Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the PTDLA!

Happy 25th anniversary, Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association! Since 1983, the Association (PTDLA) has welcomed as members those interested in intellectual property issues, especially those staffing Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs). Since 1977, PTDL librarians have met annually at USPTO headquarters to receive training in support of the mission of the USPTO and discuss issues related to intellectual property and the public, and PTDLA has been a part of this event.

As Claudine Jenda writes in her article “History of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA),” published by the USPTO in Celebrating 25 Years of Libraries and USPTO Cooperation (edited by Jeanne Oliver), “…the PTDLA provides a forum that is used for bringing before the USPTO with greater effectiveness and objectivity the information needs, concerns, and issues that are important to PTDLs and their users.” (p. 99) At meetings and throughout the year, PTDLA has provided a means by which PTDL staff can share information and experiences and keep in touch.

The Association has continued with a Board of elected officers – President, Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer – who along with the Regional Representatives, form the executive structure of the organization and govern its affairs. The various committees, Newsletter, and newest forum, the PTDLA Web site, http://www.ptdla.org, work to create an important membership that owes its success to dedicated individuals over the years and the support of the USPTO Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) and staff.

Claudine’s article provides an outline of achievements and milestones in the history of the PTDLA, which they share with the PTDLP, as many include search tools and information systems and services which allow for outreach to customers.

The PTDLA is involved in professional associations and conferences. PTDLA hosts a conference program at the annual USPTO training seminar, and as an affiliate member of the American Library Association since 1996, also presents a program at the summer meeting. The Association participates in other organizations such as the Special Libraries Association, Patent Information Users Group, etc.

continued on next page...
PTDLA Officers

President: Leena Lalwani, Ann Arbor, MI
llalwani@umich.edu

Vice-President/President-Elect: Karon King, Des Moines, IA
karon.king@lib.state.ia.us

Secretary: Jim Miller
jmiller2@umd.edu

Treasurer: Dawn Rohan, Cheyenne, WY
dawn.rohan@uspto.gov

Past President: Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC
comforj@clemson.edu

Regional Representatives:
Region 1
Martin Wallace, Orono, ME
martin.wallace@umit.maine.edu

Region 2
Connie Wu, Piscataway, NJ
conniewu@rci.rutgers.edu

Region 3
Marian Armour Gemmen, Morgantown, WV
marmour@wvu.edu

Region 4
Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC
comforj@clemson.edu

Region 5
Robert Klein, Miami, FL
patents@mdpls.org

Region 6
Esther Crawford, Houston, TX
crawford@rice.edu

Region 7
Ran Raider, Dayton, OH
ran.raider@wright.edu

Region 8
Nancy Spitzer, Madison, WI
spitzer@engr.wisc.edu

Region 9
Michael Strickland, Little Rock, AR
mstrickland@asl.lib.ar.us

Region 10
Walt Johnson, Minneapolis, MN
wjohnson@mplib.org

Region 11
Patrick Ragains,
ragains@unr.edu

Region 12
Kristine Ogilvie, Sacramento, CA
kogilvie@library.ca.gov

The Association also publishes a peer-reviewed electronic journal, the Intellectual Property Journal of the PTDLA, to promote research and communication on the various aspects of intellectual property. Issues of the Journal are available via the PTDLA Web site.

Thanks to Claudine for her research which was the foundation for this article and to Jim Miller, University of Maryland, for locating Claudine’s paper.

Happy 25th anniversary, Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association!
Executive Committee Resolutions

Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing

Mr. Kevin Harwell

Whereas, Kevin Harwell served as PTDL Representative at the Stillwater PTDL 1989-1990 and the University Park PTDL from 1990-2006,

Whereas, Kevin hosted and maintained the PTDLA-L discussion list from 1996-2006, and aided us all in learning how to best use and improve it,

Whereas, Kevin served as PTDLA President 1994-1995,

Whereas, Kevin’s PTDL won the PTDL Conference XV Award for Outstanding Publications in 1993,

Whereas, Kevin has given presentations at national conferences, and has for 20 years promoted PTDL services to other libraries, business organizations, and government agencies,

Whereas, Kevin’s publications include more than a dozen major articles related to patents and trademarks, detailed book and conference reviews, and subject guides,

Whereas, Kevin has submitted comments and testified at USPTO public hearings, in support of free PTDL access to information,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Mr. Kevin Harwell for his valuable years of leadership and commitment to making patent and trademark information available to the public, and for the many contributions that he has made to both the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
February, 2008
Executive Committee Resolutions Continued

Whereas, Mary Leckie served 23 years as Representative of the Little Rock PTDL,

Whereas, Mary led the Little Rock PTDL from its beginning, a year after Governor Bill Clinton contacted PTL Program Manager Carole Phillips in 1984 about getting a PDL in Arkansas,

