Responsible AI: Copyright Fuels Innovation

CCC is expanding its corporate licenses to include a harmonized set of rights for the internal-only use of lawfully acquired content with AI systems.

We want to know your thoughts.

Let's discuss at Table 3.
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THANK YOU TO THE INFORMATION OUTLOOK EDITORIAL BOARD

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Contact AMS Customer Service (cust-serv@ams.org) for more information.
Welcome to Rhode Island and to the 2024 SLA Annual Conference & Expo! This year’s conference is a landmark event for our association. Not only are we proudly celebrating SLA’s 115th birthday, we are also marking an ambitious and dedicated return to the member services and support on which this great organization was founded. This year’s SLA: Back-to-Basics theme has inspired us to look deeply within ourselves to both our storied history in this industry and the current services and programs that our members say are absolute must-haves if we are to continue on into the future.

It has been an eye-opening exploration of member’s expectations and moods. It has been an all-out push to strike a sustainable balance of benefits and expenses. It’s taken an incredible degree of soul-searching to get to the very heart of what it means to be SLA in 2024 and beyond. And I am cautiously excited to say that it has been working. For the first time in a long time, we have come into the annual conference not only hitting our projected numbers for the event itself, but operating in the black for the year so far. It is the culmination of years of rethinking our association’s purpose, re-envisioning the services it provides, and re-adjusting our expectations for the future. Last year at this time, there were dire concerns that SLA might not see year’s end. Well here we are. It is 2024 mid-year and the Special Libraries Association is still here!

Now we need to stay realistic and be more vigilant than ever. There is still a great deal of work to be done if SLA is going to see another 115 years. From finding new ways to support our communities and delivering the networking our members say is so vital, to inspiring a new generation of leaders to step up and take us forward, to re-establishing our reputation as a professional organization that offers unparalleled educational opportunities, there is so much more that needs to be re-engineered beyond our balance sheets. In many ways, we are just laying the foundation for an even greater, more exciting transformation and revitalization of our association. None of this, of course, is even remotely possible without the dedication and support of you, our members.

This year’s conference is an incredible example of what we can do when we come together as members, focus on our collective needs and diverse strengths, and open ourselves to doing things differently and within our means. When was the last time SLA returned to its roots with a smaller venue, fewer frills, and a real focus on nothing more than learning and networking? When was the last time you heard of our members staying in dorms and driving golf carts to help each other get to scheduled events? Heck, when was the last time we planned a conference so quickly? There is no doubt in my mind that John Cotton Dana is looking down on us with an immense sense of pride. It’s a pride that we should all be feeling as we kick off this wonderful event. YOU MADE THIS HAPPEN. YOU HAVE GIVEN SLA A FIGHTING CHANCE!

I ask that you join me in especially thanking Nathan and Nabi and the whole conference planning committee that have worked so hard and so quickly to bring us here together. If ever there was an example of grace under pressure, it is this feat that finds us in Rhode Island! I also ask that you join me in acknowledging the generous support of the sponsors and exhibitors without whose generosity and support, we could not have made this vision a reality. Please be sure to stop by their displays and to speak with their reps to let them know how much their partnerships truly mean to SLA. And finally, I want to thank the speakers and volunteers who will be enlightening, educating, and entertaining us over the next few days. You are ultimately why we are here.

This is your conference SLA. It is unlike any we have seen in a very long time. With your dedication, support, and recommitment to this organization and its future, the Special Libraries Association is turning an essential corner and once again looking ahead to tomorrow with optimism and purpose!

John DiGilio
SLA PRESIDENT
**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WELCOME**

By Nathan Rosen

**Welcome to SLA’s 2024 Conference, and the celebration of SLA’s 115th year.** This year’s theme is “Collaboration Through Innovation.” We are thrilled to have you join us as we embark on a journey that explores the boundless potential of working together creatively to achieve extraordinary results.

Collaboration is at the heart of every successful endeavor. It is through the sharing of diverse perspectives, pooling of resources, and collective problem-solving that we can transcend individual limitations and reach new heights. This conference is a celebration of how we, as a community of information professionals, can come together to foster a culture of cooperation that drives progress and inspires change.

Innovation is the spark that ignites progress. It challenges the status quo, pushes boundaries, and opens new possibilities. In today’s rapidly evolving world, it is more important than ever to embrace innovative thinking because if we don’t we as a profession may go the way of the dinosaurs or dodo bird. By doing so, we can develop groundbreaking solutions that address the complex challenges we face in our professional lives and make our work more enjoyable.

This year’s theme, “Collaboration Through Innovation,” perfectly captures the synergy between these two powerful forces. When we combine the strengths of collaboration with the creative potential of innovation, we create a dynamic environment where ideas can flourish, and impactful change can occur. Together, we can tackle the toughest problems, seize emerging opportunities, and shape a brighter future. We also will take this time to celebrate our past 115 years of success and partnership.

