



# INTERCOM

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District of Columbia Library Association

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DCLA, the American Library Association chapter of our nation's capital

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

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April issue deadline: March 15. Send submissions to Susan Randolph at [psard@comcast.net](mailto:psard@comcast.net) or 3710 N. Vernon St., Arlington, VA 22207.

## Whither *Intercom*? by Kathryn Ray

Over the past 112 years, communication with members has taken many forms. During our centennial celebration, research in the archives produced a copy of "Library Association of Washington City Handbook with notes on Libraries in Washington" dated 1897. The first newsletter was *D.C. Libraries*. Volume 1, number 1 was dated October 1929. *D.C. Libraries* later evolved into a journal with fewer, but more in-depth articles. When printing and postage became serious issues, however, *D.C. Libraries* was put to rest and a newsletter entitled *Intercom* arrived on the scene.

Circa 1984, I submitted my first article for *Intercom*. While a little fuzzy on the date, I clearly recall writing my chapter councilor's report in longhand, getting in my car, and driving from Dupont Circle to McLean so that editor Jacque-Lynne Schulman could take the report to work the next day. Jacque-Lynne and co-editor Mary Feldman took turns producing DCLA's newsletter on their word processors. Blackberries, blogs, IM, e-mail, list-servs, www, cell phones and even answering machines for everyone were futurists' dreams. That was then and this is now.

Starting with the April 2006 issue, *Intercom* will be offered in both electronic and paper format. Members may elect to receive, via `dcla-l`, a broadcast message with a link to the pdf version of *Intercom* on [www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org). The pdf version will look just like the paper copy. It will be easy to read online, or to print out. As V.P. Elaine Cline points out, photos and artwork will look much nicer on the electronic version. The paper copy of *Intercom* will be mailed to anyone who wishes to continue to receive it in the mail. The Executive Board hopes for an enthusiastic response to the electronic option because the printing and postage for *Intercom* cost almost \$8,000 per year! Expect no major changes to *Intercom*'s content this year, just an additional option for the choice of format. Be on the lookout for a message from me on `dcla-l` announcing the option to receive *Intercom* electronically. If you are not receiving `dcla-l` messages, please contact our Membership Secretary, Kirsten Allen—[allen@american.edu](mailto:allen@american.edu). If you are willing to elect electronic delivery only, you will be saving a few dollars for DCLA and a few trees as well.

Today, DCLA has multiple ways of communicating with members.

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**DCLA Board, Interest Groups, and Committees  
2005-2006**

<b>Executive Board Members</b>	<b>Interest Group Chairs</b>	<b>Interest Group Chairs</b>	<b>Liaisons and Others</b>
--------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

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<b>Reach DCLA</b>
<p><b>On the World Wide Web</b> <a href="http://www.dcla.org">http://www.dcla.org</a></p> <p><b>By telephone</b> (202) 872-1112 (messages only)</p>

**JOINT SPRING WORKSHOP 2006**  
**21<sup>st</sup>-Century Competencies for Information Professionals**  
**Date: Tuesday 25 April 2006**  
*Keynote Speaker: Jane Dysart, Dysart and Jones*

We live in a highly competitive world where change is a way of life. A library's performance, quality, accountability, and adaptability determine its survival. Information professionals must define the core competencies that we need to stay proactive and vital.

In this one-day session, Roberta Shaffer, Executive Director of FLICC; Dr. Eileen Abels, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College of Information Studies; Rose Dawson, Deputy Director, Alexandria Public Library; and Donna Scheeder, Director Law Library Services, Library of Congress, will identify competencies and solutions necessary for that survival.

**Time:** 8:30–9:00, *Registration & Breakfast.* Please arrive promptly at 8:30, when LC opens, so you have enough time to go through security, find the Mumford Room, get registered, and eat breakfast before the program begins at 9:00. 3:30– 4:00, *Approximate Conclusion.*

**Place:** Mumford Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress

**Cost:** \$40.00 members, \$20.00 students, and \$60.00 non-members (includes continental breakfast and lunch). The tax ID number is 54-1079345.