Whereas, Mary was elected to the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Inventors’ Congress in 1989, in recognition of her work to bring inventors and school children together,

Whereas, Under Mary’s leadership, Little Rock received a PTDL Conference XV Award for Significant Backfile Acquisition, for purchasing the entire microfilm backfile in 3 years,

Whereas, Mary has organized and participated in many well-attended patent and trademark workshops over the years,

Whereas, Mary worked with an Arkansas legislature interim committee to plan for an inventors assistance program,

Whereas, Mary and the Arkansas State Library participated in a pilot project to deliver online reference to Government information patrons in 2004-2005, which is now part of Government Information Online via QuestionPoint,

Whereas, Mary has shared her knowledge and experience with us as a faithful attendee at the PTDLP Annual Training Seminars,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Mary H. Leckie for her valuable years of leadership and commitment to making patent and trademark information available to the public, and for the many contributions that she has made to both the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
... February, 2008
Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing

Ms. Billie Connor-Dominguez

Whereas, Billie Connor-Dominguez served 27 years as Representative of the Los Angeles PTDL,

Whereas, Billie’s leadership helped maintain morale during six years of rebuilding after two 1986 fires destroyed the PTDL’s complete backfiles of US patents, British patents back to 1617, and Canadian abstracts back to 1911,

Whereas, Billie’s leadership and the Los Angeles PTDL’s outreach to the community won frequent mention in journal and news articles, and drew thousands of attendees to workshops,

Whereas, Billie and her staff won awards for perfect attendance at PTDLP Annual Training Seminars, and have logged tens of thousands of miles to attend these,

Whereas, Billie led Los Angeles participation as one of 14 APS Pilot sites in 1990,

Whereas, Billie organized and hosted numerous events conducted by USPTO staff, and helped involve other California PTDLs,

Whereas, Billie’s Southern California hospitality is legendary among USPTO staff and others,

Whereas, Billie’s efforts and commitment to serve patrons is a model for us all to follow,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Billie Connor-Dominguez for her valuable years of leadership and commitment to making patent and trademark information available to the public, and for the many contributions that she has made to both the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
... February, 2008
President’s Message

I am involved in getting ready for Seminar along with the other Board members, as I am writing this article for the PTDLA Newsletter. We are very close to finalizing the slate of candidates for elections. We are having difficulties finding candidates to run for the elections. We are a very small Association and in the past few years we have also had many boomers retiring, in the near future, we would like to see some new faces on the board of the association. I would like to thank Charlotte Erdmann and Amy Van Epps of Purdue for getting the electronic ballots setup again this year.

In 2007 we celebrated 30 years of the Seminar. President Jan Comfort and PTDLP office did an excellent job with organization of the seminar presentations and the celebration for the 30th year of the Seminar. This year again on PTDLA day we will have presentations from our colleagues. Our guest speaker this year is Nigel Clarke from EPO and he will talk about “Patent information from the EPO - latest developments in policy, products and practice”. We will also have our traditional sessions of the business meeting and the Open forum.

Highlights from this year include:

- This year again we had a successful hosting of the ALA program on “Promoting Patent and Trademark Services”. Presentations from this program are on the PTDLA Webpage at http://www.ptdla.org/ala2007
- We were invited to make a PATLIB presentation in Seville, Spain. Virginia Baldwin did this presentation and it is also on the PTDLA Website.
- Website update: Thanks to Esther Crawford for continuing work on updating the Website and adding the technological changes along with having members only access.
- After the seminar Jan Comfort following up with the conversation from the seminar wrote a letter to Mr. John Dudas about missing X-patents. We got a response to this letter saying USPTO will work on adding the missing X-patents.

PTDLA will be hosting a session at American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference on June 28th from 3:30-5:00 pm. The program is “Patent Information for Science and Technology Librarians”. I have sent out call for presentations and the PTDLA Executive Board will be selecting presenters soon and we will announce details at the upcoming training seminar.

On the PTDL program end I was glad to see the PTDL commons available to the depository libraries. Hopefully next year it will be available without being linked to the PUBWEST. Congrats Chris Kitchens for being appointed as the Manager of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office. PTDL program office has had a lot of turnover this year too, despite all this they have arranged for this well-organized seminar.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the next few weeks in Alexandria. As I mentioned in my beginning paragraph that it is important for us to participate in the Association activities. I would specially like to see some of the new faces taking on responsibilities of the association as we have greater number of senior members retiring. We have seen some great impacts when we have bought issues forward to the USPTO.