*continued*
Over the next few days, we have an exciting lineup of sessions, exhibitors, and networking opportunities designed to inspire and empower you. Our esteemed speakers, moderators, and panelists will share their insights on how collaboration and innovation are transforming their fields. We encourage you to actively participate, share your thoughts, and make new connections that will enhance your professional journey.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of many individuals. First, a heartfelt thank you to the hardworking SLA HQ staff. Their dedication to picking up and running with the ball after a late start has been inspiring. From negotiating with vendors for sponsorships to organizing potential programs efficiently, their efforts have made a huge difference. They tackled every challenge head-on, ensuring the committee could make informed, tough decisions with ease.

Our committee members have earned a huge thank you from everyone as they contributed their precious time without compensation or recognition, spending many hours reviewing and discussing each and every one of the proposed programs, knowing that they would, at the end of the process, only be able to accept a small portion of the proposed programs. Thank you to all the SLA members who submitted program proposals. Hopefully, next year, we will have more slots for programs and more of the interesting and educational programs submitted by members will be able to be accepted and presented. There were so many appealing program ideas that made the committee members’ decisions very difficult. At times, the committee members felt like we needed Solomon’s wisdom to select from among so many engaging program ideas. We did our best to select some programs that will excite and engage all our members.

Thank you to Nabi Hasan, who, as co-chair shouldered the difficult decision-making and contributed his many years of SLA experience and insights. Thank you to Andy Shimp who after serving years on the Committee acted this year as Board liaison to the committee. Thank you to Seema Rampersad, who, as Past President, was willing to be a very active committee member and bring a wide variety of experiences and insights to the committee. Thank you to committee members: Ann Cullen, Jay Bhatt, Casey Kelly, Evelyn Hernandez Carrion, Heather Kotula, and Elizabeth Downie, who all provided unselfishly their time in reviewing the voluminous submissions and bringing their SLA conference experience and insights from their various communities to ensure that the programming is balanced and inclusive.

As we kick off this conference, let’s embrace the spirit of collaboration and innovation. Let’s be open to new ideas, ready to share our experiences, and willing to learn from one another. Together, we can make this conference a transformative experience that not only advances our professional goals but also strengthens our community.

Thank you for being here. Let’s make “Collaboration Through Innovation” not just a theme but a driving force in everything we do. Enjoy the conference!

Nathan Rosen
2024 SLA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR
SLA welcomes information professionals from all over the world with varied experiences. In 2023, David Ballantine was named a 2023 SLA Rising Star Recipient. It’s been a year of growth for SLA and for one of our Rising Stars.

David graduated with his MLIS degree from San Jose State University in 2022, the same year he joined SLA to meet other information professionals.

He has worked in various libraries during and after library school, including the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library and the Sherman Grinberg Film Library. David acknowledges that his career is just beginning. Still, he mentions a highlight when he worked at the Central Branch; Susan Orlean’s NYT bestseller and notable book *The Library Book* was published in 2019 and told “the disastrous story” of a fire that burned for hours on April 28, 1986, at the Central Branch. There certainly was a buzz when the book was published, as David knew people who were mentioned in the book!

He has entrepreneurial experience and expertise in finance and has been an accomplished Toastmaster since 2014. David is between library jobs and working for a produce distribution company in Malibu, CA. David knows that his experiences working in libraries enhance his leadership skills, and he is currently serving as the president of the SLA Southern California Community.

David acknowledges the value of SLA as a recipient of educational opportunities. Now, as a community president, he helps other members network. He recommends “networking with fellow professionals in your region.” Working with them on a board or similar activities can be more valuable than just a “meet and greet.”

When David isn’t busy with SLA, he likes to cook, work on cars, and relax with yoga. He is currently reading *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. David enjoys volunteering at the Isha Foundation in Los Angeles and looks forward to meeting President Obama one day to discuss leadership skills.
Have you read a book you cannot stop thinking about lately?

Do you have new research to share?

Do you have a story to tell?

We want to hear from you!
Submit your work to SLA’s Information Outlook!

Be a part of our quarterly publication – SLA encourages ALL members to submit content to Information Outlook. Show off your skills as an SLA member through this digital publication.

Email submissions to handolsen@sla.org.
One thing to remember when discussing technology is that all technology is inherently neutral. It can be used for good things or bad things. However, it’s crucial to stay informed about the rapid evolution of technology, which has been accelerating with each innovation iteration.

As a self-professed tech enthusiast, my closet is a testament to my love for all things tech. From the infamous Google Glass released to product testers in 2013 to the original Amazon Echo that made my cat internet famous with over 100k views. I’ve been fortunate to experiment with early age Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and so on…with each of these technologies promising revolutionary changes. This personal experience has not only deepened my understanding but also my passion for the potential of these technologies.

VR had early impacts with immersive learning experiences, and today, hospitals use VR and AR to train surgeons and perform remote surgeries. When autonomous flying vehicles were first imagined, we pictured flying cars. Still, we have drones, which are now used by law enforcement and emergency services and possibly for future package deliveries. These technologies, including AI, go through a hype cycle with initial buzz followed by robust applications. The latest iteration of the Google Glass idea is the Ray-Ban Meta glasses, which are way more affordable and can identify objects or answer questions.