**Registration:**

- To use PayPal go to [www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org).
- To bill the registration fee to your agency's FEDLINK Education Training (FT) account, call Elinda Deans, 202-707-4848.
- To pay by check make check payable to **Joint Spring Workshop** and mail with registration to:  
 Laura Hjerpe, 2026 N. Vermont St., Apt. 301, Arlington, VA 22207

For more information email [laura\\_hjerpe@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_hjerpe@yahoo.com) or call 703-597-2806. No purchase orders or training request forms.

**Registration form and check must be received by 12 April 2006.**

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**SPONSORS:**

District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA), Lead Sponsor; DC Special Libraries Association (DC-SLA); Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC (LLSDC); Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)

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**Registration: Joint Spring Workshop, 25 April 2006**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: DCLA \_\_\_ DC-SLA \_\_\_ LLSDC \_\_\_ FLICC \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Member, \$40.00 \_\_\_ Student, \$20.00 \_\_\_ Non-member, \$60.00

If you will **need a receipt**, please **check here:** \_\_\_\_\_

The JSW complies with ADA. We can accommodate your needs provided you contact us by 10 April 2006.

## March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

**March 3  
(Friday)**

**Library of Congress Learning Center for Teachers and Librarians Workshop.** Sponsored by the DCLA Children, Young Adult, and School Libraries Interest Group. Contact: April King, 202-724-8707, april.king@dc.gov.

**Robert J. Cooney discusses and signs *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*.** A "Books & Beyond" event sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Noon. Mumford Room, Madison Bldg., 6th floor, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: Ann Boni 202-707-1519.

**March 6 (Monday) -  
April 28 (Friday)**

**Digital Content Management with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris.** Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M304.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M304.htm)>.

**U.S. Copyright Law with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris.** Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M306.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M306.htm)>.

**Managing Copyright Issues with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris.** Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M305.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M305.htm)>.

**March 7  
(Tuesday)**

**Educating Your Adult Population.** Sponsored by the DCLA Adaptive Services Interest Group and Library Technology Interest Group. 9:30 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Room 443, 901 G St., N.W. Contact: 202-727-2142 or 202-727-2079.

**Planning Library Promotion Campaigns with Chris Olson.** Hands-on workshop sponsored by OCLC Capcon. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M212.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/M212.htm)>.

**March 7 (Tuesday) -  
March 8 (Wednesday)**

**HTML vs. XML: What's the Difference?** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I404.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I404.htm)>.

**March 13  
(Monday)**

**Writing Customer Focused e-Mail & Chat.** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I175.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I175.htm)>.

**Sunshine Week 2006: Are We Safer in the Dark? A National Dialogue on Open Government and Secrecy.** Online panel discussion sponsored by ALA and others. 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.openthegovernment.org/article/subarchives/85](http://www.openthegovernment.org/article/subarchives/85)> and <[www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/events.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/events.htm)>.

**March 13 (Monday) -  
April 8 (Saturday)**

**Designing Web Sites for Academic Libraries, Part 1.** Web-CT based course offered by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Contact: <[www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlproftools/webdesign1.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlproftools/webdesign1.htm)>.

**March 14  
(Tuesday)**

**DCLA Board Meeting.** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gelman Library, George Washington University, 2130 H St., N.W. Room 202. Contact: Katherine Ray, 202-244-0770, ray@american.edu, KCRDLB@gmail.com.

**March 15  
(Wednesday)**

**Knowledge Management/Sharing: After Action Reviews.** Society for International Development/Development Information Workgroup Meeting. Noon – 2:00. Development Information Center Conference Room. 1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Suite 300 South. Bring photo ID. No reservations required. Contact: Kenlee Ray 202-483-2423 KenleeR@aol.com.

**Peter Drucker: The Ultimate Knowledge Worker.** Program sponsored by DC/SLA. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. National Public Radio, Boardroom East, 2nd floor, 635 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Contact: Lorraine Bell, lorraine.bell@factiva.com.

