

This is Kris Anderson's synopsis of the 2006 IAMSLIC conference. The opinions and comments expressed here are representative only of the author and may be completely ignored.

Sunday, October 8th

After a rousing three and a half hour long executive board meeting, the conference kicked off with a reception at the conference hotel. It was a fine opportunity to meet and greet friends new and old. The food was excellent though I was surprised how many people didn't know what hummus is. New this year was a fabric and/or music CD exchange, a voluntary approach to expand cultural horizons. As an example, I am the proud owner of a new Aerosmith CD – one of the band members is native to the Woods Hole district - and Marcel will be humming Hawaiian music at work from now on. I wouldn't know what to do with material but I did see some lovely swatches being bandied about.

Monday, October 9th

The conference got into full swing early on Monday morning with Marcel welcoming the group and making a connection with a German saying which roughly translates to people with many talents and intelligence are said to be covered with water. Quite appropriate.

The first talk of the day was one of the highlights of the conference as Kristen Metzger, last participating charter member of IAMSLIC, enlightened us with the history of our organization which started in 1975. Kristen was an infant at that meeting...

Following Kristen, Joe Wible talked about Google scanning the Hopkins library collection – which hadn't happened yet as Google is being sued by publishers and this little setback is throwing off their schedule. He discussed copyright issues relating to historical books, the most interesting note is the "Copyright Determinator" a database Stanford created by scanning and OCR'ing the Copyright Office's print records from 1923-1963. Its purpose is to check to see if titles are in the public domain. Use of the database can qualify as "due diligence" in identifying copyright holder. Joe also discussed dissertations.

Two proposals were presented at the first business meeting which would be discussed and voted on at the second business meeting. This was followed by lunch, the apparent highlight of which was Cathy Norton getting her picture taken with Don Shula, former coach of the Miami Dolphins and owner of the hotel restaurant.

Following lunch, representatives from the regional groups gave reports. You can read these for yourself on the IAMSLIC website.

A panel discussion was next with Virginia Allen and Beth Avery promoting Wiki's, Blogs, & RSS feeds. Idea to check out: "Second Life." Gordon Miller then described how an informal group of Department of Fisheries and Oceans head librarians

communicate with each other to coordinate the interactions of those libraries. He was followed by Sonja Kromann who told us how the NMFS libraries have collaborated to create a list of recommendations to NMFS management on how to centralize resources to unify and equate services. Natalie Wiest finished up the session talking about using the OCLC collection analysis tool to look at her collection and then to compare it to the other maritime academies.

After a short break to check out Guin Auction items and swill a beverage, sessions resumed led by Janine Salwasser, a non-librarian from Oregon State University, who has done a needs assessment and is creating a natural resource digital library called *Oregon Explorer*.

Amy Butros then spoke on how there has been a decrease in the number of visits to the library by students and researchers. SIO has instituted a plan to provide incentives to students and informed us on how faculty and researchers would be contacted. Plans included promoting the SIO Library as a great place to study to the UCSD undergrads.

Enrique Wulff couldn't attend.

Joseph Baibuni, of the Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority, took the opportunity to talk about her library and how they are digitizing institutional papers using Koha.

Tuesday, October 10th

Geoffrey Salanje presented evidence of increasing technology in Malawi and illustrated how school children are being introduced to computers in an effort to decrease the digital divide within the country. Libraries have greater and better access to online resources and are working to digitize Malawi publications. Geoffrey then served as strict yet smiling moderator for the remainder of the session.

Marian Jigge told us how the libraries in some African countries are managing information and the services they provide.

Catalina Lopez Alvarez described how 10 representatives from libraries in Caribbean and Latin American countries have coordinated and have instituted a digital repository for the ODIN members. Standards were set to ensure compatibility with ODINAfrica.

Olga Akimova gave a concise overview of how organizations are currently assisting and the kind of support it is hoped they will supply in the future to sustain libraries in European countries in economic transition, ODINECET.

Sakho Cheikh-Ibrahima shared the status of ODIN PubAfrica with the group and explained some of the challenges the participants face.

