BayNet

Bay Area Library and Informat ion Network *Fall 2005*

President's Message

By Susan Garbarino
University of California, Berkeley
Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Library

As I begin my year as BayNet President, I reflect on what appeals to me most about this organization and why I so enjoy being a part of it. BayNet is the one library organization that I have belonged to where librarians from very different types of libraries come together to connect as librarians. We may each work in different environments and have different concerns, but we are connected by our belief in libraries and what they represent in our larger society. By being active in BayNet, I have met librarians from throughout the Bay Area whom I would never have had the chance to meet had I stayed in my own world of academic librarianship. Knowing public and special librarians individually has given me a greater respect for their work and I hope some understanding of the challenges they face each day.

Even after 17 years as a librarian, I am still finding new reasons to be impressed with our profession. This summer I was on vacation on the big island of Hawaii for a week and needed occasional internet access. In the center of town was a large, cool, clean public library where for $10 I could purchase a visitor library card (good for 90 days) which not only gave me internet access, but allowed me to check out books! What other profession is based on such trust and service? We made daily trips to the library to check our email and check out books for my eight year old. (Going to internet cafes and bookstores would have been considerably more expensive and less satisfying.) My Hawaii library card is good at public libraries throughout the state for another 2 months or so, maybe another trip is in order.

BayNet programs create wonderful networking opportunities but at a deeper level they seek to create conversations and to inspire us about our profession. Last spring in addition to the successful Annual Meeting with our speaker Nancy Kranich, we had a tour of the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno. This fall, we already have a great tour arranged for October 20th at the California Society of Pioneers in San Francisco and hope to offer the discount to the Internet Librarian Conference in October, watch for details on both of these events on the BayNet listserv.

Other events likely coming up this year will be a spring library tour (any suggestions?), a program on RFID, the joint SLA/BayNet dinner meeting and of course the BayNet Annual meeting in the spring. We have a wonderful new Executive Board with lots of enthusiasm and ideas, so this is sure to be an active year for BayNet. We welcome your suggestions for programs and tours.

In addition to our new board members (mentioned in the last newsletter so I won't name each one here), I would like to welcome our new treasurer, Nicole Greenland from Holy Names University and our new newsletter editor, Sarah Marks from Golden Gate University. Thanks go out to Josh Richardson, our previous Treasurer (who bailed us out of a tight spot and took a mid term appointment) and Clarence Maybee, our talented past newsletter editor. Our dedicated webweaver, Robert Bruce is leaving us, so we are looking for someone to take over this job (there is a small stipend) contact any Board member if you are interested. Thank you to Robert for all your hard work and excellent revisions to the web site.

To sum up my reflections, libraries are great, librarians are great, and BayNet is great. I am looking forward to an inspiring year with BayNet full of interesting conversations, thoughtful programs and a couple of fun library tours thrown in. Please join me at as many BayNet events you can manage to attend!

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RFID Timeline

An Overview of the Technology

By Sarah Marks
Golden Gate University

The recent RFID controversies surrounding the Berkeley and San Francisco Public Libraries are prompting many people to speak out in favor or against this somewhat new technology. A timeline of RFID technology and other ways it is implemented in society may provide a more broad view of what RFID implementation means to libraries and society as a whole.

RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification. The technology employed in RFID tags, that is radar technology used in conjunction with radio communication, was first used in the 1920s after radio communication technology emerged in 1906. Comparable technologies emerged in the 1940s a few years prior to the invention of the barcode. The Russian government used RFID for espionage while the British employed RFID as a way to identify airplanes and other vehicles. RFID technology found its commercial niche beginning in the 1960s. The technology experienced an explosion in the following two decades as development and experimentation led to more mainstream RFID functions. Common potential uses during that time included animal tagging and toll collection. Norway and other European countries began using RFID systems to collect tolls as early as 1987. The US followed in 1989, and in 1990 the Northeast implemented a large toll collection system, EZ Pass. Soon, more commercial opportunities became a viable option.

Applications for RFID now include dispensing fuel, ski passes, gaming chips, animal identification, product tracking, swipe-less credit cards, remote data collection, prisoner monitoring, key-less auto entry, and, of course, library book check in. While RFID is already a part of everyday life without issue, some people have privacy concerns about the use of RFID. Opponents to RFID are apprehensive about the potential surveillance that could arise from RFID use in not only library books, but in other everyday items like clothing, driver's licenses, and passports. While the intended use may be good-natured, opponents see the advent of RFID technologies as a way for a company or the government to scrutinize a person's private information. In the 2002 movie based on a Philip K. Dick story, Minority Report, Tom Cruise's character walks into The Gap. The year is 2054 and as he enters the store a holographic woman asks the specifics of his last purchase and hopes the product worked out for him. This kind of big-brother technology is probably what frightens opponents to RFID technology.

The future of RFID, whether it includes uses such as those described in Minority Report or not, will continue to grow. A search of the US Patent Database of the term RFID brings over 1500 results. In 2001, Dr. Jeremy Landt, an authority on RFID, noted that a search of the US Patent Office revealed 350 patents related to RFID. This growth could signify the importance of RFID in commercial arenas. With this much interest and so many applications rooted in proprietary purposes, it is difficult to see RFID being undermined by opponents. As RFID technology becomes more mainstream, perhaps controversy will subside and useful applications such as library book monitoring will become more conventional.