**March 16  
(Thursday)**

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Ri Ra Irish Pub.** Sponsored by the DCLA New Librarians Interest Group. 6:00 p.m. 4931 Elm St. (near Bethesda Metro). Contact: Ming Wong, 202-452-8331.

**Public Roundtables on Copyright Exceptions for Libraries and Archives.** Sponsored by the Library of Congress Section 108 Study Group. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Rayburn House Office Bldg., Room 2237, Capitol Hill. Contact: <[www.ala.org/ala/washoff/Woissues/copyrightb/copyright.htm#links](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/Woissues/copyrightb/copyright.htm#links)> and <[www.loc.gov/section108](http://www.loc.gov/section108)>.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS (cont.)**

- March 20 (Monday)** **Web Resources for Reference.** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I159.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I159.htm)>.
- March 21 (Tuesday)** **Wikis for Libraries.** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Contact: <[www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I997.htm](http://www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I997.htm)>.
- March 22 (Wednesday) - March 24 (Friday)** **Computers in Libraries 2006.** Hilton Washington, 1919 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Contact: 609-654-6266, [www.infotoday.com](http://www.infotoday.com).
- March 23 (Thursday)** **A Digital Discourse: How Will Our World Look Digitized?** 23rd Annual FLICC Forum on Federal Information Policies. 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Library of Congress. Contact: <[www.loc.gov/flicc/ma//2006/ma0611.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/flicc/ma//2006/ma0611.pdf)>.
- March 24 (Friday)** **Former ambassador Thomas J. Dodd discusses and signs *Tiburcio Carias: Portrait of a Honduran Political Leader*.** A “Books & Beyond” event sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Noon. Room 119, Jefferson Bldg, Library of Congress. Contact: Ann Boni 202-707-1519.
- March 29 (Wednesday)** **Soaring to Excellence 2006—Teleconference Series for Library Technicians (Always a River, Sometimes a Library).** Sponsored by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee and the College of DuPage. 9:30 – noon. Mary Pickford Theater, Madison Bldg, 3rd floor, Library of Congress, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: 202-707-4800.
- March 30 (Thursday)** **Historian Gerard Gawalt discusses and signs *My Dear President: Letters Between Presidents and Their Wives*.** A “Books & Beyond” event sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Noon. Dining Room A, Madison Bldg., 6th floor, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: Ann Boni 202-707-1519.
- Making Contact: Connecting with Our Communities of Users.** Sponsored by the Virginia Library Association, Region V. 8:30 a.m. – Noon. Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria Campus, Schlesinger Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St. Contact: Bill Fleming, GMU-Mercer Library, 10900 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110.
- April 2 (Sunday) - April 8 (Saturday)** **National Library Week.** Theme: Change Your World @ Your Library. Contact: <[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)>.
- April 4 (Tuesday)** **National Library Workers Day.** Contact: <[www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.html](http://www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.html)>.
- April 6 (Thursday)** **The Open Access Movement.** Program sponsored by DC/SLA to celebrate International Special Librarians Day. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Kiplinger Washington Editors Building, 1729 H St., N.W., First floor. Contact: Lorraine Bell, [lorraine.bell@factiva.com](mailto:lorraine.bell@factiva.com).
- Human-Centered Design: The Basics of Usability.** Sponsored by Federal Library and Information Center Committee. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mumford Room, Madison Bldg., 6th floor, Library of Congress, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: 202-707-4800.
- April 11 (Tuesday)** **DCLA Board Meeting.** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gelman Library, George Washington University, 2130 H St., N.W. Room 202. Contact: Katherine Ray, 202-244-0770, [ray@american.edu](mailto:ray@american.edu), [KCRDLB@gmail.com](mailto:KCRDLB@gmail.com).
- April 17 (Monday) - May 15 (Monday)** **Selecting Spanish-Language Materials for Adults.** Online course offered by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies/ALA. Contact: <[www.ala.org/ala/ascla/asclaevents/professionaldevelopmentonline/](http://www.ala.org/ala/ascla/asclaevents/professionaldevelopmentonline/)> or <[www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/february/onlinecourse.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/february/onlinecourse.htm)>.
- April 20 (Thursday) - April 21 (Friday)** **Innovate and Motivate: Next Generation Libraries.** First Virtual Conference sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information, and EDUCAUSE. Contact: [msutton@ala.org](mailto:msutton@ala.org), 312-280-2522, <[www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/virtualconference.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/virtualconference.htm)>.
- April 21 (Friday) - April 23 (Sunday)** **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives (MARAC) Spring Conference.** Tremont Grand Hotel, Baltimore, MD. Contact: <[www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/2006/spring06/spring2006.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/2006/spring06/spring2006.html)> or Mary Mannix at [mmannix@fredco-md.net](mailto:mmannix@fredco-md.net).
- April 25 Tuesday** **21<sup>st</sup>-Century Competencies for Information Professionals.** Joint Spring Workshop sponsored by DCLA, DC-SLA, LLSDC, and FLICC. 9:00-4:00. Mumford Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: [laura\\_hjerpe@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_hjerpe@yahoo.com) or 703-597-2806.
- April 26 (Wednesday) - April 27 (Thursday)** **Technology Policy for a Flattening World: The EDUCAUSE Policy Conference.** Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC. Contact: <[www.educause.edu/po106](http://www.educause.edu/po106)>.