So, what does AI bring to the table? Historically, we’ve been using AI to analyze data at incredible speeds to make split-second decisions, such as what should I watch next on Netflix or buy on Amazon. We’ve seen some early-on conversational AI tools; one of my favorites was released in 2017, Replika, or an even older, less-known product called SimSimi in 2002 (beating Siri by nearly 10 years). But now, with the affordability of Large Language Models (LLMs), we can process data and information at lightning speeds, pull new knowledge together, and be trained with our own data sets. Imagine the possibilities in your field of interest or work.

continued
My stance on using AI is not “you have to find a way to use AI” but more of a “look at your processes and procedures and which could be augmented better with greater precision and speed… If so, could AI assist with that?

**Here are some scenarios:**

- It takes me 10 minutes to find the information I’m looking for at work.
  - Build a RAG (Retrieval Augmented Generation), which, in simple terms, points a chatbot to a bunch of information and learns from it.
- I don’t like spreadsheets, charts, or graphs, and I would rather stub my toe on a desk after stepping on Legos.
  - Pipe your data into an analytical toolset and, using natural language, ask for the information you’re looking for. You can also use tools like FormulaDog to create those formulas you’re tired of searching for.
- Taking meeting notes is the bane of my existence, especially since I multitask and read emails as people talk.
  - Use an AI Notetaker (my recommendation is MeetGeek) that sums up after your call. You can chat with your AI Notetaker to remember those important things across multiple meetings.
- I need someone who is just like me to rift ideas from.
  - Create a chatbot that learns how you write, speak, and act. I use an app called SuperHuman that summarizes emails and pre-types out some replies.

These are just scratching the surface, as AI can be used for image/video editing, fixing audio clips, creating avatars, and cybersecurity. AI’s integration into the cybersecurity landscape is a game-changer. Traditional cybersecurity measures often need help to keep pace with the increasingly sophisticated tactics employed by cybercriminals.

AI systems can analyze vast amounts of data to detect anomalies and potential threats, enabling them to recognize patterns indicative of cyber attacks. For instance, AI can identify unusual network traffic patterns that suggest a potential Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack or detect subtle signs of phishing attempts.

By continuously monitoring user behavior, AI systems can detect deviations from everyday activities, such as unusual login times or access to sensitive information without proper authorization.

AI can automate responses to cyber threats. AI-driven systems can isolate compromised devices, block malicious IP addresses, and execute predefined security protocols without human intervention. This rapid response capability is essential in minimizing the impact of cyberattacks.

One of the best products on the market that is doing this is DarkTrace. In fact, according to IBM’s “Cost of a Data Breach Report,” using an AI tool saves 1.76 million dollars compared to organizations that don’t.

Remember when I said technology is inherently neutral? There are people using AI for bad things, such as creating spoofing emails with more excellent proficiency, having an AI look at code for vulnerabilities, or even asking AI about a company to be able to impersonate a user to gain access. Having an AI tool can help mitigate those risks a bit more.

Regardless of the use case, some cybersecurity rules exist when using AI. At a basic level – don’t feed anything personally identifiable to you, clients, or partners to an AI system unless they specifically state that data will not be used for other models or generations… even then, I urge you to pause and be careful.

The other significant component is understanding how the data was gathered…remember AI is just decisions powered by data. The AI can’t be biased, but the data it’s fed can be. Here is a great example. Say you are making an AI that can determine the difference between a tomato and an apple. You show twenty images of green apples to the AI and twenty images of red tomatoes. What happens when you present the AI with a picture of a red apple? Chances are, it’s going to assume that’s a tomato. Conversely, just like survey data, if you survey a hundred children, “What is the best breakfast to eat that’s healthy?” along with ten adults, your data will be skewed and most likely won’t be a data source recommended by the FDA.

