennedy for addition to the SIS home page. President Lana Bullion asked for volunteers to work on the nominating committee for the upcoming elections. A slate of officers will be needed for the June elections. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact an SIS officer.

Following the brief business meeting, our speaker for the evening was introduced. Former SIS President Harriet Thompkins provided us with an enlightening and sometimes humorous look at the "Perils of Downsizing". Harriet began her library career when she was working as a technical writer for AT & T Paradyne. When the company downsized she was asked to work in the library. One day Harriet was asked to perform a DIALOG search and, not knowing quite how to begin, she happened to come across an SIS Directory that indicated if the reader had questions they should call Betsy King. Harriet called Betsy and received some very useful knowledge regarding librarianship. As her interest in the library field continued, Harriet enrolled in the USF School of Library and Information Science. She continued her library career at AT & T Paradyne for several years until one day she was informed that her library was being closed.

After providing us with her library background, Harriet passed along some tips she has learned based on her own experiences and on research she has conducted on downsizing. She feels that libraries are often downsized because of a lack of knowledge of what librarians do. She suggests that you "publicize, publicize, publicize!" Let everyone know what you are doing and how you are adding value to your organization. Suggested ways to accomplish this include newsletters, bulletin boards, speaking at management meetings and creating a niche that will allow your customers to think of the library whenever they use any associated service.

Harriet also provided us with some tips on how to survive downsizing. Before downsizing occurs you should:

- Keep your resume up-to-date
- Network, network, network
- Continue to learn new skills -- you never know what skills might be useful later
- Get out of the library; volunteer to help in areas of the organization that may not be library-related

The talk concluded on a positive note. Downsizing happens and change is inevitable, but with a little planning and creativity we can get through it. Thank you, Harriet, for your informative insights!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Some of you may have seen the announcement last year of a new discussion group, FL-Lib, which is devoted to matters relating to the library community in the State of Florida. I have recently received an email from Marian Deeney reminding me about this listserv. I promised her I would include the email address in this edition of the newsletter for those of you who may have missed hearing about it.

Participation in the list is open to anyone, anywhere, but the topics of discussion should relate to Florida libraries.

To subscribe send a message to:
majordomo@florida3.dos.state.fl.us
with the following command in the body of your email message:
subscribe fl-lib *[lower case!]*

If there are any questions, feel free to contact the list moderators:
Marian Deeney or Carole Fiore
fl-lib@mail.dos.state.fl.us
State Library of Florida
Gray Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
487-2651, FAX (904)488-2746, TDD (904)922-4085

Another listserv that has just resurfaced is Libsafe-L, the listserv which provides a forum for the discussion about issues of library safety and security. This list was shut down early last summer when over 10,000 messages echoed from a site in Canada! The administrators believe the problem to be solved.

To subscribe send a message to:
Mailserv@bvu.edu
with the message: Subscribe Libsafe-L

This listserv is open to discussion of all aspects of library security for patrons, staff, collections and facilities, and for related matters in cultural property protection. Direct any questions you may have to: Tim Rebnord (Tim@bvu.edu) or Jim Kennedy (Kennedyj@bvu.edu).

Coincidentally I had included the following URL among those that I am listing for your attention:
Florida Government Information Locator Service -- http://florida3.dos.state.fl.us/gils/index.html
Also, an interesting Ready Reference site -- http://www.ozemail.com.au/~acceye/html_frame.html
And BUBL Information Service - Electronic Journals & Texts --
http://bubl.bath.ac.uk/BUBL/TEXTS.html

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

The 1997 ACRL 8th National Conference, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, takes place April 11-14. Keynote speaker is Cornel West, Harvard University professor and prolific author.

Closer to home is the FLA Annual Conference, taking place this year in Daytona May 6 - 9th. Dr. Ralph Russell, ACRL Academic Librarian of the Year, will be the keynote speaker for the Academic Section Program. He will be joined by Dr. William Miller (FAU & ACRL President) and Dr. Ann McGee,

President of Seminole Community College, for a discussion during the program "Partnerships Transform Academic Libraries" on May 7th, 1997 at 2 p.m. This program would be of interest to any library seeking ideas on creating beneficial partnerships with other institutions or organizations.

SIS OFFICERS, 1996-1997

- President -- Lana Bullian (Clearwater Public Library, Countryside Branch) 462-6448, (bullial@snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us)
- Vice President -- Joyce Burkhart (St. Petersburg Junior College, St. Petersburg Campus) 341-4732, (burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us)
- Secretary -- Tina Neville (Poynter Library, USF-St. Petersburg) 553-3582 (neville@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)
- Treasurer -- Betsy King (Reflectone) 887-1658 (kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us)
- Newsletter Editor -- Jackie Jackson (Poynter Library, USF-St. Petersburg) 553-3581 (jackson@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)

HTML by Shirl Kennedy
April 3, 1997

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

INFO NEWSLETTER

VOL 11 -- MAY 1997 -- NO 3

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Jackie Jackson

The next meeting promises to be both full and interesting. Ken Kister has shared his insights with us before and we can look forward to both a useful and entertaining visit. Also, it's that time of the year when we are looking for candidates to be next year's officers. This organization is run by volunteers who do a fine job, and we have an impressive list of past officers. If you would like to join that group next year, you can put your name forward now! The dividends include being involved with an activity that promotes our profession, getting to know and network with people in all kinds of library situations, adding a line to your resume, and making new friends.

JUNE MEETING
by Joyce Burkhart

The next SIS meeting will be an evening dinner meeting on Monday, June 2, 1997. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Steak and Ale Restaurant, 204 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa (l block north of Kennedy Blvd. on Westshore). Please RSVP to Joyce Burkhart (phone: 341-3472) or Betsy King (phone: 887-1658) or email kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us) by Thursday afternoon, May 29.

