



**International Association of Aquatic and  
Marine Science Libraries and  
Information Centers**

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## 33rd Annual IAMSLIC Conference October 7-11 in Sarasota, Florida, USA



Lenora's Daily Conference Update with additions by Janet Webster ...

This year's conference had approximately 86 attendees from 10 countries. IAMSLIC remains a focused group of information professionals who share an interest in the marine and aquatic environment. Participants came from a range of settings including corporate, government and university. This meeting was in conjunction with our regional group of the east/southeast/Caribbean region and being in Florida, the Floridians attended en masse.

The 2007 IAMSLIC Conference officially began on Sunday, October 7, 2007 with a reception at the Hyatt Sarasota. We all saw old faces, new faces and some new faces who were actually old. Yes, some of us do suffer from age-related memory dysfunction, but that just makes us able to make new friends much more easily.

But the pre-conference kayak trip Sunday morning was truly the best way to start the conference for the 16 participants. We were out in Sarasota Bay around Lido Key. First the group went off in search of manatees as many of us wanted to see them up close and personal. Lucky us! The guide only gave us a 75% chance and we got lucky. As we drifted over the sea grass beds, manatees swam around under us and one even surfaced to breath and check us out. Sorry, not quick enough with the waterproof camera to snap a picture of our new friend.

Then we took off for the Mangrove Tunnels. These tunnels were actually chopped into the mangrove islands for mosquito control and are now growing back in. A couple of the kayaks swear that there are predatory mangroves in the tunnels. We were attacked a couple of times as the dangerous trees tried to drag us in. (JOKING). Anyway, the tunnels were a nice respite from the blazing Florida sun although outside of the mangrove islands we were cooled by a lovely breeze.

Monday October 8, dawned bright and early as we all trooped to the conference chamber, which was nicely chilled by the hotel.

We began with a welcome by Dr. Mahadevan, director of the Mote Laboratories. He greeted us and gave some background on the lab. AN interesting tidbit is that Florida has a special license plate for coral reefs that generates over \$1,000,000 a year for

coral reef research. IAMSLIC traditionally weaves in some science lectures into our conference to give us a flavor for the regional science issues.



Then we moved on to a fascinating talk about the complexity of microorganisms and how they affect the growth of coral. The speaker, Dr. Kim Ritchie, is working on how corals are dependent on specific microorganisms for growth and how they provide antibodies against other bacteria in the water column. She discussed coral reef health with a focus on the 'good' bacteria that keeps them healthy. She is a colleague of Virginia Wies of OSU and spoke highly of Virginia's work, although Kim focuses on the bacteria that others find less interesting. She mentioned the term quorum-sensing as an interesting concept to track and described how it might apply to bacterial colonies on coral; it's akin to fire ants climbing on an animal and somehow knowing when to sting in unison. During the questions, we discussed the issue of where to publish when your research straddles disciplines which are not particularly keyed into your research ideas. Dr Ritchie was a lively and VERY knowledgeable speaker with a riveting topic that will have repercussions throughout the field of microbiology and the effects of bacteria and other microorganisms in other ecosystems.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on how you look at it, we were informed that the talk on western Indian Ocean corals was delayed. However, we were treated to a presentation on the Latin American Regional Group and the terrific work they are doing to recruit membership in Central and South America. Contacts are being made in just about every country of the region and membership is up quite a bit (although numbers for 2007 are slightly down). They are also working on having their first regional meeting in 2008 although with contacts made here, they may have a joint conference in Panama with SAIL.

Throughout the meeting, we interspersed business. On the first day, this included a report from the Latin American Regional Group as well as the first business meeting where we discussed the scoping statement for our new subject repository, the Aquatic Commons (<http://aquacomm.fcla.edu/> )

Cathy Norton from Woods Hole/Marine Biological Lab described the Biodiversity Heritage Library, a digital open access library for biodiversity literature (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>) in a wonderful talk showing the true power of the web and how little ideas for preserving historical information can grow into huge resources that will benefit the world and not just a handful of libraries. The Biodiversity Heritage Library began as a group of libraries hoping to digitize some of the oldest works on taxonomic structure. It is a companion project to the Encyclopedia of Life, a project aimed at building an authoritative web page for every species with links to the primary literature (<http://eol.org/> ). It's always impressive to see what \$50,000,000 can begin to build and it's positive to dream a bit. Issues remain on how to get buy-in from the scientific community as well as copyright challenges.

Pam Olson and Marcia Croy Van Wely then treated us to a discussion of how to do digitization projects without huge funding (as the Biodiversity Heritage Library has) describing a much less expensive digitization project at the Department of Fish/Oceans Canada. We'll be able to link to the series record for the digital copies. The Canadian Dept of Fisheries and Oceans libraries have been working together to digitize the various report series produced by the CDFO. The librarians have accomplished quite a bit without funding from their parent organization.

The poster session was a bit of fun with tasty key lime pie and chocolate torte. All the posters were informative and well-thought out. Each poster was accompanied by the creator and participants walked around the room to each poster and talked with the creator. Many different topics were addressed. The winner of the Poster Contest was Joyce Shaw from Ocean Springs, Mississippi with her poster: The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Mississippi Gulf Coast Libraries.

