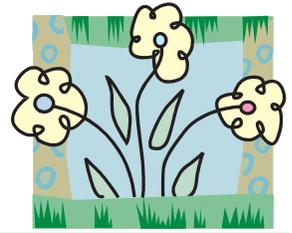




Bay Net



Bay Area Library and Information Network

Spring 2005

President's Message

By Steven Dunlap
Golden Gate University

BayNet and the library world have had an interesting year! Speakers at the past year's events have proven not only informative but have also given us inspired calls to action. Patricia Brevik, Dean of the King Library in San Jose, spoke so passionately and concretely about information literacy last October that librarians in attendance starting talking about what BayNet could do to formulate and apply information literacy standards and communicate the needs of the populations we serve.

BayNet's year ended with an excellent annual meeting featuring Nancy Kranich, former ALA President, as speaker. Nancy spoke about librarians in the fight to continue open access to information and the ways we can frame our public discourse and communicate our positions on library issues most effectively. She described the concept of "information commons" and the need to defend the ease of access to information that we have up to now taken for granted. After her rousing speech, BayNet members swapped stories and enthusiastically made plans to take action.

This enthusiasm and dedication to the ideals of our profession is admirable. Of course, there need to be committed people working to turn these ideas into plans and projects. Fortunately for BayNet, we have a fantastic group of people on the Board for the upcoming year. Susan Garbarino of UC Berkeley, Incoming-President, has worked on the BayNet Board as an Academic Representative and in other capacities for the last six years. Joyce McLean, the Director of the Library at Holy Names, switched from Academic Representative on

the Board to Vice-President/President-Elect. We are pleased to welcome Brigid Welch from Menlo College as a mid-term board appointment to take the Academic Representative seat that Joyce leaves when she becomes Vice-President. Mary Thomas of Foothill College continues in her term as Academic Representative and Kathy Steel-Sabo of the Newark Public Library continues as a Public Library Representative with the experience of organizing the San Jose King Library tour last fall among numerous other contributions. We have Tim DeWolf continuing as At-Large Representative as well. And staying on for the foreseeable future, we have the great good fortune to have Debbie Abilock as the Public Schools Liaison (many connections to school librarians) and Robert Bruce as our Webweaver (notice the new and improved web site).

I would like to welcome to the Board the new members voted in at the annual meeting. Some of you may recall the warm reception BayNet members received in 2003 at the tour of the California Historical Society. We are fortunate to have Mary Morganti, the Director of the California Historical Association's library come aboard as the new Special, Non-Profit Representative. David Angel joins us from Krames Health & Safety as the Special, For-Profit Representative. Our new Public Library Representative is Carol Simmons, Director of the Daly City Public Library. Linda Suzuki, Branch Manager of the Western Addition branch of San Francisco Public Library, will serve as Secretary.

And last but not least, I want to thank our outgoing board members for their service. Jackie Griffin of the Berkeley Public Library kindly made her library's conference room available for BayNet events and hosted a

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tour of her renovated building. Our outgoing Special Library Reps, Angela Moore Evans and Liz Green, organized events and maintained our lines of communication with the Special Libraries Association's local chapter. Marlene Vogelsang served as our Secretary for multiple terms and carried much of BayNet's "institutional memory," which often came in handy. Thank you! We'll miss you all.

The Board needs your help! The Board needs your ideas and, if you can spare the time, your participation. We can take advantage of the special strengths BayNet has and turn this association into an active force. BayNet's mission to bring together libraries of different kinds and its educational mission give us the potential to reach many librarians in the Bay Area. We should be able to formulate concrete plans for action to preserve open access to information, defend the First Amendment rights for our patrons and continue to organize the informative and important events as we have in past years. Please communicate to our board any questions or suggestions for events or projects. Volunteer if you have the time. Contact the Board, either individually, or through the BayNet list-serv, to communicate the type of events you would like BayNet to host. Please let us know if your facility can host an event – we want to reach out to librarians in the whole of the Bay Area and make events accessible to as many as possible. We welcome program ideas and other projects of interest and importance to our community. An organization like BayNet can do much when the members turn calls to action, such as those of the speakers of the previous year, into events or ongoing projects. Anything you can do and any suggestions you can make will help BayNet serve an important role in the library profession in the Bay Area.

BayNet Tours National Archives and Records Administration

By Susan Garbarino, Giannini Foundation Library

On Wednesday, March 23rd Senior Archivist David Piff gave fourteen Bay Area librarians a fascinating tour of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Pacific Region Office in San Bruno. The San Bruno regional office of NARA is one of 14 Federal archives in the United States. It maintains historical records of federal agencies in Northern California, Hawaii, Nevada (except Clark County), American Samoa, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. There are over 50,000 cubic feet of historical records in the archives from the 1850's-1970's. This is truly a vast treasure trove of materials on a wide array of subjects.