We will be holding elections at this meeting for officers to serve from October 1997 through September 1998. If you are interested in becoming more involved in SIS by running for office, please call one of the current officers.

Our speaker for the evening will be Kenneth Kister, who will talk about "Reference materials in the Electronic Age: quandaries and quagmires." Ken is well known for his guides to various reference and information sources. His titles include *Kister's Best Dictionaries for Adults and Young People* and *Kister's Best Encyclopedias*. He has asked that we allow plenty of time for discussion and for the sharing of our own experiences with electronic reference materials.

For more information about Ken, check out his publisher's web pages:

- http://www.oryxpress.com/authors/a00056.htm
- http://www.oryxpress.com/books/bd.htm
- http://www.oryxpress.com/books/be2.htm

We anticipate an interesting meeting - good food, good company, and intellectual stimulation. Please

plan to attend and show your support for our organization.

MINUTES FROM APRIL MEETING
by Tina Neville

The April 7 meeting was held at the St. Petersburg Junior College Allstate Center Library. During the brief business meeting members were reminded to send their favorite web sites into Shirl Kennedy for addition to the SIS web page. Treasurer Betsy King announced that there was $752 in the SIS account and our current membership stands at one hundred. During lunch, Joyce Burkhart conducted a lively round table discussion about continuing education options for librarians, and for people outside the library field who might be interested in enhancing their research skills.

The highlight of the meeting was a tour of the impressive Allstate facility. The Allstate building was owned by the Allstate Insurance Company until about eight years ago. At that time the building was donated to St. Petersburg Junior College. The campus supports the SPJC associate degree in criminal justice and is also home to several police academies.

This Allstate campus did not have a library when it opened; however, it soon became apparent that a library was needed. The current library houses a collection of about 2,500 books and a small collection of periodicals. Approximately seventy-five percent of the collection is related to criminal justice research. The library also has full Internet access and relies heavily on computers. The library is open to the public and participates in the Pinellas County library consortium.

After a tour of the library, we were treated to a tour of additional areas of the Allstate Center. First stop was for a look at the mock jail cells. We were told that this area contains a fairly authentic recreation of Pinellas County jail cells. In this area corrections recruits are trained on procedures for handling inmates. For those of you who were unable to attend the tour, we can assure you, the cells are small! The next stop was a visit to a law enforcement classroom that is connected to a mock apartment. The apartment contains two bedrooms, a bath, kitchen and living room, and is complete with a (dummy) victim. This area is used to teach proper search techniques and helps trainees learn how to investigate a crime scene. The final stops were in the forensic science lab and in the mock courtroom. The courtroom includes the jury box, the witness stand and all the areas necessary to hold a mock trial. With the extensive facilities available at the Allstate Center, instructors can teach students how to investigate a crime, then follow the process all the way through to the trial and incarceration.

Thanks very much to our St. Petersburg Junior College hosts for this unusual and interesting meeting!

ANNOUNCEMENTS
by Betsy King

The 1997 Membership Directories have been mailed out to all SIS members. This publication gives the full contact information for almost 100 information specialists in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, it has the 1996-1997 Officer list, SIS Bylaws, and Institution Directory. Be sure to check your own listing and let Betsy King know of any errors or changes. If you did not receive your copy, contact Betsy.

VIRUS ALERT
by Jackie Jackson

There have been a lot of virus warnings on the Internet and in the literature lately. One virus to surface is the "Concept" virus, now the most frequently encountered virus in the world. This virus is a macro written in Word Basic for Microsoft Word. It is not restricted to a specific computer system as it is system independent. It will operate on an IBM PC or a Macintosh as long as you are using Microsoft Word. It infects a system whenever a document is loaded with an infected template. The macro in the template copies the virus to the master template on the system, and every Microsoft Word document passing through your word processor after that will carry along an infected template. Until now, you had to run a piece of code to get a virus. Now, you just have to load a document.

- A good way to check for this virus on your system is to:
- Start up Microsoft Word on your system.
- Select "Macros" from the "Tools" menu.
- Check to see if the following macros are present:

  - AAAZFS
  - AAZAO
  - AutoOpen
  - Payload
  - FileSaveAs

- If all of the above macros are present, you are infected. Contact Microsoft for the fix.

One possible temporary solution is to copy your master template file, NORMAL.DOT, to a backup file called something else such as USUAL.!W! and then to set up your AUTOEXEC.BAT to copy USUAL.!w! to NORMAL.DOT whenever you start up your system. If you do make changes to NORMAL.DOT, do so without first loading any new documents, and then immediately copy the changed NORMAL.DOT over to USUAL.!W! to keep the changes. You could also then use a file compare utility to monitor your NORMAL.DOT for any unwanted changes to alert you to any infected document template.

This virus is particularly bad news for Mac owners! The Mac has long been almost virus-free, but that's changing with the so-called macro viruses. Since these viruses are in the macro command languages of Microsoft Word and Excel, they can cross platforms and infect both Macs and PCs. Macro viruses, along with the widespread use of the Internet, practically guarantee that viral outbreaks in the Mac community will be happening. No one is safe anymore.

Additional information on viruses can be found at the "Antivirus.com" web page -
   http://www.antivirus.com   , and the U.S. government, National Institute of Standards and Technology's Computer Security Resource Clearinghouse web page at

<p style="text-align:center">http://csrc.ncsl.nist.gov/virus/.</p>

The preceding information courtesy Bill Israel, Editor *Sig News and Views,* AAII, Florida West Coast Chapter.