Sidney Holt, an eminent fisheries scientist, discussed tracking conservation ideas through the literature or the history of concepts. He used MSY (maximum sustainable yield) as an example of how a concept is introduced, adopted and then morphs into something other than the original. As I've heard of MSY for years as it's a basic concept in fisheries management, I enjoyed actually learning how it developed and what it means. Sidney used flip charts rather than PowerPoint to make his case. I liked one of his observations: "Too much information can distract us from solving problems." He is also a strong advocate for the role of grey literature making the point that "we can only make connection through the grey literature as the published reports are smoothed out."

We moved on to our Sunset Cruise around Sarasota Bay on a palm tree-laden boat. We watched for the green flash at sunset (precisely at 7:09 pm), but weren't lucky this time around.

Tuesday October 9:

Tuesday sessions revolved around digitization. The first session was a panel discussing different approaches to digitizing. Peter Brueggeman from the Scripps Library recounted his various approaches over time including outsourcing and using ILL. He now does much of the legacy digitization in his office where he can control the input and output. [Janet Webster] talked about OSU's approach with a centralized unit that we all can feed. As part of her presentation she mentioned the wiki maintained by OSU's Digital Production Unit. Here's the address -

<http://wiki.library.oregonstate.edu/confluence/display/TechServ/Digital+Production+Unit+Documentation>. There's a link to our current standards, the various data dictionaries we use and our digitization on demand forms. Some of these may be of interest to you. Barb Butler from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology also digitizes materials herself and adheres to standards that work for her. In discussion later, many agreed that 300 dpi is good enough and even better than 600 dpi for many items.

Edna Nyika from Tanzania gave an update on the OceanDocs project, a digital repository run by the International Oceanic Commission. She described the various issues around getting authors to deposit material including a new one to me - those who want to get paid for depositing.

Priscilla Caplan, Florida Center for Library Automation, gave a strong presentation on digital preservation. She based it on a pyramid with a base in issues librarians can address (availability, identity and understandability), a middle section that is systems related (fixity and viability) and the top that relies on research (renderability and authenticity). I especially enjoyed the term digital provenance and its implications.

[Janet Webster] took the stand again, this time describing the work Brian Voss and I have done for the North Pacific Marine Science Organization on its publication program. Brian couldn't attend, so I presented our findings about access through indexes, archiving through cataloging and usage through citations. We got good questions and people see this as a possible model to work with other organizations that do not have a formal library yet are publishing important material. The International Whaling Commission is one example that may be worth pursuing.

Linda Pikula, NOAA Libraries, recounted their saga in establishing an institutional repository. They are currently piloting four software packages including Fedora and CERN's Invenio. They will probably go with Fedora. (Priscilla Caplan said that Fedora is very viable now that it has Fez, its depository front end.) They will use NOAA technical reports as a pilot project.

At the end of the morning, we moved from the conference hotel to the Selby Public Library, a lovely facility that includes a large aquarium that arches over the entrance to the children's section. The afternoon began with a session on the Aquatic Commons given by Stephanie Haas. IAMS LIC has started this to facilitate exchange of scientific research especially when an institution does not have local, stable IT available. We are looking at possible changes in Sea Grant digital publications so they are OAI compliant and perhaps deposited in the AC. Stephanie is playing with Google Earth to see if we can geo-reference items and provide a graphical interface. Jan Haspesslagh from Belgium mentioned that he is working with Google Earth to present the EEZs.

Fred Merceur from IFREMER in France then updated us on AVANO, the harvester for marine and aquatic information. It's a great tool and will work well with AC.

Then, we heard from our various vendors, giving some a hardtime beginning with Elsevier who was toting its China Collection. Vicki Soto from ProQuest (formerly CSA) discussed the merger and some of the issues. They are adding a personalization feature to the interface which will be useful for researchers who only search certain databases. Natural History Book Service described their services. I use them to identify international and hard to find materials as they bring in a different type of material in their service. Chip Sutton from Sutton Books reported on progress in selling the Aquatic Research Institute collection. He produced a lovely catalog that is a useful tool for those working with rare and old fish books.

Wednesday October 10:

Once again we started off with Peter Bruegemann who was presenting on an oral history project at the Scripps Library. He encouraged all of us to consider starting now to document the history of our institution as it just gets harder the longer it goes. He and his archivist identified 35 scientists, staff and ship operators that they wanted to interview. During the two year period, a half-time graduate student conducted 22 interviews, 21 of which have been transcribed. It was a worthwhile project, but the cost was high. Peter would do it differently next time around.

What do we know about web 2.0? It's the social software that allows Internet users to interact with the digital world: Facebook, MySpace, Second Life, wikis, blogs, etc. All that stuff that kids seem to do rather than their work. Elizabeth Connor from the Citadel gave a solid overview of Web 2.0 urging us to consider thoughtful integration and get your library out there and usable for folks who might not otherwise think of visiting the stodgy old library. One great example she used was a wiki she set up that had all the trivia about the Citadel that upper classmen query lower classmen on.