For more information, check out the following resources which I consulted for this piece:

Landt, J. (2001). Shrouds of time: the history of RFID. Pittsburgh: AIM, Inc. Retrieved August 26, 2005 from the World Wide Web: www.aimglobal.org/technologies/rfid/resources/shrouds_of_time.pdf

Wikipedia. (2005). RFID. Retrieved August 26, 2005 from the World Wide Web: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rfid

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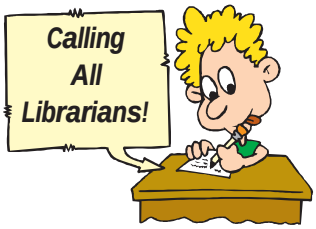
Call for Articles and Information

By Sarah Marks, Golden Gate University

As the new editor of BayNet's newsletter, I am excited to continue my journalistic tendencies as I take the reign from previous editor Clarence Maybee. During high school, I imagined my future self as a reporter and began my short lived journalism career as the editor for my high school paper and a youth editor for the Kalamazoo Gazette.



For the next issue of the newsletter (January), I am interested in writing an article about hybrid librarians, those who work multiple part-time jobs instead of one full-time position for whatever reason, whether it is choice or necessity. If you are a hybrid librarian, know one, or have an opinion about part-time librarians, please contact me.

I am also excited to offer BayNet members an opportunity to write articles for the newsletter and hope to see submissions. Please email me if you'd like to write an article or blurb, have a story idea, or would like your library or special project to be featured in the newsletter. I can be reached at smarks@ggu.edu

Internet Librarian 2005 BayNet Discount

By Brigid Welch
Menlo College

Once again this year, Information Today is offering BayNet members a discount on registration for Internet Librarian 2005. Internet Librarian 2005 is scheduled for October 24-26, 2005 at the Monterey Convention Center in Monterey, CA. The special discount rate is $245 for the 3-day event, a savings of $164 off the regular registration price. (No discount rates are available for the pre-conference seminars and workshops.)

To register, please submit your registration form along with payment (check or credit card payable to Information Today, Inc) by Monday October 3rd to:

C. Brigid Welch
Dean of Library & Info Servs
Menlo College Bowman Library
1000 El Camino Real
Atherton, CA 94027

You can find the Internet Librarian 2005 program in HTML and PDF at the Information Today, Inc website www.infotoday.com/il2005
http://www.infotoday.com/il2005.

Position Announcement - BayNet Web Weaver

If you or someone you know has an affinity for all things web, please consider becoming BayNet's Web Weaver! The web weaver is responsible for maintaining the BayNet website. This includes receiving and updating the job postings, publishing the newsletter and events as needed as well as general website organization. The web weaver should also be able to come to Board meetings held bimonthly. There is a small stipend for the position. The new web weaver should be computer literate and know html. This is a great opportunity to network, learn more about Bay Area libraries, and use your web skills! Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Tour of the Society of California Pioneers

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Free

By Mary Morganti, California Historial Society

Hosted by Library Director, Pat Keats, enjoy a self-guided view of the Society's new exhibit of Treasures from the Collections and a tour of the Alice Phelan Sullivan Library, which contains over 10,000 books, manuscripts, maps, journals, newspapers, and autobiographical materials related to the early history of California.

Among its distinguished holdings are over fifty pioneer diaries, notably those of John A. Sutter and Henry W. Bigler, the primary sources documenting the discovery of gold in California, and an eight-volume book of reminiscences of its founding members from 1850. Scholars may consult some 1,000 manuscript files, a newspaper collection numbering over 250 titles, nearly 300 periodicals, over 3,000 maps, and archival material related to Mexican California, Angel Island, the Midwinter Fair of 1894, and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 as well as the Cooper-Molera Papers, the Patterson Mining Collection, and the Jacob Rink Snyder Collection.

The Library is non-circulating, but open by appointment to Members, Friends, college and university faculty, graduate students, and other individuals pursuing research.

The schedule for the tour is as follows:

> 5:30 - 6:30 PM: Meet at the Society of California Pioneers' 1st floor gallery.
>
> 7:00 - 8:00 PM: Tour of the Library (3rd floor).

Food and drink will be served on the 2nd floor between 6:00 - 8:30 PM.

The Society of California Pioneers is located at 300 Fourth Street (at Folsom), San Francisco. Directions can be found on their website at http://www.californiapioneers.org/

To attend this event, please RSVP to Tim.Dewolf@sf.frb.org

Please note: no confirmation emails will be sent unless reservations become unavailable.

Save the Date!

Thursday, November 3, 2005

By Mary Morganti
California Historical Society

Save the date for the upcoming workshop on Writing Successful Grant Proposals for Preservation and Digitization Projects, sponsored by the California Preservation Program, held at the Berkeley Public Library.

This daylong session focuses on preparing and writing grants for digitization and/or preservation projects. The workshop includes tips for matching your institution's project with the appropriate funding agency and preparing to write a proposal. The majority of the day is spent covering the elements of a grant proposal and practicing writing those elements.

Who Should Attend: Library, archive, museum and historical society administrators and those having responsibility for resource development in all types of cultural institutions should attend this workshop. Those in small archives and historical societies wishing to participate in cooperative projects with larger institutions may also wish to attend.

Workshop Instructor: Tom Clareson is the Global Product Manager of Education & Planning, Digital Collection Services, OCLC Online Computer Library Center. Prior to rejoining OCLC, Tom was Imaging and Preservation Services Manager at Amigos Library Services in Dallas, Texas, from March 1991-August 2001.

Cost: $40.00, includes materials and lunch.
Pre-registration required. Deadline October 28, 2005.
Keep an eye out for registration information and more details!

The BayNet Newsletter is published three times a year. The newsletter is free to BayNet members. Submissions from members are welcome. All article submissions must receive approval from the editor and are subject to editing. Articles previously published usually will not be accepted for publication. Submitting authors retain all rights to their articles and know that the full contents of the BayNet newsletter will be published online at the BayNet website.

To submit an article please contact the editor:
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