Both the ODINCARSA and ODINAfrica groups will be renaming their repositories to OceanDocs to make them more intuitively accessible.

Lunch was taken aboard the *Portland Spirit* on the Willamette River. It was a gorgeous sunny fall day and the cruise was super. Attendees had the rest of the afternoon to visit Portland's various gardens, bookstores, lovely waterfront or go shopping. What an excellent opportunity to recharge for the rest of the conference.

Regional groups, committees and the executive board held meetings in the late afternoon, early evening.

Wednesday, October 11th

John Graybeal is responsible for coordinating and standardizing data management for MBARI. They got an NSF grant to build a web space with PLONE to post all their data. Problem is metadata as interoperability is the ultimate goal. The 3 problems:

Transport Protocol – way to transfer the metadata

Content Standard – what data to transfer

Vocabulary – what the contents are

Introduced us to “folksonomies – cooperative classification and communication through shared metadata.” Discussed how this has become useful in identifying and grouping sites by the similarities – normalizing with social bookmarks. Three websites to check out: Connotea, Cite-U-Like, and del.icio.us. More info at marinemetadata.org

Jan Haspelslagh, Lisa Raymond, and Fred Merceur each briefly described their various open archives and institutional repositories. In addition, Fred gave a concise description of his IFREMER OAI harvester.

Stephanie Haas reported on the work of the Aquatic Commons taskforce. This is one of the big topics for this year's IAMS LIC business. Stephanie, Pauline, and the rest of the taskforce deserve big kudos for their efforts in pulling together all the information and presenting it in their excellent report.

Courtney Shaw and Suzanne Pilsk chattered (the room had gotten quite chilly, Debra Losey had to loan Courtney a shawl) about the history of nomenclature and how it relates to multiple digitization and Open Access projects currently underway at the Smithsonian Institutes.

The Elsevier rep gave a spiel on Scopus. Tony Horava followed with a discussion of the Scopus implementation at University of Ottawa.

CSA demonstrated a prototype of a new “deep indexing” database they are building of tables, figures, maps, and illustrations found in publications they index. Very cool! Also showed updates to ASFA.

Pat Wheeler just completed a 5-year stint as editor of *Journal of Phycology*. She has advocated change in publishing regarding copyright ownership and pricing to what the market can bear (e.g. Elsevier and Springer models!). She gave an overview of the Phycological Society of America and related some statistics related to the *Journal of Phycology*. For more information checkout:

www.createchange.org

Wellcome report – British review of STM publishers in 2004
OSU Scholarly Communications Task Force

The day's presentations were capped by George Boehlert who has a long history with the Pacific Science Association and challenged the organization to work with PICES.

The conference banquet was held at Portland's Ecotrust building where we enjoyed views of the Pearl District from the roof as we sipped beverages and ate pupus (that's Hawaiian for hor devoures). A buffet dinner followed of salmon, veggies, rice pilaf, and a cheese platter. After dessert there was dancing which was, shall we say, digitized and posted to the web! Great evening.

Thursday, October 12th

The final day commenced with David Liberty of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission talking story of the sacredness of the salmon and the water to Native People. Following that, he explained his work and that of the Commission to conserve salmon and monitor watersheds in relation to treaty rights. He was really interesting and though I didn't mention it earlier, he had shared some Native legends on Tuesday's boat trip. It added a unique perspective to the proceedings.

Barry Brown discussed how he used the North American Benthological Society's annual bibliography as the benchmark for comparing database coverage of freshwater biology.

Bart Goossens and Bonnie Avery combined to give an introduction to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. IUFRO's main concern is forests and healthy forests rely on healthy aquatic systems and vice versa. IUFRO section 06.03 is the Information Services and Knowledge Organization.

The business meeting ended the day. We voted to implement the amended Regional Group structure and establish the Aquatic Commons for digital materials. Susan Stover invited everyone to Sarasota, FL for IAMSLIC 2007, and the new board members were announced and installed.

And another great conference came to a close. The End. Well actually, now you need to turn the page and read all the great papers in full text so you will really know what you missed!