Barbara Schmidt from IFM in Kiel related her current challenge of merging two institutions and delighted us with a "fairy tale" of two libraries who lived across a fjord from each other. When the younger came of age, the two were married and had to make a life together. Neither had standard classification systems (common in Germany), or shared policies, or a shared system. Negotiations and changes were made to make the relationship work, even if the two had to live in separate houses for a while.

After the break, where serious Guin auction bidders were once again checking on their bids, we were treated to a panel on how to build or remodel a library. Working with architects and contractors can be a pain, but that's nothing compared to all the political manoeuvring to make sure your project is not underfunded at the very end when you're trying to buy furniture and other finishings.

Lunch was grilled chicken topped salad and cold cut sandwiches. Post lunch presentation was Dr. Danielle Stanek describing how Florida is monitoring the avian populations for avian influenza. She even brought the gear that volunteers are required to wear as they are surveying bird kills.

A panel discussed different phases of building projects followed by Joyce Shaw of Gulf Springs who recounted the pain and more pain of surviving and recovering from Hurricane Katrina. Yes, I do believe in Post-Katrina Stress Disorder.

Joan Parker, Lisa Raymond, Steve Watkins, Kristen Metzger and Janet Webster talked about IAMSLIC and how things get done. Or, as Kristen Metzger titled the panel: Why You Bunch of Lazy Losers Should Be Glad Someone Is Willing To Do This Crap for Nothing. Well, basically, we should all be willing to shoulder a bit of the burden for running this organization so we can all continue to benefit from membership. Contact Joan Parker, Barb Butler or anyone on the Executive Board to find out about all the opportunities there are to contribute.

Immediately following was the Important Membership Update: Steve Watkins, technology guru, patient tutor, intrepid traveler, and all around nice guy was honored for his contributions to IAMSLIC throughout his membership. He was given a lifetime achievement award and all of our sincere gratitude for the work he does and all the interfaces he has created to make our work MUCH easier.

And the afternoon break was fraught with last minute bidding as well as guarding bids to ensure we won those Guin auction items most desired. Yes, even if you don't attend the conference, you can contribute items to the auction (which supports travel to the conferences for members in developing countries).

The final afternoon session was all about mangroves. First we learned about the biology of mangroves: white, black and red. Mangrove forests are a natural way to protect shoreline from hurricane damage. So much for all those human created seawalls. After learning of their biology we learned about remote sensing to determine site-selection for re-populating mangrove forests in the Red Sea.

FINALLY, we all took off for the banquet at the Mote Marine Laboratory. Some of us began by taking a peek at the manatee, dolphin and sea turtle exhibits; others headed straight into the Mote Aquarium where the reception was located in the courtyard, but the greatest congregation was in the overwhelmed gift shop full of cool marine-related stuff.

We did enjoy the other exhibits in the Aquarium as well, including the huge shark tank with views above and below. Some dressed like Joe Wible, including Joe Wible and others chose to dress for the occasion. Dancers took over the room and the rest of us headed back to the hotel for some rest and relaxation. Yes, I left so there are no blackmail pictures from me. Joe Wible probably has a few. I chose to relax in the hot tub at the hotel which features a waterfall to massage tired, sore muscles. I called my husband and told him I wanted the exact same setup. "We'll see" was his only response.

Our final day together. Unfortunately, many left early in the morning. Susan Weiss was unable to present so we had a delightful fill-in who brought props for us to handle after her talk. The subject was Sawfish conservation in Florida which is the last refuge of this extremely endangered elasmobranch.

The final two sessions before the last business meeting were from Geoffrey Salange from Malawi on grey literature and open access in Germany by Marcel Branneman. Geoffrey is planning on using the Aquatic Commons as a means to get more local content available to all. Marcel laid out progress and lack of it after adoption of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access. While it was encouraging that the major German research organizations signed onto the Berlin Declaration, the reality of Open Access remains unfulfilled. The lack of mandates and problems with German law make progress slow. Even so, Germany seems far ahead of the U.S. in adopting the principles of Open Access at an institutional level.

We adjourned after the business meeting with an invitation to attend next year's conference in Suva, Fiji. 2008: September 15-19. Start watching airfares now so you can join the adventure. The pictures looked spectacular.

After lunch we all split up for our various field trips. If you are ever in the Sarasota area, please visit the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Wow!! The Selby Botanical Gardens specializes in epiphytes and what a variety. Bromeliads, orchids, ferns, etc. The variety was spectacular. They have other types of plants as well including some huge banyans and giant bamboos that rattle and creak in the wind. Plenty of birds were spotted throughout the tour

The Myakka River State Park group reported success in spotting alligators. The biggest hit was the pickle on a stick at the snack shack. A flock of white ibis were observed.

Lenora Oftedahl  
StreamNet Regional Librarian  
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Janet Webster  
Guin Library, Hatfield Marine Science  
Center, Oregon State University

## President's Message

IAMSLIC,

First, let me thank Sue Stover and all of her local volunteers for hosting the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual IAMSLIC Conference and 17<sup>th</sup> Annual SAIL meeting. The local arrangements were superb and we were treated like royalty!