Overall, AI is emerging from its hype cycle with some very practical and powerful applications. It’s constantly improving and becoming more affordable to leverage within your environments. Where do you see a need for more efficiency in your organization? Can AI help, or will it end up in my tech closet?
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<td>9:30 am – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Sci-Tech Awards &amp; Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Transportation Community Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Engineering Community Awards &amp; Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Industry Breakout Session OCLC Update: Celebrating Special Libraries</td>
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<td>Industry Breakout Session IFIS Publishing</td>
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<td>Industry Breakout Session S&amp;P Global Market Intelligence</td>
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<td>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Open SLA Board Meeting (all welcome)</td>
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<td>SLA Asia Community Silver Jubilee Celebration</td>
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<td>4:30 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
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<td>MLC Business Meeting</td>
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<td>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm</td>
<td>SLA International Reception &amp; 115th Year Celebration Avedisian Atrium &amp; Garden</td>
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<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>9:15 am – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Welcome to SLA 2024</td>
<td>John DiGilio, SLA President; Heather Andolsen, SLA Executive Director</td>
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<td>9:45 am – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Uncharted Together: Navigating AI’s New Frontiers in Libraries</td>
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<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CS 01</td>
<td>Cyber Attacks and Information Content: What’s Your Game Plan?</td>
<td>Helen Josephine, HBJ Associates; Seema Rampersad, The British Library; Emily Singley, Elsevier (LMS, NIT)</td>
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<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CS 02</td>
<td>Exploring the Adoption and Usage of Data Science in the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in India</td>
<td>PK Jain, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi India; Nabi Hasan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (DSR, INT)</td>
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<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CS 03</td>
<td>Maximizing Your Skills in Effective Communication in Presentation &amp; Elevator Speeches</td>
<td>Crystal Greene, University of Rhode Island; Joyce L’Heureux, University of Rhode Island; Priscilla Young, University of Rhode Island (LMS)</td>
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<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CS 04</td>
<td>What Library and Information Science Students Learn Today</td>
<td>Amanda Crego-Emley, University of Rhode Island; Julie Maeksk, San Jose University; Laura Dowell, Eastman &amp; Smith (KRM, LMS)</td>
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<td>12:00 pm – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch with SLA Exhibits, Networking</td>
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<td>12:00 pm – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch + Learn and Desserts with Clarivate</td>
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<td>1:30–2:30 pm</td>
<td>CS 05</td>
<td>Content Licensing Roundtable</td>
<td>Jen Evert, American Financial Group; Kim Beets, Black &amp; Veatch; Jayme Crowder, McGraw-Hill (LMS)</td>
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<td>1:30–2:30 pm</td>
<td>CS 06</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence and Military Libraries</td>
<td>Edward Corrado, Naval Postgraduate School; Greta Braun, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center; Kimberly Reels, CW2 Christopher G. Nason, Military Intelligence Library; Lauren Dodd, U.S. Military Academy Library; Stephanie Rollins, Air University Library (LMS, NIT; Presented by MLC)</td>
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<td>1:30–2:30 pm</td>
<td>CS 07</td>
<td>American Community Survey (ACS) and the Economic Census: Gathering and Interpreting Powerful Data that is Already at Your Fingertips</td>
<td>Jennifer Boettcher, Georgetown University; Maria Valdiser, U.S. Census Bureau; Vicki Mack, U.S. Census Bureau (CI, DSR, NIT)</td>
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<td>1:30–2:30 pm</td>
<td>CS 08</td>
<td>Recommendations for a Seamless Transition to a New Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)</td>
<td>Cara Marcus, National Rural Transit Assistance Program (KRM)</td>
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### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

#### SUNDAY, JULY 14 continued

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| 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm | **Poster Session 1**  
Exhibits + Networking  
Coffee Break  
Upper + Lower Atrium |                                                                                   |               |               |               |
| 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm | **CS 09 I Engaging Generative AI to Enhance Your CI Practice**  
Austin Fleisher, Aurora WDC; Elizabeth Frickelton, Aurora WDC (CI, KRM, NIT) | **CS 10 I Taxonomy Roundtable Discussion:**  
The Role of Collaboration in Taxonomy Development and Maintenance  
Donna Popky; Harvard Business School; Heather Hedden, Enterprise Knowledge; John Magee, Cengage; Yonah Levenson, Rutgers University (KRM) |               |               |               |
| 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | **Dinner with SLA**  
Embracing Campus Life  
URI Dining Hall |                                                                                   |               |               |               |

### Expand your network and knowledge with SLA!

Representing over 45 countries and 72 communities, for over 100 years, SLA has been the headquarters to network and learn from esteemed professionals across the globe.

- Be a part of a community or multiple communities.
- Network with SLA Members at virtual or in-person events.
- Host and attend educational webinars.
- Submit content to SLA's digital magazine, Information Outlook.
- Expand your career with the SLA Career Center.
- Join SLA Connect, SLA’s international community forum.
## MONDAY, JULY 15

