

A Recent Graduate Taking the Archive Track

by Deborah DelCollo

In the diverse field of Information Science, one can follow an array of paths. Looking at job postings will give you an idea of the vast opportunities awaiting you after graduation.

About mid-way through my education at Drexel, I discovered the Archives track at Temple University. Driven by my interest in all things historical, I knew that this was the route I would take. Maybe you are asking yourself, "What is an archivist?"

The Society of American Archivists (www.archivists.org) define

an archivist as similar to a librarian, but with significant differences. These differences lie in the types of materials they work with. Archivists process collections which are unique and one of a kind. The stacks are closed and the archivist is the gatekeeper. Archivists are responsible for the arrangement and description of the collection, in accordance with accepted standards and practices, always keeping in mind the role of the researcher or historian who will use the collection.

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Attending Events at the Philadelphia Chapter SLA

Wine and Cheese at Federal Reserve Bank

by Gary Kaplan

The SLA Philadelphia Chapter kicked off its fall programming on September 28 with the annual Wine and Cheese at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Several Student Chapter members attended, braving pouring rain to network with colleagues in a grand setting.

Like so many who were going on elementary-school field trips in the area, I had visited the US Mint, so this was a great opportunity to learn about its neighbor across Independence Mall, where money printed at

the mint comes for distribution to banks. Attendees learned all about monetary policy and the Federal Reserve from their new permanent exhibit, "Money in Motion," which is open to the public in the building's atrium.

That atrium filled with music, as Anita Chiodo, the 2003-2004 Student Chapter Advisor, played bagpipes. She had donated her services through last year's Silent Auction to benefit the Knowler Fund, giving the whole chapter a chance to enjoy her excellent playing. In addition to traditional pipe music, she led the celebration of the Philadelphia Chapter's 85th anniversary with a

pipied version of Happy Birthday.

Breakfast Roundtables by Loretta Dunne

The chapter has a tradition of holding breakfast roundtables and they returned to it this February, holding a roundtable at the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia. These are great opportunities to network and join in a discussion on a stimulating topic.

I attended the roundtable on blogging led by Steve Marvin of West Chester University. We discussed the basics of blogging and
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Special Libraries
Association

by Peter Konin

President's Message: Exploring Options

The defining characteristic of the SLA is its concern with unique libraries and collections and I am excited to be the new Drexel student chapter president. I look forward to many interesting meetings and events, and I want to encourage your ideas and participation in the chapter. Through chapter events, we will have the opportunity to experience various aspects of special libraries. We will learn about career options and make connections with information professionals. One of the most compelling aspects of library science is its range of specialties, and it is my expectation that involvement with the SLA will expose students to that diversity.

I would like to take this occasion to introduce our new chapter leaders Kerry Corrigan, Co-program chair and Jo Solis, Web Administrator. Tim Siftar, the Information Services Librarian at Hagerty will be joining us as Co-advisor. Loretta Dunne, newsletter editor and Anita Chiodo, Co-Advisor and Past President, have welcomed us; we are looking forward to working together in the upcoming year.

Additionally, we wish Anita well in her new position as the Manager of Library Services at Heritage Microfilm in Iowa. Luckily, she will continue on with the SLA as Co-advisor, though her presence will be missed at chapter events and meetings.

I look forward to seeing you all at

meetings and events; please feel free to contact me anytime at pk65@drexel.edu.

Sincerely,

Peter Konin

Archive Track

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Temple University (www.cis.drexel.edu/forms/templere-archives-option.pdf) offers a three-course sequence, which prepares students for a career in the field of Archives. The track, which starts in January of each year, is a concise and intense curriculum covering major archival issues from basic understanding of the concepts of archival techniques and methods through assigned readings, hands-on archival processing, written and oral reports, and class discussion. The internship is a practical experience working at an archive or manuscripts repository and requires 140 hours of work. My internship is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives where I am processing a collection of the Women's Committee. And the third course is designed to provide the student with a more comprehensive introduction to the literature and scholarship of format. It prepares students who wish to take the CA (www.certifiedarchivist.org) exam. A scholarly project is also required.

Professor Martin Levitt is the instructor of the courses that takes

place at the American Philosophical Society, where he is the librarian. Dr. Levitt is also a graduate of Drexel.

Coming Events *Rush at Rush*

**April 12th
4-7PM**

Sponsored by the SLA, this is an introduction to a number of Library and Information Professional Organizations. Come out and meet members of the organizations that can play an important role in your career. This event will be held at the Rush Building on Campus and open to all students.

CNN Tour

Last year the student chapter made an exciting trip to CNN in New York City. Shira Kavon, a news librarian with CNN, was our hostess and it was a great tour. Recently, CNN moved to a new location. It's time to visit again—trip tentatively planned for April or May and opened to all students.

Staying Current in a Busy World

by Loretta Dunne

In my years as a computer programmer, I was always haunted by the need to stay current. The impossibility of such a feat was frustrating and alarming, month by month I was losing my edge in the field. Now I find I am pursuing another (albeit related) area and I have the same concern. There are a number of areas to follow for librarians and information specialists: developments in the field itself, resources, laws related to resources and technology. But I am determined to address this issue more systematically. First, I think it is important to determine what exactly I want to follow. What issues and developments in the field are crucial to me right now? Then, I can decide how I want to stay current. A clearly stated goal and a systematic plan to obtain the information is most important in keeping current.