## Redesigning DCLA's Web Site by Tracy Myers

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Noel Rutherford, who was DCLA president from 2004 to 2005, asked me to chair a committee tasked with redesigning DCLA's Web site. The committee consisted of Laura Gonzales, Helen Hiltz, Alex Hodges, Mike Kolakowski, Jeanne Lauber, and Nancy Lucchese. We held our first meeting at the Station Grill in Union Station. We held only two or three more meetings, because we conducted much of our work via e-mail.

At our first meeting, we reviewed the existing Web site. We found a good site with elements that we all agreed had to stay, such as the history of DCLA, the master calendar, and the listing of board members and interest group chairs.

We then created a wish list for the redesigned Web site, which included:

- a Jobs page
- a "Featured Library" page
- a membership form to enable people to join and renew online
- a page for each DCLA committee and interest group
- the current and back issues of *Intercom* in PDF format
- a form to enable people to submit items to *Intercom* electronically
- search capability using Google
- PayPal option for renewing membership and paying for program registrations

We reviewed the Web sites of all 51 state library associations and noted the elements we found really useful, such as an events calendar that provides a link from the name of the event to more information about it.

 We turned to Kenneth Wiggins for advice on the technical feasibility of our plans. Kenneth was a staff member of the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library who had owned a Web design company and who is now studying digital media design in Philadelphia. He looked over our wish list and design ideas and gave us the green light.

"If you want your library featured, send a photo and brief description to [dclawebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:dclawebmaster@yahoo.com)."

Everyone contributed to the overall design of the Web site. However, we each were responsible for one of the individual features. Laura Gonzales was responsible for the new Jobs page, which provides job postings and links to sites with library jobs. Alex Hodges and Nancy Lucchese took on the task of creating our new Washington Resources page, which is a great resource for librarians who are new to DC or are thinking of moving to the DC area. I was responsible for writing the code and other technical aspects of the Web site.

One of our tasks was finding a host for the Web site that would be able to handle a list serv and provide good customer service. I presented several options to the DCLA Board. The Board selected Blue Host.

People quickly found and started to use the new Web site features. For example, someone used the electronic membership form 30 minutes after I uploaded it.

The formal unveiling of the redesigned Web site came on October 20, 2005 at the Fall Members Reception. I could not have asked for a lovelier environment or a more gracious audience.

Our Web site is still evolving, our new blog is frequently updated, and we feature a different library on our home page approximately every two months. If you want your library featured, send a photo and brief description to [dclawebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:dclawebmaster@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org) often! Comments are always welcome.