We were treated to a tour of the public areas as well as to the archives themselves: a massive temperature controlled room with about a 30 feet high ceiling and more archival boxes than I have ever seen in one place. (It had the feel of the last scene in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.) The items David showed us included materials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs: a school newspaper from an "Indian school" near Sacramento from the 1920's and some stunning colored pencil drawings of Native American motifs done by students in these types of schools. Other items included INS cases of immigrants detained on Angel Island, Federal Court criminal cases where the person later became an inmate of Alcatraz, and



Chinese women walking at Angel Island with umbrellas



patent information filed by Levi Strauss regarding pockets for "men's pantaloons." The final piece we saw was a typewritten letter from Luis Alvarez, one of the creators of the atomic bomb to his son Walter written on the plane immediately after dropping the bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

The facility's 953,000 square-foot building was dedicated in 1973 and at that time was a state of the art facility. Although the building is no longer state of the art, items are still stored in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment. In addition to print materials, the archives hold a large collection of microfilm including federal population censuses for all States from 1790-1930.

NARA publishes quite a number of guides to their materials on a variety of topics as well as a more general guide to their records. Two guides that I picked up were on labor and business history and science technology, natural resources and the environment. Many of these guides are available on their web site under finding aids: http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ca/san_francisco.html. The archives are open to the public and research assistance is available. For more information about NARA's services to the public see: http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ca/san_francisco/staff_contacts.html#public. You may also contact NARA staff directly at the address listed below:

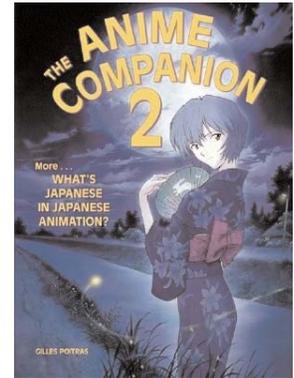
NARA's Pacific Region
1000 Commodore Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066-2350
Phone: 650-238-3500
Fax: 650-238-3511
Email: sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

The value of these materials to our collective history is staggering and immeasurable. We are extremely fortunate to have such a rich public resource so close at hand.



New Book!

Gilles Poitras, BayNet's Web Advisor, has written a new book: *The Anime Companion Vol. 2*. The publisher, Stone Bridge Press of Berkeley, expects the book to be in bookstores sometime in June of this year. This long-awaited companion volume boasts over 500 all-new glossary-style entries to help readers decipher anime's distinctive content, images, and cultural motifs!



Ranging from Aikido to Zero fighters (with Japanese Mountain Vegetables in between), Gilles Poitras covers all the minutia of anime in fascinating detail, including illustrations, anime images, film citations, and numerous references to the related art of manga.

More than a guide, *The Anime Companion Vol. 2* is a pop survey of Japanese art, kitsch, history, food, and daily life. Now with entries in kanji (Japanese writing) and English, The book remains the best friend an otaku (anime fan) ever had and a fun way for the non-otaku to learn about Japan.

Many thanks to Clarence Maybee, who served as BayNet's newsletter editor during the past year. Although Clarence has agreed to work with the next editor to ensure a smooth transition, he is stepping down to pursue other interests.



Clarence Maybee
BayNet Editor



BayNet Annual Meeting - Nancy Kranich

By Clarence Maybee, Mills College

The BayNet Annual Meeting took place at the World Affairs Council in San Francisco on May 10, 2005, and featured past ALA President, Nancy Kranich, as the guest speaker. Over fifty BayNet members were in attendance. Steven Dunlap, BayNet's current President, opened the meeting. After a brief introduction, Steven conducted the election to fill open positions on the BayNet Executive Board. The newly appointed Public Library Representatives are Carol Simmons and Kathy Steel-Sabo. The Special, Not-For-Profit Representatives are Mary Morganti and Daniel Scott Angel. Linda Suzuki will serve as BayNet's Secretary, and Joyce McLean will serve during 2005-2006 as Vice-President/President-Elect, and in 2006-2007 as President. The election was followed by the budget report by BayNet Treasurer, Josuha Richardson.



Steven reviewed BayNet's activities of the previous year, which began with a tour of the San Jose Library, and a joint tour with SLA of the California Academy of Sciences. BayNet teamed up with SLA again to offer the professional development workshop: "Update Your Web Research Skills" with Mary Ellen Bates. BayNet and SLA offered a joint dinner meeting where crime authors Rhys Bowen and Cara Black spoke of their experiences researching for their novels. In March, BayNet arranged a tour of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in San Bruno. Steven spoke of other activities undertaken by BayNet this past year, such as the efforts of Rob Bruce, the BayNet webweaver to update the BayNet website. BayNet was also able to offer discounted fees to the Internet Librarian conference held in Monterey.

Susan Garbarino, Vice-President/President-Elect, introduced Nancy Kranich to a warm round of applause. Kranich, who was ALA President during 2000-2001, began by highlighting some historical moments in the fight to increase access to information. For example, in the 1980s librarians working to increase access to government information were called "leftwing loony librari-

ans." Other librarians in the battle to make information accessible were called "pornographers." In the 1990s, librarians were called "pirates." Aside from continuing our efforts to make clear what we do not want to see happen concerning access to information, Kranich pointed out that we must also make known what we do want, because "our values are so deep and so fundamental to democracy."