ASIS Meeting Announcement

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS)/Florida Chapter (cosponsored by USF School of Library and Information Science) presents:

"The Changing Face of Interface Design"

Thursday, May 22, 1997
University of South Florida/Tampa Campus Library
Reception: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Grace Allen Reading Rm., fourth floor
Program: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., LIB 209, second floor

The Z39.50 protocol offers librarians a uniform, seamless interface for disparate data sources. Mr. John Iliff, (Pinellas Park Public Library) will demonstrate a Z39.50 application he utilizes and address the protocols role in the automation marketplace, particularly for Web-based products.

Ms. Kitty Bennett (St. Petersburg Times Research Library) will demonstrate a corporate library intranet application that allows researchers in a diverse end-user environment to focus on meaningful tools. She will also discuss librarian competencies for participating in Web-based interface development.

Contact Bahaa El-Hadidy at 978-1551, or Cary Kenney, at 893-8108, for more information. Everyone is welcome, and it is FREE.

SIS Officers, 1996-1997

- President -- Lana Bullian (Clearwater Public Library, Countryside Branch)
  462-6448, (bullial@snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us)
- Vice President -- Joyce Burkhart (St. Petersburg Junior College, (St. Petersburg Campus)
  341-4732, (burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us)
- Secretary -- Tina Neville (Poynter Library, USF-St. Petersburg)
  553-3582 (neville@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)
- Treasurer -- Betsy King (Reflectone) 887-1658
  (kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us)
- Newsletter Editor -- Jackie Jackson (Poynter Library, USF-St. Pete)
  553-3581 (jackson@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)
- Webmaster -- Shirl Kennedy (Honeywell) 539-3256
  (skennedy@pobox.com)

May 29, 1997

Info Index

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS
INFO NEWSLETTER
VOL 11, NO 4
JULY 1997

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Jackie Jackson

This is the time of the year when many of us try to scale down our activities a little, and perhaps take a vacation, lounge on a nearby beach and swim a few laps, or picnic at a local park; even indulge in a combination of these activities. And, of course, the one vital thing we need in our hand is a good book! I came across an interesting looking website at

http://www.owt.com/users/gcox/bookrvws.htm

prepared by Glen Engel-Cox who is a writer for the Internet Daily News (a daily newspaper on the World Wide Web) who has gathered together a number of links to book review sites. He has accorded them his own rating system. He includes a broad range of interests and genre so although I am thinking of books for relaxation, you will find links to professional and technical sources, children's literature, and so on. On one occasion I had a little trouble accessing the URL I list above but was able to access the site via just *owt.com*/. I hope you all have a relaxed and refreshing summer!

AUGUST MEETING
by Joyce Burkhart

The next SIS meeting will take place at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, August 4, at the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County. We will begin with a short business meeting, followed by lunch and a presentation by Robert J. Doody, Ph.D., Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board Training Center, on understanding personality types, your own and others. After the meeting, librarian (and incoming SIS Vice-President) Trudie Root will offer a tour of the facility.

The Juvenile Welfare Board is located at 6698 68th Avenue North, Suite A. For those coming north or south, just take 66th Street to 68th Avenue North, Pinellas Park. For those coming from Tampa, take I 275 to the Pinellas Park, SR 694 exit. Proceed west (the road becomes Park Boulevard) to 66th St. Turn left and take 66th Street to 68th Avenue, which is just a few blocks south. The Juvenile Welfare Board will be on the west side of 66th Street.

Lunch will be catered by a local deli - sandwiches, salads, drinks and dessert for $5 a person. Please RSVP to Joyce Burkhart, 341-4732, by Thursday, July 31.

MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING

by Tina Neville

More than forty people turned out for the June dinner meeting at the Westshore Steak & Ale in Tampa. Several long-time SIS members determined that it may have been the largest turnout in SIS history! The business portion of the evening began with the Treasurer's Report when Betsy King announced that, as of June l, 1997, we had $628.53 in the treasury and 101 paid members.

SIS webmaster Shirl Kennedy requested URLs for members' favorite web sites, to be added to our home page. She also queried the group on their thoughts as to whether the SIS membership directory should be included on our home page. While this might be useful to some, it could also increase the amount of junk mail that we receive. It was noted that personal information such as home addresses and phone numbers should not be included. Betsy King suggested that, instead of adding directory-type information, we might want to add links to members' institutional or personal web pages. It was decided that this issue could be a discussion item for next year's officers.

The next item on the agenda was the annual election. Officers for next year will be:

President: Joyce Burkhart
VP/President elect:Trudie Root
Secretary: Debbie Factor
Treasurer: Betsy King

Many thanks to our colleagues for their willingness to serve SIS in an official capacity. They will take office in September 1997.

The main program for the evening was Ken Kister's discussion of electronic references sources. As many of you know, besides Ken's national reputation as a reference source expert, he is also an insightful and witty speaker. The program began with Ken's declaration that, while he is not a Luddite, he does have a certain sympathy for them. With that statement on the table, he proceeded to describe the origin of the term "Luddite." We then enjoyed a brief excursion into the eighteenth century English world of Ned Lud.

Ken continued his discussion with a review of the many benefits of electronic resources, particularly electronic encyclopedias. Electronic encyclopedias are not limited in size, they are easier to keep updated, they can incorporate multi-media components and they are much more cost-effective than their print equivalents. Of course, electronic references sources are not without their problems. For instance, additional software may be needed to access the resources, making it difficult or impossible for some users to have access. Perhaps the biggest problem with some electronic resources, however, is in quality control. Much of the information, particularly that which is located on the Internet, is outdated, lacks authority or is inaccurate.

The question and answer period following Ken's talk focused on the problem of evaluating information on the Internet. Several SIS members, including Shirl Kennedy and Drew Smith, have been publishing in the area of evaluating the quality of Web sources. The good news is that the word does seem to be getting out that not everything on the Web is accurate or worthwhile. Suggestions for locating quality information included identifying reputable organizations and following their links or, as we often do with print materials, checking several sites to see if the information given is consistent.