We had eighty-five registered attendees for the conference and fifteen of those were from countries outside the United States (including Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Italy, Malawi, Mexico, Tanzania and the United Kingdom). We are also at an all-time high of 405 members. IAMSLIC is thriving and is a truly international group. Congratulations to the IAMSLIC Membership Committee for spreading the word about the value of IAMSLIC membership and recruiting so many new members!

I'm looking forward to being the 2007-8 IAMSLIC President and plan to keep you apprised of Executive Board and committee activities during the year. We have a lot of plans already, including:

- ❑ Create a digital collection development priorities for the Aquatic Commons
- ❑ Draft a new IAMSLIC-IOC MOU\*
- ❑ Establish a RegOnline committee to streamline and standardize conference registration and related activities
- ❑ Establish a travel assistance taskforce to help members begin to identify and apply to external sources for conference travel support rather than relying solely on IAMSLIC funds
- ❑ Evaluate the two-year trial of the new regional group plan

I hope to hear from many of you during the upcoming year. Your suggestions and questions are welcome. During the next few weeks and months I'll be calling on many of you to assist with committee and taskforce activities as well. Or better yet, contact me to let me know where you might want to volunteer in the organization!

Regards,  
Barb

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\*Librarians love acronyms and IAMSLIC is no exception. One member, new to marine science librarianship, was unsure of some acronyms in use during the conference in Sarasota. For the record here are a few (by no means all!) we use:

GEMIM- Group of Experts on Marine Information Management  
IOC- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
IODE-International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange  
MOU- Memorandum of Understanding

## IAMSLIC Lifetime Membership Award

At the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual IAMSLIC Conference Steve Watkins of California State University Monterey Bay received the first ever IAMSLIC Lifetime Membership Award in recognition of his contributions to our organization.

On behalf of the IAMSLIC Membership Committee, Jean Collins writes:  
During the process of codifying our procedures, the name of Steve Watkins appeared in so many different connections that Committee members felt that some recognition of his enormous contribution to IAMSLIC is in order. The Membership Committee has the privilege of awarding Honorary memberships, usually when people retire. However, we feel that a Lifetime Membership of IAMSLIC is one small way in which we could thank Steve for going beyond the call of duty in bringing so much of his time and expertise for the benefit of all.....

IAMSLIC Membership Database Manager Kristen Metzger writes....  
*Steve is essentially the IAMSLIC member of our dreams - a devoted IAMSLIC member with the technology skills to move us forward and greatly increase our efficiency and capacity for truly worldwide cooperative efforts. His expenditure of time and talent has been unparalleled in the 33 years of this organization. Steve has managed to accomplish all this while retaining a great sense of humor and exhibiting an incredible amount of patience. It is often said, "there are no stupid questions." Well, Steve Watkins knows this is not true, but he answers the questions with good graces anyway.*

Joan Parker, IAMSLIC Past-President writes...  
There has been a certain buzz about Steve Watkins amongst IAMSLIC members for years. I first detected this in my own region when our Cyamus meetings were focused on meeting with librarians from Mexico. "Steve, puede usted ayudarnos?" was a frequent question. As a result, many libraries in Mexico were early participants in resource sharing. He now has a well-deserved international reputation for being the person who can make technical connections work. During a recent sabbatical he elected to work on a project that benefited not only his university, but also IAMSLIC. Then it became obvious that IAMSLIC needed to find a different solution for our website, who else but Steve would be the one to get us up and running. When the request came from the membership committee to do something special for Steve, the unanimous response from the Executive Board was overwhelmingly positive and we created this award on his behalf.



Upon receiving the award, Steve wrote to the Executive Board Steve ...  
*It was totally unexpected and I was deeply moved by the surprise presentation in Sarasota. As you all know, IAMSlic is truly a labor of love that succeeds so remarkably well only because of the contributions that each and all of us make and the rewards are that much greater for the effort we invest. I have always felt personally that I've gotten so much from my involvement in IAMSlic that it easily outweighs the work and projects I've undertaken and participated in. So, to be singled out for this award means a tremendous amount to me.*

Most IAMSlic members have had the opportunity to interact with Steve and all of those who participate in the IAMSlic Resource-Sharing program know that Steve is the person who made it all work for IAMSlic. And readers should know that Steve is already at work on other technology related solutions to help IAMSlic and its regional groups!

Barbara Butler  
University of Oregon  
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

## Steve's Response

Now that I am finally back on campus after last week's wonderful conference and a family visit, I wanted to thank all of you on the Membership Committee and Executive Board for the incredible honor you bestowed on me with the lifetime membership. It was totally unexpected and I was deeply moved by the surprise presentation in Sarasota. As you all know, IAMSLIC is truly a labor of love that succeeds so remarkably well only because of the contributions that each and all of us make and the rewards are that much greater for the effort we invest. I have always felt personally that I've gotten so much from my involvement in IAMSLIC that it easily outweighs the work and projects I've undertaken and participated in. So, to be singled out for this award means a tremendous amount to me.

