

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Marcel Branneman

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear IAMSLIC colleagues and friends,

This is my first visit to Portland and I am very glad to be here. Portland came first to my mind in my pre-librarian life, working as a geologist at the Geological Institute of the University at Freiburg, Germany. This occurred in 1980, during the incredibly powerful eruption of Mount St. Helens. In the institute's lecture hall we looked again and again at the documentation of the eruption and the damage it has done to the landscape. Arriving in Portland by plane, I had a good view of the volcano with its light smoke fan, and I was highly impressed by the dimensions of the area covered by ashes and mudflows generated by the eruption more than 26 years ago. I was amazed at how close this area is to the beautiful city of Portland, which is now hosting the 32nd IAMSLIC conference: Every continent, every ocean.

IAMSLIC comprises Marine and Aquatic Sciences librarians and Information Managers – in fact the first A in our association's acronym stands for Aquatic. Aquatic and Marine, this includes salt water and freshwater, seawater, brackish water, river water, lake water, fountain water, sewage water etc. etc. this means all kinds of waters – so we are the “All-Kinds-of-Waters-Sciences Librarians. All-kinds-of-waters.... This gets me to a German idiom. If a person appears to be very intelligent, has a lot of experience and many skills (can be a little Einstein or a smart used car dealer), such a person in Germany is often said to be “washed with all kinds of waters”.

Thus librarians, washed with all kinds of waters, are supposed to be very intelligent and have lots of skills. I believe, we as the IAMSLIC people, the All-Kinds-of-Water-Science' Librarians should especially feel the obligation to improve our skills at being an intelligent human alternative to the virtual “plug in” and “click here for download” world. Finally this is one of the reasons, why we are here – to share our expertise, to learn from each other. BTW: My special congratulation for Kris Metzger having achieved a new professional position.

Another good reason to be here is to meet with colleagues from other libraries, other countries, other continents, to know about their professional and cultural ‘habitats’, the problems they have to cope with and their success stories. This can be achieved better by meeting people personally not just virtually. For this reason our conference will be an excellent opportunity.

I do wish to all of us a successful conference with interesting talks and fruitful discussions, and wise decisions concerning the future of IAMSLIC.

Many thanks to our sponsors for their contributions and last but not least a big thank you to Joan Parker and Barb Butler with their teams for their hard work, making this conference possible. Now it is up to us to bring it to life.