Kranich presented the "commons" as a place to share ideas, which, like libraries and the Internet, should be open to all members of a community. She provided the audience with an historical overview of the concept of commons, beginning with the shared land for animal grazing - pointing out that this idea was endangered when land began to be enclosed using fences - not unlike the modern enclosure movement, e.g., filters, security software, etc. Kranich stated that the American concept of commons includes public schools and public libraries. The contemporary view of commons was deeply influenced by Garret Harden, who used the grazing metaphor to make a case that commons do not work. Harden's work spurred on other researchers, such as Elinor Ostrom and Charlotte Hess, whose work showed the viability of commons.

Kranich pointed out that librarians have always used a commons type system, but are only now beginning to talk about it as a commons. She mentioned some notable examples of the commons in librarianship, which included Prince George's County, Maryland Information Commons, and the International Children's Digital Library. Developments, such as Larry Lessig's (of Stanford) Creative Commons license, can be used to make material freely or partially available for public use. Reporting on alternatives to the restrictive licensing of scholarly publishers, Kranich offered the arXiv.org e-Print archive (housed at Cornell University) where science researchers post their own work and are able to access the work of fellow researchers. This model provides access to those who may not normally be able to afford it. Providing resources, speculated Kranich, allows us to set the terms of access ourselves.

Kranich stated that policy discussion is about discourse and we must all go out and tell our story better. She outlined four ways that librarians can participate in this discussion:

- ♦ be part of the policymaking process;
- ♦ support the positive efforts of our colleagues;
- ♦ foster commons; and



- ♦ reframe the debate away from one about piracy, pornography and security to one that discusses our values.

Attacking our opponent's framework only reinforces their message. Instead, we must use new metaphors, new narratives, and new language. The idea of the information commons, Kranich asserts, allows us to present a new model that incorporates the public interest into the debate. In closing, Kranich affirmed that we need libraries to manage our resources, and to foster free expression in the digital age. A lively discussion followed with BayNet members positing ways that BayNet, as an organization that brings together various types of libraries, can support the values put forth by Kranich's riveting speech.

For more information about Nancy Kranich's work, read the Free Expression Policy Project's Policy Report The Information Commons written by Kranich in 2004: <http://www.fepproject.org/policyreports/policyreports.html>.



BayNet/SLA Dinner Meeting

By Cynthia Bennington, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

A full house gathered at Caffe Verbena in downtown Oakland for an evening of literary and culinary treats. Sisters in Crime authors Cara Black and Rhys Bowen were the guest speakers at this joint BayNet/SLA event and they discussed their novels and the research that goes into writing them. Both authors are residents of San Francisco and have won awards for their writing.

Cara Black, author of the Aimée Leduc detective series, spoke first. She began by relating her impressions from her first trip to the Marais district in Paris and how it came to be the setting for her first Leduc book. Many of the scenes in her novels are based on personal visits and observations. She began writing before the Internet age and so learned to do research through personal contacts, interviews, and footwork. Because her main character is a police detective, Ms. Black says it is important to get the police procedures right, even if it means a session at the police shooting range (which she was able to arrange through a police contact).

An inspiration to include more "traditional" research in her work led her to the Bibliothèque Nationale. Without

knowing beforehand what she would research, she went through the procedure for requesting material and ended up with a book from 1520! While the book itself may not have proved useful, she was able to use her observations of the Bibliothèque and its procedures in a later novel.

The second speaker of the evening, Rhys Bowen, has authored the Molly Murphy and Constable Evans series. After achieving success writing children's books, Ms. Bowen decided to switch to mysteries since that was her favorite genre to read. She also decided to adopt her Welsh grandfather's name as a pen name to mark the change. Summers spent with relatives in a North Wales town provided the setting for the Constable Evans series. Many of the characters are based on people she knew from her summer visits.

She needed, however, to update her memories to modern times through visits back. Like Ms. Black, Rhys Bowen garners much of her information through personal interviews and footwork. She spends her visits to the Welsh town hanging out in pubs, eavesdropping on the customers and reading local newspapers. She also relies heavily on experts to get the police procedures correct and finds them very generous with their knowledge.

After writing several Constable Evans mysteries, Ms. Bowen decided she wanted to try something new and came up with the Molly Murphy character who lives in New York City at the beginning of the 20th century. With this series, Ms. Bowen must rely on more traditional sources of research, such as the New York Public Library and New York Historical Society. However, since many of the buildings and even some cobblestone streets still exist, personal footwork also helps. She is developing her own map of New York City showing restaurants and shops she identifies in her research. She has found problems in using the Internet for research as Web sites often contain only half-truths. For instance, a Web site about President McKinley misidentified the location of his assassination.

When asked if they would hire researchers, both women said generally no. The trips to Paris, Wales and New York are the best parts of the job. Also, while a hired researcher may get the facts of a situation correct, they cannot convey the sense of a place or situation and may not get the minute observations that provide the rich detail to their books. Both women are careful, though, to thank all whom they consult when researching their books.



New BayNet Officers 2005 - 2007

Vice-President, President-Elect (2005-2006)

President (2006-2007)

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BayNet

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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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