Since I am not currently employed as a librarian or information specialist, staying abreast of employment trends and the possibilities in the field are important and I read sites such as www.Lisjobs.com and www.liscareer.com, as well as the sites of various professional groups. And of course knowing the latest trends in search engines seems to be critical to everyone's role, <http://searchenginewatch.com>. If I had a job in the field, I am sure I would be pressed to keep up with the developments related to my specific role. Because doesn't everyone want to stay marketable? What if a new and more exciting opportunity presents itself? Besides skills set, there is the arena of resources. I get emails every week

summarizing new resources available on the internet. [Librarians' Index to the Internet - lii.org](#) lists a number of resources that report on new web content.

Once the information goal is determined, then there is the question of how to stay current in those areas. I could read more journals, check up favorite websites, receive emails from a number of sites and associations, set-up RSS feeds for the sites I think are important, set up my Yahoo to act as a RSS feeds for sites or join listservs. Although I just set up my Yahoo to act as a RSS feed for a number of sites, I find that I don't go to my Yahoo enough. I have another page I use as my home page and haven't made the shift to my Yahoo. I first read about the new My Yahoo at [The Shifted Librarian](#), a favorite blog of mine. For a discussion of RSS Aggregator see this article by Steve Cohen, [LLRX.com - RSS for Non-Techie Librarians](#).

None of us can read everything and keep up with everything. An important rule of thumb is to stop the arrival of data that isn't pertinent. Drop listservs that are not meeting your needs. Add new resources as necessary but remember that the resources will only be useful if you have time to read them. Don't clog up your life with more information than you can use.

There are a number of interesting articles on keeping current such as Steve Cohen's Eight Steps to Keeping Current

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqarchives/v33/331cohen.pdf>

Steve also has a keeping current

website, [Library Stuff](#), as well as a book, [Keeping Current](#) that was published in 2003 by the ALA. Steve's 1st law is don't browse! A tough law to follow.

Don't miss Stephen Bell's [keeping up page](#). And check out the subject on [Library Journal - Strategies for Keeping Current](#) and [WMRC - Information Services - Library - Reference Guides - Info. Technology. WMRC - Information Services - Library - Reference Guides - Info. Technology](#) and [Library Journal - Strategies for Keeping](#)

Make keeping current a conscious part of your daily routine and don't hesitate to tune your methods as you discover what works best for you.

Join SLA

Joining professional organizations as a student enables you to discover, at the low student rate, the organizations that are important to your professional life. The local chapters of the SLA are very active and provide professional and networking events. Consider joining the SLA www.sla.org today.

SLA Drexel Tours Rosenbach Museum and Library

by Karen Kozak

On a beautiful August evening the Drexel chapter of the SLA met at the Rosenbach Museum and Library. It was a wonderful night out for all; most of us had not seen each other in a few months so it was a great chance to get caught-up while learning more about a Philadelphia treasure.

The Rosenbach brothers were antique dealers who had a particular interest in rare books along with other collectible items and furniture. Part of their collection is preserved in an 1860s townhouse near Rittenhouse Square. The building itself is quite impressive and houses over 30,000 rare

books and nearly 100,000 pieces of manuscript material.

The museum is open to the public but we received a special behind-the-scenes tour from head librarian, Elizabeth Fuller. Elizabeth gave us an entertaining and comprehensive tour of the museum and library, including areas that visitors will not see during a typical tour. Elizabeth has many responsibilities at the Rosenbach in a wide variety of areas. In addition to cataloging items, she also helps out with the acquisition of new items. She works with researchers who come to the Rosenbach to use the materials. Through the analysis of sales records and other documents she tracks down books and antiques

that may or may not still be in the possession of the museum. She has many additional responsibilities across all departments within the museum. We all got the chance to ask Elizabeth questions about working in specialized libraries. She was able to provide us with great insight, both in the area of the types of classes that will provide the most benefit to library students and career advice.

For more information about the Rosenbach Museum and Library, please visit their website at www.rosenbach.org.

Attending Events

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blogging software. Most interesting was the portion of the discussion on ways to make blogs work in libraries. The discussion went on as we ate a good breakfast.

The roundtables ended with a summary presented by each group. All of this for the low student price! Be sure to take advantage of the chapter events and get to meet some of the local librarians.

SLA Drexel Leaders

Peter Konin
President

Jo Solis
Web Administrator

Kerry Corrigan
Co-Program Chair

Loretta Dunne
Newsletter Editor

Anita Chiodo
Co-Advisor

Tim Siftar
Co-Advisor

Mission Statement

The SLA Student Chapter of Drexel University is a platform for students to explore special librarianship and the information profession; an opportunity to engage with library and information professionals; an opportunity for networking, interaction, and community building; a promotion of the Special Libraries Association.

Website:
www.cis.drexel.edu/sladrexel/