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<td>CS 13</td>
<td>Use Cases for Generative AI in Answering Research Questions</td>
<td>CS 14</td>
<td>News Aggregation and Monitoring – Current State of the Market, Evolving Trends &amp; What Will Be the Future</td>
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<td>Abigail Ross, RoFinCo (NIT)</td>
<td>Nathan Rosen, Herrick Feinstein; Sumathi Pundit, Kaitongo; Eric Gross, Ozmosys; Thomas Smith, LexieNexie (CI, KRM, NIT)</td>
<td>Helen Josephine, HBJ Associates; Jay Bhatt, Drexel University; Zachary Painter, Princeton University (DSR, NIT; Presented by Sci-Tech &amp; Engineering)</td>
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<td>CS 16</td>
<td>The Physics Roundtable: Collaboration &amp; Research Between Faculty &amp; Librarians</td>
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<td>NuRee Lee, University of Toronto; Sandy Avila, SPIE (DSR, LMS, NIT; Presented by PAM)</td>
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<td>CS 17</td>
<td>Search, Discovery, AI, ML, LLMs, and GPTs: Are you sure you know how they work?</td>
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<td>Heather Kotula, Access Innovations (DSR, KRM, NIT)</td>
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<td>10:15 am – 10:45 am</td>
<td>CS 18</td>
<td>Enhancing Specialized Library and Information Services through DEIB Initiatives</td>
<td>CS 19</td>
<td>Financial Databases for Competitive Intelligence</td>
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<td>Ari Gofman Fishman, Analog Devices; Kim Beets, Black &amp; Veatch; Roya Bahrami, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (LMS)</td>
<td>Michele Costello, Baruch College (CI)</td>
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<td>CS 20</td>
<td>Teaching Students Conducting Competitive Intelligence Research</td>
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<td>Dajiang Nie, Texas Tech University (CI, NIT)</td>
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<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CS 21</td>
<td>International Perspectives on Evidence-based Collection Development in Libraries</td>
<td>CS 22</td>
<td>The Many Faces of Competitive Intelligence: A Round Table Discussion</td>
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<td>Jay Bhatt, Drexel University; Nabi Hasan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; Seema Rampersad, The British Library (KRM)</td>
<td>Casey Kelly, ExxonMobil; Karen Mitchell, Givaudent; Karen Pierce, Black &amp; Veatch (CI, DSR)</td>
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<td>CS 23</td>
<td>Learning the Art of Library Collaboration: Case Studies from the Field</td>
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<td>Amanda Rinehart, Ohio State University; Rebecca Bryant, OCLC (DSR, INT, LMS)</td>
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<td>CS 24</td>
<td>Sci Tech 101: Introduction to Research Data Management</td>
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<td>Mary Frances Lembo, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (DSR, KRM)</td>
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<td>12:00 pm – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch with SLA Exhibits, Networking</td>
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<td>1:30 pm – 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Plenary Session I Leverage Your Worth as an Info Pro (MODERATOR) Lorene Kennard, Rockford Public Library; Geraldine Clement-Stone, Medical Research Council-UKRI; Leslie Reynolds, University of Colorado, Boulder; Julie Snyder, Shure Incorporated</td>
<td>Room CBLS 100</td>
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<td>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Poster Session 2 Exhibits + Networking Coffee Break Sponsored by AlphaSense Upper + Lower Atrium</td>
<td>CS 25</td>
<td>Powering the AI Engine: Navigating Copyright &amp; Technology Beth Johnson, Copyright Clearance Center (NIT)</td>
<td>CS 26</td>
<td>Scholarly &amp; Altmetric Indicators; Smart Citations Mark Domke, Pharma Info Pro; Josh Nicholson, Research Solutions (NIT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 pm – 3:45 pm</td>
<td>CS 29</td>
<td>AI Challenges and Opportunities for the Information Professional Michele Costello, Baruch College (NIT)</td>
<td>CS 30</td>
<td>Fostering Innovation through Collaboration: Asian Special Libraries Unite Debal Kar, Galgotias University; Labibah Zain, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta; P.K. Jain, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi (INT, LMS, NIT; Presented by SLA Asia)</td>
<td>CS 31</td>
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<td>4:00 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Buffet Dinner with SLA Memorial Union, Ram’s Den All are invited!</td>
<td>CS 25</td>
<td>Powering the AI Engine: Navigating Copyright &amp; Technology Beth Johnson, Copyright Clearance Center (NIT)</td>
<td>CS 30</td>
<td>Fostering Innovation through Collaboration: Asian Special Libraries Unite Debal Kar, Galgotias University; Labibah Zain, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta; P.K. Jain, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi (INT, LMS, NIT; Presented by SLA Asia)</td>
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<td>5:30 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Dance Party! With New &amp; Long-time Friends, Karaoke, Snacks &amp; Cash Bar Memorial Union, Ballroom; Don’t miss it!</td>
<td>CS 25</td>
<td>Powering the AI Engine: Navigating Copyright &amp; Technology Beth Johnson, Copyright Clearance Center (NIT)</td>
<td>CS 30</td>
<td>Fostering Innovation through Collaboration: Asian Special Libraries Unite Debal Kar, Galgotias University; Labibah Zain, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta; P.K. Jain, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi (INT, LMS, NIT; Presented by SLA Asia)</td>
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<td>7:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
<td>CS 33</td>
<td>Standards Roundtable: A Discussion on the Non-Standard World of Standards</td>
<td>CS 34</td>
<td>It's OK to Have Meetings. It Really is. Lorene Kennard, Rockford Public Library (LMS)</td>
<td>CS 35</td>
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<td>10:00 am – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:30 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>CS 37</td>
<td>GenAI in the Field: Reality vs Hype</td>
<td>CS 38</td>
<td>Building Taxonomies from the Bottom Up</td>
<td>CS 39</td>
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<td>Jen Evert, American Financial Group; Jill Strand, Fish &amp; Richardson; Julie Maekask, Eastman &amp; Smith (CI, DSR, KRM, NIT; Session Sponsored by Thomson Reuters)</td>
<td>Heather Hedden, Enterprise Knowledge (KRM)</td>
<td>Alex Grigg Dean, Epstein Becker Green (KRM, NIT)</td>
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<td>11:45 am – 12:45 pm</td>
<td>Closing Keynote Address I Charting Our Course: Information Professionals as AI Navigators</td>
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<td>Brian Pichman, Evolve Project (Session Sponsored by ByWater Solutions)</td>
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<td>12:45 pm – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Closing Keynote Sponsor I Open Sourcing AI and RAGs</td>
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<td>Jessica Zarlo, ByWater Solutions</td>
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<td>1:00 pm – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>SLA Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>See You Again Next Year!</td>
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<td>POSTERS GROUP 1</td>
<td>JULY 14</td>
<td>2:45 – 3:15 pm</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>“Are you real?” Implementing a Chatbot Without Sacrificing the User Experience</td>
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<td>– Kara Rawlins, Richard G. Treffy Library</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>A Semantic Layer Approach to Enterprise Knowledge Management and Information Findability</td>
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<td>– Heather Hedden, Enterprise Knowledge; Jane Mosczynski, Enterprise Knowledge</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>An Easy Introduction to Koha, the Best and Most Wonderful ILS Ever!</td>
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<td>– Fred King, MedStar Washington Hospital Center</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>AI and Automation in Library Operations: A Case Study</td>
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<td>– Nabi Hasan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>Comprehensive Database Re-evaluation: Starting from Scratch – Impossible Task or Unique Opportunity?</td>
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<td>– Nathan Rosen, Herrick Feinstein</td>
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<td>An Investigation of the Influence of the Zotero Reference Manager Software on Library Patrons</td>
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<td>– P.K. Jain, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi India; Kutty Kumar, Sri Venkateswara</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
<td>Geology in Your Kitchen</td>
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<td>DSR, KRM</td>
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<td>– Emily Wild, Princeton University Library</td>
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<tr>
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<th>JULY 15</th>
<th>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Driving Strategy and Innovation: Evolution and Impact of a Competitive Intelligence Group</td>
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<td>CI</td>
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<td>– Karen Mitchell, Givaudan</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>Tip of the Iceberg: Pythonic Insights from a Large XML Bibliometric Collection</td>
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<td>– Sarah Siddiqui, University of Rochester</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>Hospital Workplace Violence Prevention Programs: How Medical Librarians Can Contribute</td>
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<td>– Fred King, MedStar Washington Hospital Center</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>Using Key Intelligence Questions to Unlock Better Business Reference Interviews</td>
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<td>– Allison Smith, University of Ottawa</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>The IR Venn Diagram: Diversity in Technology, Content, Users, and Roles in Specialized Institutional Repositories</td>
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<td>– Ramune Kubilius, Northwestern University; Julia Lovett, University of Rhode Island</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
<td>The Relentless Consolidation of Science Libraries at ARL Institutions</td>
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<td>– Chris Doty, Emory University</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
<td>Finding Water Data and Information for Communities Along the Atlantic Coast</td>
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<td>– Emily Wild, Princeton University Library</td>
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<td>Using Web Scraper to Create a Customized Database</td>
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<td>- Louisa Verma, Portland Cement Association Library @ Calportland</td>
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*Listed names are presenters*
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Celebrating 115 Years of SLA:
HONORING LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) marks its 115th anniversary with a celebration of its rich history and a commitment to future growth. To commemorate this milestone, SLA has released conference funds to honor two outstanding members for their significant contributions to the Association and the field of special librarianship.