Leena Lalwani, President
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association
PTDLA Executive Board Meeting

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Present: Jan Comfort, Leena Lewani, Dave Morrison, Suzanne Holcombe, Esther Crawford, Dawn Rohan, Virginia Baldwin, Jim Miller, Walt Johnson, Nancy Spitzer, Marian Armour-Gemmen, Connie Wu

I. Approval of Minutes from last year’s meeting
   a. Approved pending any changes

II. President’s Report
   a. In Newsletter
   b. Jan recommends reading Article from Nigel Clark 2001 “Marketing patent information services on the Internet fighting fire with fire.” World Patent Information v23 p.287-93

III. Treasurer’s Report
   a. $4,885 amount collected as of 18 March 2007
   b. $13,896 balance as of 18 March 2007
   c. Cruise 71 attending; only allowed 80 (3 Chinese guests) received $12,095
      i. We are covering about $800 dollars

IV. Committee Reports
   a. Archives—Dave Morrison
      i. Dave would like to find someone else to take over
      ii. Could be published on the Web if support from the institution
      iii. Dave will make an announcement in the open session
   b. Bylaws—Jan for Tom Melvin
      i. Proposed changes will be voted on in the PTDLA meeting on Wed.
      ii. Jan noticed that the duties of the Past President are not in the bylaws (it would need to be added next year)
      iii. Look at Jan’s handout “PTDLA Executive Council”
   c. Conference Committee—Jan Comfort
      i. Reception rousing success
      ii. We are supporting the Director’s reception
   d. Database—Jim Miller
      i. Just met
      ii. Karon King—working to update the Shaw database
         1. working to get X-patents into the database that have not been entered which includes 6 reels of microfilm.
         2. Reels could be loaned out to libraries with high-speed equipment
   e. Elections—Jan Comfort for Bob Klein
      i. Karon King—VP president
      ii. Jim Miller –Secretary
      iii. Region I—Len Adams and Martin Wallace
      iv. Region III—Marian Armour-Gemmen
      v. Region V—Bob Klein
      vi. Region VII—Ran Raider
      vii. Region IX—Michael Strickland
      viii. Region XI—Pat Ragains

continued on next page...
f. Long Range Planning—Virginia Baldwin
   i. Mission, Vision, and Goals
      ii. Draft PTDLA Mission “To provide an interface with the PTDLIP for the purpose of supporting the PTDL librarians in keeping up-to-date on the latest developments with the USPTO program and national and worldwide intellectual property issues and concerns and in disseminating patent and trademark information and education to their constituents and beyond, while being a platform for relaying advice, suggestions, and needs back to the USPTO.”
      iii. Draft Vision: “Full participation by PTDL librarians in PTDLIP programs and in the dissemination of knowledge to patrons and colleagues, and collaboration with PTDLA and its members in promoting all aspects of IP protection with continually evolving and successful methods of instruction and support.”
   iv. Draft Goals:
      1. Identify the needs and interests of PTDL libraries
      2. Communicate the needs the interests of PTDL libraries to the USPTO
      3. Increase participation in PTDLA by PTDL librarians
      4. Promote the sharing of resources among PTDL librarians
      5. Support USPTO efforts and initiatives aimed at strengthening IP protection and curbing theft of IP
   v. Will present at business meeting and will have Blog discussion on the PTDLA Website.

g. Mentoring—Jan Comfort
   i. Jan took over because Nan Myers was busy
   ii. Assign regional representatives and board members to mentor newcomers

h. Program—Leena Lalwani
   i. Connie Wu, Andy Wohrley and Marian Armour-Gemmen doing presentations instead of Roundtables
   ii. Jan Comfort
      1. Had grandiose ideas for ALA—Affiliate Program 10:30-12 Saturday, June 23
      2. John Schlipp originally from Cincinnati Public Library will speak as well as program office people

i. Promotion and Outreach—Connie Wu
   i. Identified organizations with whom to cooperate/out-reach
   ii. Will present this list at the business meeting
   iii. Reach people who are not members of PTDLA

j. Publications—
   i. Newsletter—Suzanne Holcombe
      1. electronically done this year
      2. feedback?
      3. Add a Column—Mike White?
   ii. Website—Esther
      1. new Website
      2. registration through 2011 on Network Solutions
      3. Database driven Website
         a. Committees can use it
      4. Can have password protected pages but only *.html pages
         a. Raised concern that printed cartoons were only for a printed newsletter to a membership
      5. Esther has approval for getting assistance for funding for php programming for Website
      6. Members only pages will contain: newsletter, photos, minutes
   iii. IP Journal—will be looking for other editors
V. Old Business
   a. Thank you out to Jim Shaw from Leena and Karon
      i. Greeting cards for Secretary to use
   b. Scholarship Fund—hasn’t been addressed
      i. Might last many years—do we need an endowment?
      ii. Fact finding committee sign up sheet