I've placed my plaque on the wall in a place of honor next to my Viking helmet (symbol of past office as the Cyamus representative) where it will continue to inspire me over the years to come. I've already invested a small portion of the generous honorarium in a travel guide to Fiji in preparation for next year's conference and look forward to seeing several of you there to thank in person who were not able to be in Florida this year. And I plan to contribute what would have been my annual membership dues directly to the Guin Fund in support of the important programming and participation that it makes possible.

Again, my sincere thanks to all of you for this remarkable honor, which I shall cherish for the rest of my life.

Steve Watkins  
California State University  
Monterey Bay, Library

## New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to IAMSLIC.

Elizabeth Birabwa  
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation  
Plot No. 2,  
Oboja Road  
Uganda

Fernando D. Von Borstel  
CIBNOR Centro de Investigaciones  
Biologicas del Noroeste, S.C.  
Mar Bermejo # 195 Col Playa Palo de  
Sta. Rita  
La Paz,  
Baja California Sur 23090  
Mexico

Israel Morales  
Universidad del Mar, Puerto Angel  
Ciudad Universitaria, Puerto Angel  
Puerto Angel, Oaxaca 70902  
Mexico

Carla Robinson  
Florida Atlantic University / HBOI  
5600 U.S. 1 North  
Fort Pierce, FL 34946  
United States

Maurisa Connell  
Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and  
Tobago  
P.O. Box 3160  
Trinidad and Tobago

Becky Lasswell  
Davidson Library, University of  
California, Santa Barbara  
Davidson Library, Room 2530, UCSB  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010  
United States

Helga Bergmann  
Marine Research Institute  
Skulagata 4  
Reykjavik, 101  
Iceland

Kristen L. Metzger  
*IAMSLIC Membership Database*  
Library & Information Services  
CSA International Inc.  
USA  
[kmetzger@conshelf.com](mailto:kmetzger@conshelf.com)

## New Officers



Left to right :Peter Fritzler, Secretary 2007-2009; Jan Haspeslagh, President-Elect 2009-10; Barbara Butler, President 2007-8; Elizabeth Winiarz, President-Elect 2008-9). Missing Sandra Abbott (treasurer).

Peter Fritzler, University of North Carolina Wilmington, 601 S. College Rd.,  
Wilmington, NC 28403-5616, USA, [fritzlerp@uncw.edu](mailto:fritzlerp@uncw.edu).

Jan Haspeslagh, Jan Haspeslagh, Flanders Marine Institute, Vlaams Instituut voor de  
Zee (VLIZ), Wandelaarkaai 7, Oostende, B-8400 Belgium, [jan.haspeslagh@vliz.be](mailto:jan.haspeslagh@vliz.be)

Barbara Butler, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Library 63466 Boat Basin Drive  
PO Box 5389 Charleston OR 97420 USA, [butler@uoregon.edu](mailto:butler@uoregon.edu)

Elizabeth Winiarz, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, Library, 285 Old Westport  
Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300, U.S.A., [ewiniarz@umassd.edu](mailto:ewiniarz@umassd.edu)

Sandra Abbott-Stout, Unity College, Quimby Library, PO Box 167, Unity, ME 04988,  
USA., [sstout@unity.edu](mailto:ssout@unity.edu)

**IAMSLIC Treasurer's Report**  
 October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$35,050.01</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	\$ 12,161.55
Guin	\$ 635.00
Guin (Portland conference auction)	\$ 1,224.00
Proceedings	\$ 445.00
2003 Conference Support (check had been lost)	\$ 250.00
2007 Conference Support	\$ 750.00
RegOnline	\$ 321.25
Interest	\$ 5.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$15,792.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Postage for mailing '05 proceedings (pd to Kris Anderson)	\$ 740.65
Oregon State yearly fee	\$ 50.00
Printing 230 copies of '05 proceedings	\$ 3,335.00
MBL - website server repair/rebuild (pd Oct. 06)	\$ 600.00
2006 Conference Grants:	
Conf. hotel room for C. Ramirez (pd to Marisol Ramos)	\$ 178.00
Per diem cash to Geoffrey Salange	\$ 377.00
Conf. hotel rooms for Marian & Geoffrey	\$ 376.90
Per diem registrations for 4 attendees at Portland: G. Salanje, M. Jiagge, O. Akiumova, C. Ramirez	\$ 960.00
Regional Groups	
AFRIAMSLIC	\$ 1,448.00
Cyamus	\$ 1,150.00
Latin American Group	\$ 1,462.00
Pacific Islands Regional Group	\$ 1,651.00
SAIL	\$ 1,375.00
2007 Conference Support (Geoffrey Salanje)	\$ 2,200.00
Pauline Simpson (IOC mtg: IAMSLIC rep)	\$ 1,000.00
Aquatic Commons	\$ 5,700.00
2007 Conference Start-up Funds	\$ 3,000.00
Web Hosting	\$ 1,200.00
Bank Fees	
(wires and monthly check charges Oct 06-Jan 07)	\$ 15.00
Bangor Savings	\$ 80.00
Wachovia	\$ 248.55
Filing Fees with State/Fed	\$ 25.00
Postage stamps	\$ 8.20
Returned Item	\$ 50.00
RegOnline	\$ 35.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$27,266.69</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$23,575.62</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sandra Abbott-Stout, Treasurer, 2006-2008

## Aquatic Commons News

As you know, we decided to more clearly define the focus of the Aquatic Commons repository. The new wording can be found on the IAMS LIC AC homepage at

<http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?section=175> Thanks to everyone for their thoughts on this and to Pauline and Helen for the initial draft. Wording on the AC homepage will be changed shortly.