This lively discussion flew by at "warp speed" and could have continued for hours. Our thanks to Ken Kister and the many SIS participants for a fascinating and informative evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
by Betsy King

Special Libraries Association, Florida and Caribbean Chapter, had a regional meeting on April 11, in St. Petersburg.a part of the Spring Worskhop on "Telecommunications," The workshop was held at the Florida Marine Research Institute and hosted by Jan Boyett. Annual elections were held at the morning meeting. Tim Pasden (Tampa Technical Institute) was elected Secretary; Betsy King (Reflectone) was elected Treasurer.

NATIONAL ONLINE MEETING
by Joyce Burkhart

In May I was fortunate enough to attend the National Online Meeting in New York City. This annual event, sponsored by Information Today magazine, was attended by more than 2,500 librarians, information professionals and information providers. Three days of meetings confirmed my suspicions about the current trend in the provision of electronic information: the Internet is the front runner as the medium of choice. Whenever workshops were offered, those related to the Net were filled to overflowing, while takers for others, even those on CD technology, were relatively few.

Two noteworthy discoveries for me were:

1. The subject of website reliability and source evaluation is being addressed by many institutions and organizations. These folks are putting together links to sites in special subject areas AND offering their own search engines for just those selected links (for an example, check out the American Medical Association's page at http://www.ama-assn.org).
2. Creators of search engines like Infoseek, Excite, Lycos, etc. are very much aware of the shortcomings of their products and are working hard to improve them. Representatives for these and other search engines interacted with us to determine what we need to do our jobs, as well as to update us on new and impending product improvements.

Needless to say, I came home with more ideas than I will ever have the time or opportunity to pursue, but I'm hoping to at least incorporate the very best into my daily job pursuits.

SIS OFFICERS, 1996-1997

President
>   Lana Bullian (Clearwater Public Library, Countryside Branch)
>   (813) 462-6448
>   bullial@snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us

Vice President
>   Joyce Burkhart (St. Petersburg Junior College, St. Pete Campus)
>   813) 341-4732
>   burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us

Secretary
     Tina Neville (Poynter Library, USF-St. Petersburg)
     (813) 553-3582
     neville@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu

Treasurer
     Betsy King (Reflectone)
     (813) 887-1658
     kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us

Newsletter Editor
     Jackie Jackson (Poynter Library, USF-St. Pete)
     (813) 553-3581
     jackson@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu

Webmaster
     Shirl Kennedy (Honeywell)
     (813) 539-3256
     skennedy@pobox.com

Info Index

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS
INFO NEWSLETTER
VOL 11, NO. 5
SEPTEMBER 1997

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Jackie Jackson

Our new officers begin their terms of office this month. We welcome them and extend our thanks to outgoing President Lana Bullian and Secretary Tina Neville for their excellent contributions over the last year. See the end of this newsletter for updating your address files.

This month's newsletter is jam packed with goodies, so without another word ....

OCTOBER MEETING
by Trudie Root

The SIS October meeting will be held on Monday, October 6th at 11.30 a.m. at the American College of Physician Executives, located in the Sheraton Grand building in Tampa at the corner of Westshore and Kennedy Boulevards, 4890 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 200. The meeting will begin with lunch in the Courtyard Cafe, to be followed by a brief business meeting and a presentation by librarian Gwen Wolff. Members will then form into small groups for a tour of the facility.

The American College of Physician Executives is the national professional and educational association of physicians in leadership and management positions throughout the health care field. Founded in 1975 as the American Academy of Medical Directors, the College is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is raising the standards of health care through management education and research. The College publishes books and a journal; offers more than 45 seminars and conferences each year; and presents numerous on-site programs providing education specifically tailored to organizations' needs. The College's more than 12,000 members are physician executives with management or administrative responsibilities in hospitals, group practices, managed care, government, universities, the military, and industry. To see more about ACPE on the Internet, visit http://www.acpe.org.

Directions:

> From St. Petersburg - take I 275 to Kennedy Boulevard exit. Stay on Kennedy. 3rd stoplight is Occident (right across from Westshore Mall). Turn right on Occident. The Sheraton Grand is on the left side of the street.

> In Tampa - I 275 to Westshore exit. Take Westshore to Kennedy. (The Sheraton Grand is on the SW corner of the intersection.) Right on Kennedy to 1st stoplight - Occident. Left on Occident. The Sheraton Grand is on the left side of the street.

Where to park: Enter the parking garage and drive up to the 4th floor or higher. Park in any non-reserved space. Take the elevator down to the Lobby area. To get to the courtyard Cafe, walk toward the fountain and into the Hotel Lobby area. The Courtyard Cafe is just past Shula's restaurant.

What's for lunch: Lunch is at 11.30 a.m. in the Courtyard Cafe. The Pasta Bar meal includes a selection of pastas and sauce ingredients. Pasta dishes will be tossed to order, and served to the table with Caesar salad and bread, for $7.95. Beverages and gratuity are not included.

This will be a very interesting meeting and we look forward to seeing you.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST MEETING
by Tina Neville

The August meeting was hosted by Trudie Root and the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board. Joyce Burkhart presided over the brief business meeting. Shirley Kennedy gave a short presentation on the SIS home page (http://snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us/sis) . The current page contains our newsletter, the SIS bylaws, an organizational history and links to useful web pages. Joyce asked SIS members to examine the page prior to the October meeting. She would like to use a portion of that meeting to discuss potential additions to the page.