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*Tracy Myers is DCLA's webmaster, manager of DCLA-L, and chair of the Library Technology Interest Group.*

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## Libraries, Librarians, and Blogs by Noel Rutherford

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Librarians are natural communicators, whether they are providing access to information in a library or sharing the latest news with friends. They have a natural desire to say something and to increase knowledge in the people around them. Without this, they wouldn't be librarians. Libraries are repositories of information to be used by their community. One of their primary missions is to make access to materials as simple as possible, promoting freedom of information.

Libraries and librarians are at the forefront of the blog world and have developed a huge number of library and librarian-run blogs, ranging from highly personal blogs like Sulkbrarian to official library blogs like the Public Library Association's plablog.org. If you want to see just how popular blogs are in the library world, just check out Libdex, which lists hundreds of library blogs from around the world.

But what exactly is a blog? The most common, and least satisfying, definition is: "A website that is updated frequently, with new material posted at the top of the page." While this is a good basic definition, it doesn't begin to explain the phenomenon of the blog. Blog, short for Weblog, is a Web site that contains brief entries arranged in reverse chronological order. Blogs are diverse, ranging from personal diaries to news sites that monitor developments on anything from the war in Iraq to copyright law. No matter what they are used for, blogs have become an important form of expression and communication on the Web.

"Blogging software makes it as easy to publish content online as it is to write a note to post on your fridge."

Blogs have been around for anywhere from seven to eleven years, a blip in the grand scheme of things, but eons in the land of the Web. Rebecca Blood, unofficial weblog historian and author of *Rebecca's Pocket*, writes that Jesse James Garrett of Infosift created a list of 23 weblogs that existed in 1999. By 2006, there are likely somewhere between 750,000 and 1,500,000 blogs in existence.

Blogs have exploded on the Web because they have made it much easier to publish content online. Creating Web pages with HTML editors was a barrier for many people who were short on time to acquire new skills and to troubleshoot browser issues. Blogging software makes it as easy to publish content online as it is to write a note to post on your fridge. It's really that easy! You don't have to know anything about HTML or how to link from one page to another, let alone upload files with FTP programs to a Web server. Signing up for a blog account is easy, too—in less than three minutes, you can have a blog and area to publish your first entry.

Though listservs and blogs both function in a similar fashion, there are several advantages of blogs over the more traditional listserv. The use of graphics, multimedia files, and links help to highlight and better illustrate news. The ease of use and its ability to automatically archive old posts and refresh the content of the main page is also a strong reason to blog.

Organizations might use blogging technology to their advantage by implementing a blog on their Intranet, providing a FAQ, or discussing conference presentations. This is where libraries and librarians often come into play.

Libraries, librarians, and blogs seem to be a perfect match. The goal of libraries is to provide access to information, and in doing so reach all members of their community, be it the public, students and faculty in a university, or members of a library association.

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*Noel Rutherford is a past president of DCLA and manager of the Georgetown Branch, DC Public Library.*

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Libraries are increasingly using blogs to meet many of their communication needs. Until recently, almost all library blogs listed services offered by the library and the surrounding community, acting as a "What's New in the Library" page. An advantage of blogs over traditional "What's New" pages is that as blogs are easy to update, any member of the staff can post valuable information without waiting for the designated "Web development" person.

(Continued on page 8)

The 2005/2006 DCLA Nominations Committee  
(Jean B. Craigwell, Chair; Gail Avery, Michael Kolakowski)  
is pleased to present the following slate for the

**2006/2007 DCLA Board**

Candidate for Vice President – President-Elect

Barbara Folensbee-Moore

Candidate for Treasurer

Jennifer Jones

Candidates for Director

Ruel J. Eskelen

April S. King

Richard Huffine

Jennifer Nutefall

Petition Candidates: Members wishing to place their names on the ballot shall submit to Jean Craigwell, Nominations Committee chair, a petition signed by at least ten members, along with a biographical statement and a memo agreeing to serve if elected. The deadline for receipt of petitions is March 15, 2006. Direct questions to Jean at [jewell@juno.com](mailto:jewell@juno.com).

The final slate with candidate biographies and a ballot will appear in the April issue of *Intercom*.