There is a new technical guide on Entering series and serial information <<http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?action=view&id=349&module=resourcesmodule&src=%40random46eb12f057539>> (thanks to Lisa Raymond).

The repository is now being indexed by Google.

Please help us build the site. If you need help entering digital items, contact the AC Board at [AquaticCommons@gmail.com](mailto:AquaticCommons@gmail.com)

Stephanie Haas  
on behalf of the AC Board

## AFRIAMSLIC News

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> CONFERENCE OF AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE AQUATIC AND MARINE SCIENCE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES HELD IN LILONGWE, MALAWI, 10<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007

We the participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Regional Group of the International Association of the Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (AFRIAMSLIC) Conference held in Lilongwe, Malawi, 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007, under the theme, "Managing Resources in Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries", have observed that in order to improve management of information resources in aquatic and marine science libraries there is a need to:

1. Integrate awareness raising activities in library services for the benefit of stakeholders, including librarians.
2. Strengthen communication among AFRIAMSLIC members and encourage new members to join the group.
3. Promote skill development and encourage sharing of expertise among librarians, for example in Copyright and legislation; GIS; multimedia management; digitization; archives management; communication and outreach.
4. Provide training and skill development for scientists on how to access and use electronic and multimedia resources.

5. Manage and update the Directory of Fisheries and Aquaculture Information Resources in Africa and encourage members to contribute to the African Directory of Aquatic Scientists (AFRIDIR).
6. Advocate for qualified library staff with specialized subject skills to manage the Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres.
7. Advocate for Broadband access for Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres to enhance exploitation of E-resources, improve storage, access and dissemination, and speed of delivery (upload and download).
8. Strengthen relationships between Library/Information staff and stakeholders, including scientists, policy and decision makers, and grass-root communities through outreach programs and activities.
9. Re-package, disseminate and publicize information and services offered by the Libraries/Information Centres to meet the varying needs of stakeholders.

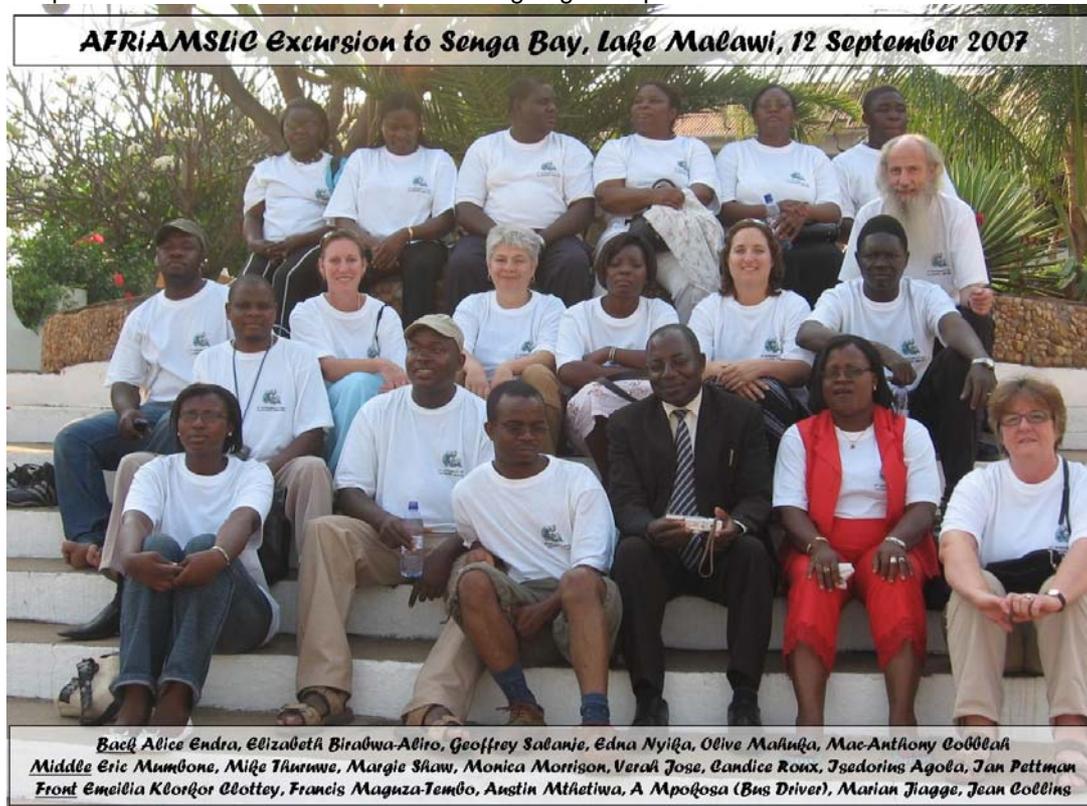
Finally, the Conference witnessed the handing over of the office of Chairperson from Ms. Marian Jigge, Librarian of Water Research Institute, Ghana to Ms. Edna Nyika, Information Manager of Institute of Marine Sciences, Tanzania.