After the business meeting, attendees were treated to a presentation by R.J. Doody, Director of the Training Center at the Juvenile Welfare Board. He provided us with a fascinating look at the Enneagram method of personality typing. The Enneagram originated in Afghanistan nearly 2,000 years ago. For many years the process was a verbal tradition that was passed through the generations by Sufi masters. The Enneagram method was introduced in California in the 1970's. The Enneagram is composed of nine basic personality types: the helper, the status seeker, the artist, the thinker, the loyalist, the generalist, the leader, the peacemaker and the reformer. These nine types are grouped into three triads: the feeling triad, the doing triad and the relating triad. Mr. Doody provided with us brief descriptions of each personality type. The nine types are displayed on a circle which are connected to one another in a very specific manner. The goal of the Enneagram is to follow a "path of integration" which will lead to a more balanced lifestyle. For additional information on this interesting method, Mr. Doody suggests the following books:

- Beesing, Maria; Robert J. Nogosek and Patrick H. O'Leary. *The Ennegram*. Denville, N.J: Dimension Books, 1984.
- Riso, D. *Personality Types: Using the Enneagram for Self Discovery*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987.
- Riso, D. *Understanding the Enneagram: Practical Guide to Personality Types*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.

Following Mr. Doody's presentation, we were shown a short video illustrating the services available at the Juvenile Welfare Board Library. This library acts as a resource point for the public and for health service professionals, so it contains a mixture of public and academic library information. They subscribe to approximately 150 periodicals titles and have a collection of around 3,000 books which cover topics such as parenting and adolescents. The library also has an extensive video collection, and has access to a number of computer resources. Special collections include grant information, government reports and demographic data for Pinellas County and the State of Florida. Materials are available to any resident of Pinellas County or to those working in child services agencies in Pinellas County.

Many thanks to Trudie Root, R.J. Doody and the Juvenile Welfare Board for providing us with this informative presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(by Deb Henry) The 1997 Annual Fall Workshop, sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries, will focus on one of the hottest topics in Florida, "Distance Learning and its Implications for Libraries and Librarians". The Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach, October 17, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (registration, coffee and danish at 8:30 a.m.)

Registrations postmarked before October 10 are $50.00 for ACRL or FLA members, $60.00 for non ACRL or FLA members, $25.00 for students and $25.00 for retired librarians. Lunch (overlooking the beach!) and breaks are included. Registrations postmarked after October 10, or on-site registrations, please add $10.00. Cancellations must be received by October 10. Make checks payable to Florida Chapter, ACRL and send to:

> Kathleen Cohen
> University of North Florida Library
> P.O. Box 17605
> Jacksonville, FL 32245

Please include your name, address, phone number and institution.

The program will feature Tom Abbott, Dean of Learning Resources and University Development, University of Maine at Augusta. Dr. Abbott speaks regularly and consults nationally on distance learning, information literacy, off-campus library services and distance education technologies. Joining him will be Lisa Close, Library Applications Specialist for the Public Access Catalog at the College Center for Library Automation; Paul Pival, Document Delivery Librarian, Nova Southeastern University; and Carol Turner, Director for Public Services at the George Smathers Libraries, University of Florida.

Come join us for an informative and timely program, renew friendships with colleagues and plan to stay for a weekend of fun and sun at beautiful Cocoa Beach. The Holiday Inn has an impressive 27-acre oceanfront property with olympic size pool, spa and tennis courts. Room rate is $62.00 single/double. The rate will be honored through the weekend. Please call the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach to reserve a room and identify yourself as the Florida Chapter, ACRL group. Deadline for reservations is September 25, 1997. Call (407) 783-2271 or 1-800-206-2747. From I-95, take exit 77 (Route 528, Beeline) and head east about ten miles to "1". If you have questions or require special accommodations, please call or email Susan Byrd, (305) 237-2068,or BYRDSMD2@LINCC.CCLA.LIB.FL.US.

***

(Re Brad Ward): Congratulations and Best Wishes are in order for Brad Ward of TBLC. Effective October 1, 1997, he will become the Executive Directory of NEFLIN!

NEFLIN is the multi-type cooperative operating out of Jacksonville. They serve libraries in 19 counties all over Northeast Florida.

Personal congratulations can reach him at his "new" e-mail address: brad@neflin.org. Good luck, Brad - and stay in touch!

SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Wiggins, Notess et al.
by Shirley Kennedy

Why is the Web so slow? Anyone who is more than just a casual user confronts this question on a regular basis. Rich Wiggins -- systems guru at Michigan State University, author of *The Internet for Everybody* (McGraw-Hill, 1995, $29.95, ISBN 0-07-067019-6), and a perennially popular conference speaker -- attempted to explain the so-called "World Wide Wait" to a standing room only audience.

As you might suspect, there is no simple explanation. A common tendency is to lay all the blame at the feet of "bandwidth" - or lack thereof. But, as Wiggins pointed out, "Bandwidth is important, but it isn't the only consideration." In the course of his presentation, "The Web in the Blink of an Eye," Wiggins ticked off a number of computer and network choke points:

- Latency - "inherent delays introduced by the infrastructure of the network
- Amdahl's Law simplified - "Each component of a computer system contributes to that system."
- The fact that the Domain Name System, which keeps track of I.P. addresses, is a "distributed database" - i.e. the information is disbursed throughout numerous machines on the network.
- Slow Internet links - "Line delay adds up."
- Internet routing - "The number of links between you and that Web page.
- Congestion - at any point along the network between your PC and the remote server
- Slow modems, slow processors and server delays.
- "The cost of a clickthrough" - Banner ads displayed on Web pages are often on different servers at remote locations.
- "Images, by far, are the biggest cost of Web pages".
- Web page animation
- Various specialized file formats requiring helper applications - Shockwave, et al., Real time audio and video feeds.
- "Web browsers are becoming memory hogs."
- Java applets - "CPU thief".