*(Continued from page 7)*

Recently, many libraries have started blogs to post news items that are important in the library world and to their user community. For example, Redwood City California's Public Library runs "LibLog". Initially designed to keep library staff aware of technological developments, LibLog has expanded to include the public. In providing blogs, libraries can not only note when new books arrive and new databases are purchased, but also promote current awareness, information literacy, and library advocacy.

There is also significant potential to use blogs for reference services. While this is unlikely to replace email or chat reference, it might act as a good supplement and as a first stop for patrons with common questions. Librarians could work together to solve a difficult question when they have time, and by making the blog public, members of the community who know the answer might also chime in. Limiting the comment feature to use by library staff could solve any concerns about erroneous or spam postings.

Public libraries might use blogs as forums for book clubs. Book clubs are very popular, but not everyone has time to attend a monthly meeting. If blogs were set up by the library, interested patrons could post their questions and reactions to the book and conduct a discussion remotely.

Libraries and librarians are using blogs to communi-

cate information to each other and for their communities. Easy to set up and quick to update, blogs are the perfect vehicle to put information out about what's happening in the library, in the library community, and in the rest of the world.

The Web is a young thing, and blogs even younger. Technological advances will continue, allowing blogs to become further integrated into the structure of the Web. As blog use increases throughout the Internet, libraries and librarians will continue to use them and integrate them into their personal and professional lives.

*(continued from Whither Intercom? page 1)*

*Intercom* is just one. In this issue, Noel explains the blog and Tracy tells us about the redesigned Web site. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the best response to programs comes from announcements on *dcla-l*. Our listserv and revamped Web site could contain much of the information that we print and mail each month. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, do we really need a full newsletter each month? Maybe we should have a full *Intercom* with president's column, articles, calendar, photographs, etc. only four or five times per year. The intervening months could be covered by an abbreviated *Intercom* that would be perhaps one sheet with event announcements delivered either electronically or by mail as members elect. Should we change the name? Just a thought. What's your opinion?

## LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES

Send submissions via e-mail to [psard@comcast.net](mailto:psard@comcast.net)  
or use DCLA's new online reporting form at [www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org).



**Katherine Blauer** retired in January from her position as executive director of the OCLC CAPCON Service Center, a position she assumed in November 2003. Her career in libraries and the information industry spanned over 40 years in the U.S. and U.K. In 11 years at OCLC—from 1985

to 1997—she served as product manager, regional marketing manager, and director of national sales. In the latter position, she and her sales team introduced FirstSearch to the library marketplace. Check out the March 2004 *Intercom* for a profile of Katherine.

**Wil Danielson**, retired GPO cataloger and former chair of the DCLA Government Documents Interest Group, moved back to Evanston, Illinois, where he had worked as a Northwestern University documents librarian. He and his wife live near the lake, university, and public library. Family genealogy helps to keep him busy. He is also assisting family members in ongoing research of an event of which they were a part—the sinking of the *Zamzam*. The *Zamzam*, an Egyptian liner that was carrying three-year-old Wil and his family and other American missionaries to Africa, was attacked and sunk by the German raider *Atlantis* on April 17, 1941 in the South Atlantic. The attackers recovered the *Zamzam*'s passengers and crew from the sea and transferred them to a prison ship that carried them through the British Blockade to German-occupied France. Wil's sister Eleanor Anderson has published an account of the experience—*Miracle at Sea: The Sinking of the Zamzam and Our Family's Rescue*.

**William R. Gordon**, DCLA past president and a recipient of the Ainsworth Rand Spofford President's Award, is the author of "Gifts that Speak Volumes," an article on library fundraising in the January 2006 *American Libraries*.

**Shelly Edwards** has been appointed interim executive director of the OCLC CAPCON Service Center.

**Roberta A. Stevens**, outreach projects and partnerships officer at the Library of Congress, has been elected to serve on the ALA Executive Board.

The **District of Columbia Library** will receive \$30 million of federal money if Congress acts on a recommendation in President Bush's FY 2007 fiscal year budget.