Issued in Lilongwe, Malawi on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Ms. Edna Nyika  
Chairperson

Ms. Marian Jigge  
Out-going Chairperson

Mr. Geoffrey Salanje  
Conference Host



## Cyamus News

The Cyamus regional group held our annual meeting on March 21-24, 2007, in San Pedro, California at the beautiful Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Meeting attendees enjoyed great weather, group discussions of very relevant topics, tours of the Aquarium, the San Pedro salt marsh, tide pools, presentations by Cabrillo researchers, and an excellent talk on algae blooms by a University of Southern California biologist. Cyamus members decided to use our annual membership funds for digitization projects with resulting resources added to the Aquatic Commons. Plans are underway for our March 2008 meeting at Friday Harbor in Washington State. Several people joined Cyamus in the last few months, bringing our total to 55 members.

Amy Butros  
Cyamus Representative  
2006-2008

## Eigenfactor

From Ecol Soc of America Bulletin:

Eigenfactor.org: Ranking and Mapping Scientific Knowledge

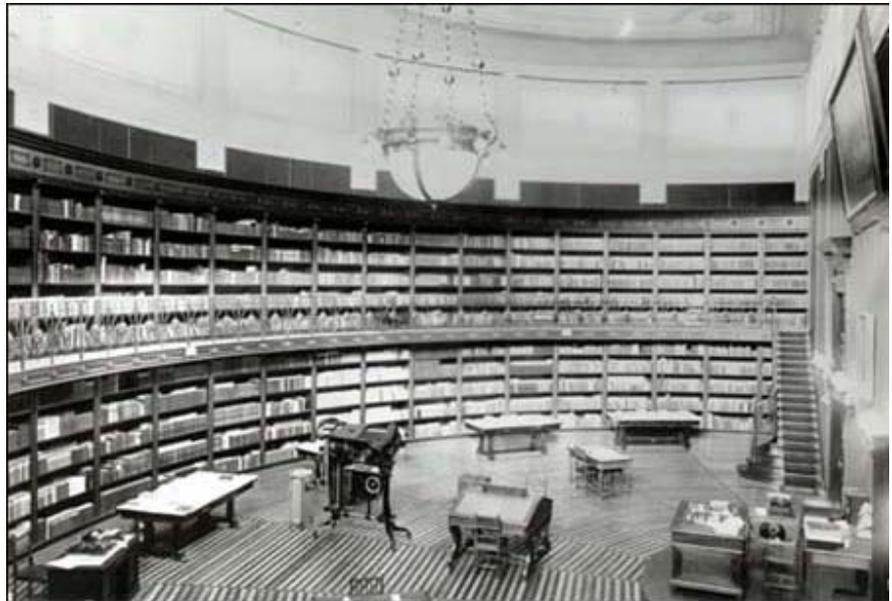
<http://www.eigenfactor.org>

The scholarly literature forms a vast network of academic papers connected to one another by citations in bibliographies and footnotes. The structure of this network reflects millions of decisions by individual scholars about which papers are important and relevant to their own work. Eigenfactor.org draws upon methods from network theory to extract this wealth of information. Eigenfactor evaluates journals, much as Google's PageRank algorithm ranks web sites; in addition, Eigenfactor maps the relationships among scientific disciplines using a powerful array of novel network algorithms. Free of charge, eigenfactor.org ranks the prestige, value, and cost-effectiveness of the 7000+ journals listed in Thompson Scientific's Journal Citation Reports (JCR), and provides further information about 100,000+ additional reference items, including other scholarly journals, newspapers, and popular magazines. Eigenfactor.org is a noncommercial academic research project sponsored by the Bergstrom Lab in the Department of Biology at the University of Washington.

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## Biblioteca Florentino Ameghino

The "Florentino Ameghino" Library was created in 1884 as the library of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de La Plata. Its original collections derived from the private libraries of important personalities including Francisco P. Moreno, Antonio Zinni and Nicolás Avellaneda, among others, who each had extensive personal libraries for their time.



In 1906, the Museum was incorporated into the newly-created Universidad Nacional de La Plata, becoming the first faculty of Natural Sciences in Argentina and taking on more overtly educational responsibilities.



From that time forward, and into the present, the Library has provided informational services to meet the needs of local and national scholarly communities dedicated to the natural sciences (Biological Anthropology, Social Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Botany, Ecology, Geology, Geochemistry, Paleontology, Zoology), and to support the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education and research, preserving the insights of the past, gathering the knowledge of the present, and developing wisdom for the future.



#### Collections

The collection today includes more than 25,000 cataloged books and other printed materials in several languages, such as acts of congress, conferences, symposiums, pamphlets and separatas, books on scientific expeditions, reference books (dictionaries, encyclopedias, glossaries), serial journals, doctoral theses of the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales in La Plata, research papers published by scientists of the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales in La Plata, and programs of subjects on undergraduate studies of the Faculty.