After discussing the bad news, Wiggins presented some impending solutions:

- Faster modems.
- "Faster metropolitan links" - e.g. ISDN, ASDL, cable modems.
- Faster LANs - "100 megabit Ethernet".
- "Faster long-haul links".
- Caching - "storing a local copy of data near the consumer.
- Mirroring - replicating "an entire Web site or database at various disparate locations".
- "Pre-fetching" and offline viewers.
- Packet switching instead of packet routing - "Make some Internet links behave more like the phone network."
- PC speed improvements.
- Faster databases.
- Multicasting - data routed once across long-haul network connection and then to each subnet as required
- Internet 2 - now being developed by consortium of major U.S. universities with faster "backbone,"

different classes (priorities) of service on one network, reliability of service and predictability of cost.

More and bigger bandwidth may also be on the horizon but, as Wiggins pointed out, "Even if bandwidth is greater, users will find ways of consuming it."

***

Wiggins gave a second presentation entitled "The Post Web World," in which he pointed out, "The Web is only four years old, but for many purposes people now 'assume the Web' - meaning that the history of information dissemination may be divided into the 'pre-Web' and 'post-Web' eras." A prime example of this is the so-called "database race to the Web." In order to use proprietary online databases in the past, you had to install a separate client program for each one. Now, according to Wiggins, "the browser is becoming the standard interface."

As far as non-proprietary data is concerned, people often assume that there's "something out there on just about every subject." And while "traditional print media" will not disappear anytime soon, the Web will only grow in importance as a medium for "research and scholarly work," simply because there are some things - like searching - that computers do much better than humans. And yet, because just about anyone who can get him- or herself online is capable of putting up a Web page - Wiggins calls this "democratization of content: -- the often-discussed issues of accuracy, authenticity, ownership/authority, currency, completeness will become more critical than ever. From a search engine's point of view, Wiggins said, "Everybody's page ranks equally."

All of which means a more crucial role for information specialists, whom Wiggins sees as creators of "handcrafted starting points," subject-specific indexes, and "niche catalogs" where the links have been vetted for quality. Users are getting more demanding, he said, as they look for instant information gratification. "Why does AltaVista have all that junk in it?" will continue to be the question for the 90s. Sometime within the next three or so years, Wiggins said, we'll be facing "a billion URLs universe." All this data may lead people to believe that whatever the question, the answer is on the Web. "Not!"

Powerpoint97 versions of both of Wiggin's presentations are available at http://www.nemonline.org/presen t/rww/.

***

"Choosing and Using Internet Search Engines" - a joint presentation by Greg Notess of Montana State University, Jian Liu of Indiana University and Mary Ellen Bates of Bates Information Services - attracted such a large crowd of listeners that the doors to the conference room were shut and people were turned away, by order of the fire marshal. What does this tell you? That information specialists are starving for this kind of knowledge. And the three presenters offered some juicy tidbits on which to nibble.

Said Notess:

- Hotbot appears to be the largest and most comprehensive of the major search engines.
- Both AltaVista and Hotbot attempt to "expose duplicate URLs," but generally there does not seem to be much overlap among the major search engines. "To be really comprehensive, you must check them all."

Said Liu:

- "Metasearch engines," which send your query to the various major search engines simultaneously, are getting better all the time, but they still don't take advantage of "the unique and powerful features of the individual engines."
- Some important things to look for in a metasearch engine are: a "time out feature," where the metasearcher quits trying to access an individual search engine if unsuccessful after a certain period; "integration," mainly removal of duplicate hits; and the ability to restrict the number of hits returned from individual search engines.
- Some recommended metasearch engines are:
    - Metacrawler - http://www.metacrawler.co m/
    - Inference Find - http://www.inference. com/ifind/ , and
    - Dogpile - http://dogpile.com/

Said Bates:

- "Traditional online vendors are jumping on the Web bandwagon," and reaching out more to end-users - e.g., DialogWeb (http://dialog.krinfo.com/), Dialog Select (http://dialogselect.krinfo.com/), etc.
- The major search engines "are adding power tools" such as Excite's "more like this" (http:www.excite.com/), AltaVista's "Live Topics" (http://www.altavista.digital.com/) and Lycos's "loose-fair-good-strong" match choice feature (http://www.lycos.com/)
- Metasearch engines are proliferating. "Last time I looked, more than 125 were cataloged on Yahoo," although not all of these offer simultaneous searching.
- We are also seeing an increasing number of "subject- and topic-specific channels" -either incorporated into the major search engines or standalone, such as the University of Chicago's Webseer (http://infolab.cs.uch icago.edu/webseer/) for images, or the Star Trek search engine at "All Star Trek All the Time" (http://www.golden.ne t/~jip/trek/trek.htm) .

Notess's presentation is available at http://imt.net/~notess/sla97/ . Liu's presentation is available at http://www.indiana.edu/~librc sd/search/ . And Bate's presentation is available at http://www.access.digex.net/~mbates/newsites.txt .

***

My vote for the most intriguing product in the vendor hall goes to "NetOwl," a family of "intelligence discovery tools" by IsoQuest, Inc. (http://www.isoquest.com), of Fairfax, VA. First a little background:

You probably feel overwhelmed by the sheer volume of data you have to pour through during the course of an average work day. Well, suppose you worked as a data analyst for the spooks at the Central Intelligence Agency or the National Security Agency. Imagine your own workload times ten...or more.

Traditionally, these folks have had highly specialized indexing and search software to help them. The big name in this specialized field is SRA International, Inc. (http://www.sra.com/main html) which, since its founding 19 years ago, "has been involved in a large number of high-level projects delivering sophisticated information technology systems to the federal government." IsoQuest, a privately held spinoff from SRA, is basically attempting to leverage this technology into the non-spook sector - specifically, targeting as clients, "information dependent organizations such as publishers, market research firms, insurance companies, regulatory agencies, and any others that can benefit from rapid, cost efficient access to business information."