Ron Coplen Leadership Fund: A Legacy of Inspiration
Established in 1988, the Ron Coplen Leadership Fund is a tribute to the enduring legacy of Ron Coplen, a distinguished member whose contributions have left an indelible mark on SLA. The fund was announced posthumously, alongside the prestigious John Cotton Dana Award, to recognize Coplen's invaluable contributions to the Association.

Ron Coplen began his illustrious career at the New York Public Library in 1960. He joined SLA in 1971 and served in various capacities within the New York Chapter, the Publishing and Library Management divisions, and at the association level. His leadership roles included serving as president-elect and president of the New York Chapter from 1977 to 1979, as well as chairing the Publishing Group and Membership committees and serving as editor.

In recognition of his exceptional work, Coplen was awarded the SLA Professional Award in 1983 for his significant contributions to the Cumulative Index to Special Libraries, 1970-1981. His dedication and expertise were further acknowledged in 1987 when he was named a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association, a testament to the high regard in which he was held by his peers.

The Ron Coplen Leadership Fund has since become a vital source of funding for the Ron Coplen Leadership Address, delivered annually at the SLA conference or other appropriate meetings. The inaugural address was held in 1989, continuing to inspire and guide new generations of librarians.

David R. Bender Fund for International Development: Expanding Global Influence
In December 2000, the SLA Board established the David R. Bender Fund for International Development to honor David Bender’s years of service as SLA’s executive director upon his retirement in 2001. This fund aims to support SLA’s international membership development activities and fellowships that enhance the Association’s global influence.

The initial seed money for the fund came from a generous $25,000 donation from Factiva and a $5,000 contribution from Vivian Hewitt, a past president, Hall of Fame winner, and lifetime member of SLA. Additional donations from various SLA Divisions and Chapters during the fund’s establishment phase demonstrated a collective commitment to its mission.