The **Fairfax County Public Library Center for the Book** is among the 34 winners of the 2005 James Patterson PageTurner Awards. The Center received \$1000 to recognize its efforts to "spread the excitement of books in effective and original ways."

The **Library of Congress** is the recipient of a \$3 million gift from Google. The gift will enable LC to begin building the World Digital Library, which will contain significant primary materials from national and other major research libraries around the world. Once digitized, LC will make the materials available on the Internet.

The **Loudoun County Public Library** in Leesburg, VA is one of six winners of the 2006 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. It was recognized for its popular after-hours teen center where "Hanging Out Rocks!"

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** will shut down its network of 27 libraries, if a plan in President Bush's FY 2007 budget is implemented. According to a press release issued by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the president's plan cuts "\$2 million of a total agency library budget of \$2.5 million, including the entire \$500,000 budget for the EPA Headquarters library and its electronic catalog, which tracks tens of thousands of unique documents and research studies that are available nowhere else."

## 32nd Annual National Library Legislative Day

**May 2, 2006**

**On Capitol Hill**

Sponsored by ALA, DCLA, & SLA

The Planning Committee welcomes new members and volunteers. Join us!

### **Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Stuffing party: Stuff/assemble materials for use by participants and senators/representatives. (Need 10-12 volunteers)

ALA Washington Office

### **Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Lobbying 101 Pre-conference: Greet/direct participants and lend administrative/logistical support. (Need volunteers)

ALA Washington Office

### **Monday, May 1, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Issue Briefing Day: Assist with registration/folder pickup. (Need 6 volunteers plus 1 volunteer from 10:00 – 12:00 noon)

Holiday Inn on Capitol Hill

### **Tuesday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

National Library Legislative Day: Assist with registration. (Need 3-4 volunteers)  
Capitol Hill

### **Tuesday, May 2, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

National Library Legislative Day Reception: Greet participants, identify representatives/senators and match them with constituents. (Need 5-6 volunteers)

Capitol Hill

**To volunteer, contact Bill Turner  
at DC Public Library**

**202-727-4968 or bill.turner@dc.gov**



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Life Sciences Librarian.** Charles E. White Memorial (Chemistry) Library. University of Maryland Libraries. Non-tenured faculty (12-month appointment). Under the direction of the Team Leader, Life Sciences/Chemistry Team, provide in-depth reference, instruction, and collection management services for faculty and students in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences; serve as liaison to Dept. of Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics (CBMG); develop and manage electronic and print collections for CBMG; provide reference service at White Chemistry Library and McKeldin Library; assume responsibility for library operations in absence of branch library head. Required: ALA-accredited MLS and/or post-baccalaureate degree in physical or life sciences. Subject background in biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, chemistry, biotechnology, or related discipline. Experience providing reference and instructional services and/or collection development and management in an academic, special, or science library serving similar clientele. Preferred: professional library or information retrieval experience. Advanced degree in biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, chemistry, biotechnology, or related discipline. Experience in team-based work environment. Submit cover letter, resume, and names and addresses of 3 references by **March 20**. Send to Guadalupe Fernandes, Library Personnel Services, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7011. E-mail to gfernand1@umd.edu. Fax: 301-314-9960.

**Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian.** University of Maryland Libraries. (Search reopened) Non-tenured faculty, full time (12 month appointment). Report to Head of Acquisitions. Supervise and manage Continuing Resources team, including a staff of 6.5 FTE support staff and student

assistants. The University Libraries uses Ex Libris Aleph, version 16.2. Working with Manager for E-content Management in the Information Technology Division, coordinates negotiations, ordering, payment and problem solving involved with electronic resources. Trains staff and library faculty. Serves as serials expert in RFP development and proposal evaluation. Required: ALA-accredited MLS, minimum 3 years professional library acquisitions experience, working knowledge of cataloging standards. Preferred: Strong understanding of serials acquisitions; familiarity with business principles and practices; experience with Ex Libris Aleph Library system. Detailed job description at <[www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/ASD/LPO/LibJobs/102862.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/ASD/LPO/LibJobs/102862.html)>. Submit cover letter, resume, and names/addresses of 3 references by **March 31** to Guadalupe Fernandes, Library Personnel Services, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7011. E-mail to [gfernand1@umd.edu](mailto:gfernand1@umd.edu). Fax: 301-314-9960.