NetOwl is comprised of two elements: NetOwl Extractor, "a software engine that finds, indexes and interprets names of people, places, organizations, and various other entities that appear in written texts", and NetOwl Server, the "web-based version" of NetOwl Extractor. Basically, NetOwl is installed on an organization's intranet server; it then scans and indexes internal documents, external newsfeeds and "selected sources" on the Internet, i.e. competitors' home pages or URLs, and then creates a "custom electronic index" that is much like the index in the back of a book - useful for document management, "custom clipping" and text retrieval.

The software "combines computational linguistics and pattern matching methods" to parse proper names e.g. what actually is a name, what variations does it have, and how should it be categorized. For example, NetOwl can tell the difference between "Chip Price," a person, and "chip price," the cost of a CPU, or between "Mountain View," a city in California, and "mountain view," a scenic vista. Furthermore, NetOwl can analyze the relationships among these various entities and pull out the relevant content, sparing a researcher the necessity of wading through tons of data.

As opposed to your average AltaVista search.

Intrigued? A "preview" of the desktop version can be downloaded from http://www.isoquest.com/download_data.html, for Windows95 or NT users. This allows indexing of "a multitude of sources from files and directories on your hard drive to web sites and newsgroups on the Internet." The online server version may be explored at http://www.isoquest.com/demo_d ata.html. Its database "contains actual news articles from CompanyLink (a live news feed provider). Documents are indexed and added to the demo on an hourly basis (about 100 new documents every hour), and are removed from the index once they are 72 hours old"

Have fun, and tell 'em Shirl Kennedy sent you.

SIS OFFICERS, 1997-1998

President -- Joyce Burkhart (St. Petersburg Junior College, (St. Petersburg Campus)
(813) 341-4732, (burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us

Vice-President -- Trudie Root (Juvenile Welfare Board, Pinellas County)
(813) 547-5671, (hn3750@handsnet.org)

Secretary -- Debbie Factor, 167 Almero Way NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704
(813) 896-8962.

Treasurer -- Betsy King (Reflectone, Inc.)
887-1658 (kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us)

Newsletter Editor -- Jackie Jackson (Poynter Library, USF-St. Pete)
(813) 553-3581 (jackson@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)

Webmaster -- Shirl Kennedy (Honeywell, Inc.)
(813)539-3256 (skennedy@pobox.com)

***

SIS OFFICERS, 1996-1997

President (1996-1997) -- Lana Bullian (Clearwater Public Library, Countryside Branch)
(813) 462-6448, (bullial@snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us)

Secretary (1996-1997) -- Tina Neville (Poynter Library, USF-St. Petersburg)
(813) 553-3582 (neville@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)

Info Index

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS
INFO NEWSLETTER
VOL 11, NO. 6
NOVEMBER 1997

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Jackie Jackson

The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page. -- St. Augustine.

People travel for various reasons, vacations, business, visiting friends or relatives, or because they are relocating, and so on. Opportunities to travel do not come along every day so I considered myself very fortunate recently when I received an invitation to travel to Russia and Hungary on library-related business. I accepted with great anticipation, as I really enjoy travelling to other countries, and I have related some of my experiences below.

This is the last newsletter before the holidays, so I send every one seasonal greetings, some quiet time, some good times and, of course, a happy New Year.

DECEMBER MEETING
by Trudie Root

The SIS December meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, at the St. Petersburg Times, located at 490 lst Avenue South in St. Petersburg. The meeting will start with lunch in the cafeteria at 11.30 a.m., at a cost of about $5.00, and will be followed by a tour of the research facility. Their director Cary Kenney recommends that everyone try to arrive a little early as parking is only available on the street. (Trudie says she will be there early to help show everyone to the cafeteria). Take I-275 to Exit 8, turn right (south) on 4th Street North and go down to the Times, which is located on the corner of lst Avenue South and 4th Street South (1st Avenue South is one way going east so you may have to circle the block when parking. This will be a very interesting visit and we hope to see you then.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER MEETING
by Debbie Factor

Twenty-eight people attended the October 6th SIS meeting which was held at the Sheraton Grand in Tampa. The session began with a short business meeting at which Betsy King announced that we had $614.28 in the treasury. There were one hundred paid members last year, with one member paid through the year 2000. Expenses were broken down as follows: Newsletter - $107, meetings - $47, office materials - $93 and bank charges - $57. The St. Petersburg Times generously picks up newsletter postal expenses.

Thanks go to Lana Bullian who served as President for the 1996-97 year and congratulations are due her for accomplishing three goals: increased membership participation, a permanent address, and a web page and web site. Kudos also went to Shirl Kennedy, who created our web site, and Maria McCaffrey who represented TBLC and gave us a permanent address.

A discussion followed which concerned ways to increase student participation in the group, with suggestions of subsidies being given for occasional meetings. A committee will be formed to bring recommendations to a future meeting. Joyce discussed how to promote our Web page and Betsy mentioned that SIS also has a link on the Suncoast Freenet.

Our next meeting in December will be at the St. Petersburg Times. Details on parking and lunch will follow.

There will be a Conference of the Florida chapter of ACRL in Cocoa Beach on October 17 concerning distance learning.

After a delicious pasta lunch at the Courtyard Cafe the meeting was held in the conference room of the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) on the 2nd floor of the adjacent building. Susan Quinn, a librarian at ACPE, explained that the organization has been in existence for 21-22 years. It is a professional body whose members are MD's or DO's who are interested in becoming managers (medical directors). There are over 13,000 members from countries all over the world.