David R. Bender served as the Executive Director of SLA from 1979 until his retirement in 2001. His educational background includes a BS in Education with a Minor in Library Science from Kent State University, a Master’s degree in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Foundations from The Ohio State University. Bender’s career spanned several prominent roles, including Chief of the School Library Media Services Branch in the Division of Library Development and Services within the Maryland State Department of Education.

Bender’s exceptional leadership and commitment to expanding SLA’s global reach have left a lasting impact. His numerous memberships in professional organizations, authorship of books and articles related to school library administration and educational media, and recognition in notable directories such as Who’s Who in America and the International Who’s Who of Professionals underscore his significant contributions to the field.
HONORING LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

A Bright Future Ahead
As SLA celebrates its 115th anniversary, the establishment and continuation of the Ron Coplen Leadership Fund and the David R. Bender Fund for International Development serve as testaments to the remarkable achievements of its members. These funds not only honor the legacies of Ron Coplen and David Bender but also inspire future generations of librarians to strive for excellence and contribute to the global library community.

For more detailed information on the contributions of Ron Coplen and David Bender, refer to the resources provided by the Special Libraries Association, including “Special Libraries, Summer 1988” and the documentation available through the SLA archives.

Thank you to the Ron Coplen and David R. Bender Funds for partially sponsoring the 2024 SLA Conference.

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Ready to Get Started?
A recent conversation with a young nurse made me aware of the way some young people make career decisions from a limited view of options. Have you considered writing an “elevator speech” that would advocate for your profession? If a formal speech format is not your style, three or four compelling stories that represent the challenges and greatest sources of satisfaction for you would be good elements in your arsenal. Identify a person on the verge of making a career commitment, whether a young person or someone ready for a new challenge, invite them to lunch, and share your stories with them.

My nurse, Jill, admitted she hadn’t wanted to be a nurse when she was a little girl. But when she graduated from high school, she witnessed a situation where a nurse made a significant impact on a relative’s life. That example was the factor that decided her career choice.

I told her, at that same point in my life, many decades ago, the most common career choices for young women were nurse or teacher. Neither of those options appealed to me. What I really wanted was to attend Harvard Business School, but HBS was not admitting women until a few years later. I waited many years to fulfill my MBA dream, but not at Harvard.

At about the same time, my father, a career CPA at Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery, one of the Big Eight accounting firms of that era, had developed a deep respect for the firm’s librarian because of the timely and valuable support she provided to the decision-makers at all levels in the firm.

During my first summer working for Dorothy Kasman, she saw something in me that convinced her I should be a corporate librarian with an MLS. One lunch period a week that whole summer, she made appointments for us to visit some of the leaders in the special library field in Manhattan (yes, they were all “libraries” and “librarians” in those days). The visits were as diverse as finance, publishing, museums, medicine, and all that a big city could offer. Miss Kasman spent the summer convincing me and my father that graduate library school was the perfect fit for me where I could prepare to be part of the world of business decisions and innovations, through information, if not through a Harvard Business School degree.

As I told Nurse Jill my story, her eyes got big and she said “A library school Master’s degree! That’s a thing?” I told her there were obviously librarians available to her in nursing school. I know one of the librarians in the hospital where Jill practices, and offered to introduce them.

The whole conversation gave me an opportunity to reflect on the impact of personal stories, and the value of having someone, like Dorothy Kasman, who cared enough to introduce me to a career option she was passionate about.

That trip down memory lane and review of career stories opened a chance for me to revisit what has been an extremely satisfying career. Recently, I have been giving a lot of thought to what some people are calling a Robert Frost life assessment of “The Road Not Taken.” Actress Helen Hayes, in her later years, referred to it as her “anecdotage.” Whatever you call it, at any stage of your life and career, embrace it, and share your stories. I’ve found there are twists and turns in my road, where I might have made different choices. Then I reflect on the benefits, to me and others, of the choices I’ve made along a very long road and realize I wouldn’t trade most of the experiences, learning, leadership opportunities, adventures, personal growth, and friendships for anything.

My not-so-subtle advice? If your road and career choices are rewarding, share your stories with someone on the cusp of making a career commitment. Open their thinking to possibilities that may not be obvious to them. Offer them an internship. Take them to meetings, formal or informal, of your colleagues. If an SLA conference and learning opportunity is held nearby, register them and invite them to join you for programs, business meetings, exhibits and informal encounters in hallways. Your reward will be watching them reach a moment when, like nurse Jill, they realize “That’s a Thing!” And our profession is strengthened by potentially gaining a new leader, innovator, advocate!
The 2024 SLA Midwest Symposium took place virtually from 9 am to 2 pm (Central time) on Friday, June 7, 2024. Due to the SLA website migration, the planning committee found a variety of alternate means for soliciting proposals. The result was an impressive array of accepted topic and speaker proposals, including one from a graduating library school student. Several quality proposals could not be accepted due to time constraints. Presenters included early career and experienced librarians from various special library sectors, and also library school instructors. Symposium presentations were viewed by 70 total registrants who represented not only the SLA member community or the Midwest, but beyond, stretching even to Canada. A nominal registration fee was set with proceeds directed to national SLA. Students, presenters, and the organizing committee were invited to register at no fee.