Several electronic resources such as databases and full-text e-journals, have also become part of the Library's efforts to increase the breadth of its collections.

## NHBS Gratis Book Scheme

At the IAMSLIC meeting in Sarasota a couple of weeks ago, there seemed to be quite a lot of interest in the Gratis Book Scheme, run by Bill Sutherland (he's the Miriam Rothschild Professor of Conservation Biology at Cambridge University). This scheme makes ecology and conservation books available free to individuals in developing countries.

NHBS provides the co-ordination and the logistics, the publishers and authors provide the books (usually 200 copies of each title), and the postage is currently subsidised by the British Ecological Society.

This scheme is intended for individual researchers, rather than libraries, and we usually receive more applications than the number of books available. Having said that, I think it is a great programme, and we would be more than happy if you could spread the word!

Here is a link to the Gratis Book Scheme:

<http://www.nhbs.com/Conservation/gratis-books.php>

There are currently two books on offer, both published this year:

Analysis of Variance and Covariance, published by Cambridge University Press

<http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=151855>

Forest Ecology and Conservation, published by Oxford University Press

<http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=143096>

This page provides a lot of information, but if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<http://www.nhbs.com/Conservation/gratis-books.php>

Anneli Meeder  
Title Researcher/Cataloguer  
NHBS Environment Bookstore  
<http://www.nhbs.com>

## On Metrics

Members may be interested in a recent announcement by Berkeley Electronic Press, which can be found here:

[http://www.bepress.com/download\\_counts.html](http://www.bepress.com/download_counts.html)

BEPress did a careful study of the downloads of its articles and discovered that usage figures were highly inflated by Internet robots that come to a site for any number of reasons, from search-engine indexing to laying the groundwork for spam attacks. BEPress has "come clean," but their example poses the very important question of how reliable some of the usage reports from other publishers are. (Although I have consulted with BEPress, I had no involvement with this project.)

I am no expert on the metrics for journals; someone who is may want to take a look at this. My hypothesis is that many publishers are reporting inflated figures--and that acquisition librarians may be making purchasing decisions in part based on faulty data. Of course, downloads are far from the only metric.

One tidbit that emerged from the BEPress data is that open access publications were more susceptible to inflated download counts than toll-access articles. Thus this analysis whittles away a bit at the alleged "open access advantage."

I would be interested to know whether this kind of situation has been previously identified and whether the current measurements for downloads take this matter into account.

Joe Esposito

... and comments ... The Berkeley Electronic Press observation on download usage is very right. This is also the same for Institutional Repositories.

NIO started its IR in the 1st quarter of 2006 using DSpace. To encourage researchers to archive their publications, we studied the download usage of articles. We were surprised to find that more than 50% of downloads were from USA. It was unusual because most of the institute's publications related to Indian Ocean. More download was expected from India or Indian Ocean counties.

Careful analysis of server access logs showed 40% of downloads is by search engine robots. So before generating the usage statistics, now we are removing the hits/downloads by robots.

Are you hosting or planning to host an IR? Then it is recommended to filter out hits by robots from access logs rather than providing false information to your users.

Satya Ranjan Sahu  
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## Baensch Aquarium Atlas and Photo Index

The bestselling Baensch Aquarium Atlas Photo Index 1-5 has been revised and updated to include 100 new photographs and updated nomenclature (the old names now being synonyms). This new edition is available now in hardback. The price is GBP£28.99, approx USD59.00 or EUR42.00, shipping added.

Mergus, Baensch Aquarium Atlas Photo Index 1-5, revised edition, 2007.  
<http://www.stevensimpsonbooks.com/si/978490.html>

Contains concise information on approximately 4000 fish species presented in the Aquarium Atlas series. This comprehensive index includes common names, synonyms, and scientific names - listed by genus/species and species/genus. A glossary defines some of the most important terms used in the Atlas series. 4600 colour photographs complete the book.

## Sea of Cortez

Sea of Cortez Marine Invertebrates, 2nd edition (revised), by Alex Kerstitch and Hans Bertsch, 2007. Published by Sea Challengers, Monterey, CA.

ISBN-13: 978-0-930118-41-9 (\$24.95 US)

New and completely revised from the original 20-year-old edition (including totally updated nomenclature, descriptions and natural history comments). Brilliant, full color photos of over 300 species of sponges, cnidarians, worms, mollusks, arthropods and echinoderms. The only full color field guide to the invertebrate phyla occurring within the Gulf of California, on the western coast of Mexico. An essential reference source for a region with a rich biodiversity.

Copies available through Mar Vida; request order information from Hans Bertsch at: [hansmarvida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hansmarvida@sbcglobal.net)

## Editors' Bubble

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue, especially Lenora and Janet whose conference notes I have freely plagiarised. I am delighted to include an article from Celina on the Biblioteca Florentino Ameghino. Please send us more articles like this and any other news would be appreciated. Photos with a short paragraph are great too.

Do you have any quirky little items of interest or handy hints that are related to aquatic and marine libraries? If you do, please send them in.

Remember it is your contributions that make up the newsletter.

Jackie and Megan  
Newsletter Editors

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