**Librarian (Law-Reference)** Law Library of Congress. Vacancy # 050334. GS-1410-11, \$54,272 – \$70,558. Closing date **March 6**. Prepares brief analytical yet thorough written responses to legal and legislative research inquiries; utilizes highly complex legal and legislative history research methodologies; prepares in digital format for web-publishing various legal and legislative research products; provides legal and legislative information services to diverse and demanding clientele under tight deadlines; presents legal and legislative information programs in classroom settings. Qualified candidates with both Juris Doctor and LMS degrees from accredited universities and at least 3 years progressively responsible experience in law library setting are encouraged to apply.

**Reference/Intellectual Property Librarian.** The George Washington University Law School Library. Specialize in intellectual property law. Review of applications will begin **March 20**. Detailed information at <[www.law.gwu.edu/Burns/About/jobs.htm](http://www.law.gwu.edu/Burns/About/jobs.htm)>. Submit cover letter, resume, and names of 3 professional references to Ms. Leslie Lee, The George Washington University, Jacob Burns Law Library, 716 20th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20052, [llee@law.gwu.edu](mailto:llee@law.gwu.edu) or fax: 202-994-1430.

**Children's Librarian I** (part-time: 10 hours/week). Alexandria Library/Beatley Central Library. Saturdays 9-5 and Tuesdays 6-9. Position available mid-late March. Salary \$18.19 – \$20.06 per hour. Eligible for pro-rated annual and sick leave. ALA-accredited MLS and Virginia Professional Library License (may be obtained after hiring). Knowledge of children's/YA literature. Send or fax resume to Ginny Rawls, Youth Services, Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22304, fax: 703-519-5914.

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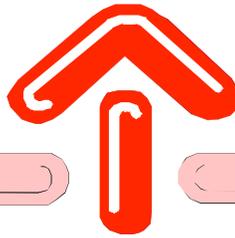
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# LOOK!

A digital version of  
**Intercom**  
is now available.

Want to receive  
your issue  
electronically?



See  
page 1  
for details!

Recent U.S. presidents have established presidential libraries in their home states in which documents, artifacts, gifts of state, and museum exhibits are maintained that relate to the former president's life and career. Each library also provides an active series of public programs. Although many pre-Hoover collections now reside in the Library of Congress, others are split among other libraries, historical societies, and private collections. However, many materials have been lost or deliberately destroyed. He asked the National Archives to take custody of his papers and other historical materials and to administer his library. In 1950, Harry S. Truman decided that he, too, would build a library to house his Presidential papers and helped to galvanize congressional action. 10. For many years people have wondered \_ exists elsewhere in the universe. \_\_ (A) that life. \_\_ (B) life which \_\_ (C) whether life \_\_ (D) life as it. Beacon Hill is one of the most famous neighborhoods in Boston. 'With luck, there won't be any more problems. This house was built by John's grandfather. Often, prepositional phrases come at the beginning of sentences, but they may appear in other parts of the sentence as well. 3. 1900 there were some 300 bicycle factories in the United States, and they produced over a million bicycles. \_\_ (A) In. \_\_\_\_ (B) Because in. And at the Hemingway centennial, held at the library in 1999, many speakers referenced Hemingway's experience in war and his observations on its aftermath as an abiding element of his literary legacy. Hemingway and World War I. In the story, Hemingway never actually mentions the war and the injuries Nick has sustained in it—they simply loom below the surface. In this and other stories in his first major collection, *In Our Time*, Hemingway does more than advance a narrative; he also debuts a new style of writing fiction. Professor Gates concluded the centennial celebration similarly—noting that Hemingway was "one of the finest prose stylists in English.