In recent years, SLA Midwest Symposia have become a [virtual] summer tradition, often occurring after, and in 2024, before, the SLA Annual Conference. The planning committee has tried to be creative in inviting keynote speakers and be flexible when planning the timing and duration of each year’s program. One decision may surprise some: although the presentation slides are shared afterward with registrations, the symposia sessions are not recorded.

Though data was woven into some of the topics, the 2024 Symposium program did not have an official overarching theme. Other presentation themes seemed to organically be connected, such as using library skill sets in new jobs, in changing job markets, and for new professional opportunities. The Symposium was a mix of invited keynote speakers, longer presentations called “extended sessions,” and lightning talks. In 2024, break times were built into the schedule and two short networking sessions provided an opportunity for attendees, who wished to do so, to stay online to share thoughts and impressions about the Symposium and other (lightly) moderated discussion topics. A survey was sent to Symposium registrants that will inform planning for the 2025 Symposium.

Keynotes
Two keynotes bookended the Symposium. John DiGillio spoke first in the program slot traditionally reserved for the current Association President. He addressed the topic SLA Today and Tomorrow: Going Back-to-Basics to Move Forward. Lisa Janicke Hinchcliff ended the Symposium by bringing attendees up-to-date on the topic Save the Time of the User: How Scholarly Publishers are Stepping Up and What Libraries Should Consider.

In his remarks, John spoke about challenges that professional associations are facing. Emphasizing professional organizations’ importance to professionals, he indicated that he remains optimistic about the future of SLA, while recognizing that new structures will need to be created in order to provide value to members.

Lisa challenged librarians to be more cognizant of publisher initiatives in creating tools for authors, readers, publishers, and libraries. She provided a new interpretation and reordering of Ranganathan’s rules. For example, “every book, its reader” now became “increase discoverability, access, and use of resources within users’ existing workflows.” Questions (“ponderings”) she posed included “Are there strategies for fostering greater collaboration among libraries and the publishing industry?”

continued
Extended Sessions

The sessions, each 30 minutes in length, provided a potpourri of topics:

- **Marydee Ojala** | *Prompt Engineering, Librarianship, and Information Literacy*
  Marydee reminded the audience that in the age of GenAI and resulting distrust in science, there are opportunities for librarians that range from understanding AI vs GenAI, explaining how GenAI works, showing alternatives to ChatGPT, giving examples of flawed information, and positioning ourselves as experts.

- **Jamie Hullinger** | *Marketing Your Library as a Solo Librarian*
  As a solo librarian working in non-traditional librarianship, Jamie advised that non-traditional methods must be used to get the word out, though word of mouth still is most impactful.

- **Kristen Naik and Erik Adams** | *Do You Have Some Stats on That?: The Transformative Application of Data in Libraries*
  The speakers provided examples from work at their global law firm that libraries are in a unique position to use sophisticated tools to capture data. Analysis of the data provides granular information and visualization iterations, not only to illustrate usage of licensed information resources, but data that can drive decision-making across the enterprise.

Lightning Talk Sessions

Lightning sessions, each ten minutes in length, provided an opportunity for presenters to briefly share highlights of how tools, platforms, and skills can be used, sometimes in new ways:

- **Megan Jaskowiak and Abigail Morgan** | *A Missing Piece in Open Access Data: In Search of Healthcare Data with Business Students*
  Megan and Abigail shared examples of how they, academic health sciences and business librarians, collaborated to provide students with information support for a capstone class marketing project and for an entrepreneurship project.

- **Charles J. Greenberg** | *Zotero for Tracking Job Applications*
  Charles advocated that Zotero can be used not only to organize references, but other projects as well.

- **Lorene Kennard** | *Trends in Guests on the Librarian Linkover Podcast*
  Lorene shared the story of how a personal quest for a job led to a podcast series that continues to this day – each interview spotlights, illustrates, and celebrates the universality of librarians’ skill sets in new and non-traditional settings.

- **Violet Fox** | *But Wait, There’s More! Wikidata: Your No-Cost Data Solution*
  Violet championed the benefits of Wikidata as a community-building global information populating activity.

- **Elizabeth Oswalt** | *MeSH Indexing and Artificial Intelligence*
  Elizabeth encouraged being aware of and reporting automated indexing issues as they are encountered.

- **Alisun DeKock** | *A Dental Archive for All: Building a Shared Repository for the ADA’s Tripartite Membership System*
  Alison described how national, state, and local collections share the same newly launched institutional repository.

The volunteer program planning committee that organized the 2024 symposium was a Midwest community effort and included Dan Bostrom (SLA Illinois), who served as chair, Elizabeth Downie (SLA Michigan), Dennis Eliceiri (SLA St. Louis Metro), Willow Fuchs (SLA Iowa), Ramune Kubilius (SLA Illinois), Jamie Luedtke (SLA Illinois), Valerie Moore (SLA Illinois), and Marydee Ojala (SLA Indiana).

– Submitted by the 2024 Midwest Symposium planning committee
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