ACPE provides publications, educational programs, travel arrangements, etc. to these doctors. They also publish bimonthly the Physician Executive Journal of Management for members. ACPE has a staff of 30 with a flat organizational structure. The college in Tampa has no classroom, faculty or students, but provides a seminar series to take the neophyte through all areas of management-- health, law, ethics, medical information, financial decision-making and quality- to certify in medical management. The physicians can earn a masters degree (MMM) by attending three weeks of intensive study at various times during the course of a year at Tulane. The remainder of the year would be spent working on projects and attending seminars.

Librarians are involved in all phases from coordinating desktop publishing, editing, registering participants for meetings, working out finances, creating educational projects, and making hotel arrangements, to coordinating programs. The most important job of the librarian is to serve members by phone- they must know the product and services well.

ACPE's other librarians, Roxanne Touvrea, Susan Quinn, and Gwen Wolff attended the meeting, answered questions and took us on an informative tour of the offices, ending in the library. We thank them for a very interesting visit.

WEB SITE ADDRESS: http://snoopy.tblc.lib.fl.us/sis/

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DELEGATION TO RUSSIA AND HUNGARY**
by Jackie Jackson

My invitation to be a team member of a delegation of library professionals to visit libraries in St.

Petersburg, Moscow and Budapest, came from the People to People International Citizen Ambassador Program, a nonprofit organization founded by President Eisenhower in 1956, and supported by each President since then. This organization seeks to promote friendly relations, international understanding and cooperation by means of exchanges between scientific, professional and technical specialists in such areas as medicine, business, energy and resource development, education, industrial technology, and so on.

http://www.ambassadors.com/

Our group gathered in New York, where we met for the first time, were given a pre-tour briefing by our tour guide, and then flew to St. Petersburg, Russia for the first set of library visits. There were seven of us: a community college systems administrator from California, a government documents librarian from Washington, D.C., a collection development specialist for a public library system in New Jersey, a documents librarian from Amnesty International, Canada, the owner of a library software company (also from Canada), a Utah representative of Ameritech (a company which installs library systems), and myself - a circulation and bibliographic instruction librarian.

During our visits to the three cities we visited academic, public and technical libraries, two library schools, and an elementary school which had its own web site. We were accompanied by local interpreters and spent between two and three hours at each site, talking with the staff, and viewing the collections and computer systems. The libraries in Russia face tremendous difficulties because of the lack of funding - especially in St. Petersburg - the absence of a central cataloging system such as OCLC, the problems concerning the diversity of languages and the Cyrillic alphabet, and the task of retrospective cataloging millions of items. Several of the libraries seem to be producing their own automated systems and there appears to be a lack of communication between some of the major libraries.

At our first stop at the St. Petersburg State National Library we were shown materials which included pages constructed from palm leaves, scrolls and rice paper, a page from the Gutenberg Bible of 1456 and an early Koran from 1496, Voltaire's library collection which was acquired by Catherine the Great, original manuscripts by Diderot, Dumas, Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Emile Zola and Harriet Beecher Stowe, also musical scores by Rossini, and much more. This library has been in existence since 1795 and now has over thirty million books including many individual collections, only some of which have been catalog. Only one million items have been entered into their database so far. They receive a copy of each published book, and they produce indexes. Their staff numbers 1,800 and they are open to the public for research. We were not shown any computers, although they said they have around 200 for staff use, and they have started using CD-Roms and the Internet. They had free access to OCLC for three months, for which they were very appreciative.

Our second visit was to the National Technology University, which is one of the oldest and largest technical universities in Russia. They have about fifteen thousand students at the main building and an additional fourteen thousand at affiliated institutions such as that in Orsk in the Urals. They offer courses in hydroelectrics, physics, radio mechanics, economics, computer science, etc. They have a cooperative arrangement with Texas University in Dallas and their management students receive two diplomas, one from each institution. This library was one of the very few that had an open stacks policy. They showed us their lecture hall which Lenin had visited several times, their card catalogs (with glass fronts) and their small computer section which contains the first 59.30 server installed in Russia. They have a direct 100 megabyte (sic) connection to Stockholm and through that to the world. They use Windows and Netscape. We were told they receive grants and some commercial support for facilities and equipment, and are looking for ways to increase their funding substantially.

These two visits illustrate the type of situation we saw at the locations we visited, both with regard to the historical aspects of the institutions, and their current technological situations. Most of the libraries were located in huge stone mansions or palaces, which had been converted for library use. We climbed marble staircases, walked along many passages, and saw people seated in study halls with beautiful architectural decorations (which have usually been well preserved), high ceilings and large windows. Some of the buildings were very cold and in one university library there was no central heating; none was expected until later in November because of a breakdown in the system. The staff, faculty and students were wearing heavy coats, scarves and gloves as they studied, moved around the building, etc. The temperature that October day was in the mid 30s. The Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences had suffered a fire in 1988 and we were shown the preservation and restoration techniques they are using to try to save or restore as many items as they can. However, progress is slow. They have one of only three acid free box making machines in the world. We were given a demonstration of their custom box production procedures, we visited their chemical treatment chamber, and saw parchment and paper replacement, and repainting techniques. (More next time).

SIS OFFICERS, 1997-1998

President -- Joyce Burkhart (St. Petersburg Junior College, (St. Petersburg Campus)
(813) 341-4732, (burkhartj@email.spjc.cc.fl.us

Vice-President -- Trudie Root (Juvenile Welfare Board, Pinellas County)
(813) 547-5671, (hn3750@handsnet.org)

Secretary -- Debbie Factor, 167 Almero Way NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704
(813) 896-8962.

Treasurer -- Betsy King (Reflectone, Inc.)
887-1658 (kingb@freenet.tlh.fl.us)

Newsletter Editor -- Jackie Jackson (Poynter Library, USF-St. Pete)
(813) 553-3581 (jackson@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu)

Webmaster -- Shirl Kennedy (Honeywell, Inc.)
(813)539-3256 (skennedy@pobox.com)