VI. New Business
   a. Treasurer issues
      i. Need a permanent address for PTDLA: two ideas
         1. Ask the program office
         2. Have someone whose only duty is to forward mail
      ii. Seminar fees waived for foreign visitors
      iii. Legal problem with carrying so much money in bank accounts
         1. Dawn will check on this
   b. Membership issues
      i. Don’t know when an institution is added
         1. Can program office inform the PTDLA
   c. Membership starts at the end of the session; not prorated
   d. Student membership at $10
   e. Suzanne will keep brochure up to date
   f. Draft a resolution for Kevin Harwell—Jim Miller will work on this
      i. Remember Website and testimony before Congress
   g. We will not distribute the description of officers and duties just for general information
Minutes of PTDLA Business Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

I. President’s Report

In Newsletter

Highlighted

- Letter to directors including brochure (on PTDLA Website)
- Thanks to the officers
- Focus on Outreach this year!
- Sign up for committees
- We will create a new committee

Jan presented Mande Putnam with a token of appreciation for her service to our organization

II. Treasurer’s report

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III. Committee Reports

A. Archives—no report

B. Bylaws Committee—Tom Melvin

- Distributed copies of changes to Bylaws which were distributed
- Committee members: Nan Myers, Mike White
- Most updates are clarification
- Changes of dates of officers and FY to reflect the
- Student members have lower rate
- VP organizer of mentor program
- Voting by electronic ballot
- President can ask regional reps to serve on committees

C. Database Committee

- 9,102 X-Patents, title, inventor first name
- Will write a letter to Jon Dudas concerning 500 new X-Patents images

D. Elections: Results of 2007 Elections

- Vice-President/President-Elect: Karon King, Des Moines, IA
- Secretary: Jim Miller, College Park, MD
- Regional Representatives: Region 1: Martin Wallace, Orono, ME; Region 3: Marian Armour-Gemmen, Morgantown, WV; Region 5: Robert Klein, Miami, FL; Region 7: Ran Raider, Dayton, OH; Region 9: Michael Strickland, Little Rock, AR; Region 11: Patrick Ragains, Reno, NV

E. Long Range Planning Committee

- Available on the PTDLA Website http://www.ptdla.org/draftplan

F. Program Committee

- Thank you to Leena
- An upcoming ALA program coming up

G. Promotion and Outreach Committee

- Look at report on Website
H. Publications Committee
   IP Journal—looking for a book review editor as well as editors
   Website—will email you a user name and password; please change password; two sides to Website: business and promotion
   Newsletter—only issued electronically
   Pictures, column, email listing

IV. Old Business
   Treasurer Address—Need for permanent
   Tom Melvin volunteered because on corporation papers.

PTDLA Open Forum

Monday, March 19, 2007

Panel:
Martha Crockett Sneed, Director of Public Information Services
   • Pam Reinhardt, Web Master,
   • Diane Lewis, Manager of Public Search Facility,
   • Amanda Putnam, Managing Director public records division,
   • Jan Comfort, PTDLA,
   • Maureen Daly & Brooke Givens, Workstations and Cassis

Margaret Collins, Springfield, IL: Enjoyed Focus Group. Thank you for CASSIS and Brookie’s Assistance. Would like a Patent and Trademark memento to leave with people we give speeches to (like pens, etc.)

MCS—Answer, bookmarks have been helpful and are made in house. Patent definition of a pencil.

AP—Ordered airplanes a few years ago that were extra but other than that.

MCS—Create your own handouts.

Esther Crawford, Houston: Future of CASSIS equipment? Will we be getting new equipment soon?

MCS: Good segue into a survey about CASSIS. Working from that survey results. Don’t want to discontinue a product. Equipment will disappear if everything online.

MD—Flat screens are available; but don’t know how to distribute them. Broken monitor will be replaced with a flat screen.

Computers not due to be replaced real soon. Does everyone want the flat screen monitors? Yes.

MCS—Help desk will help you with computer problems.

Jackie Shane, Albuquerque—Glad to phase out CASSIS. Wish there was a scanner to assist in people filing electronically.

PR: Would it help increase e-filing? How many? Is it a mix of types of libraries? (About 20 libraries raised hands.) If you take away CASSIS please provide Downloads like from CASSIS.

MCS: We are aware of the importance of the CASSIS reports.

Helen Haskell, Los Angeles: Would like to know if there is a Spanish seven-step.

PR: IN process of developing Spanish 60 pages approx. But seven-step was not in that list and would have to be sponsored. Seven-step is important.

Carol Giles-Straight, St. Louis: Newer version of print version of Index and Manual?

Helen Haskell, Los Angeles: As the paper is the way we show people how to use the Website and get an idea of what it is.

MCS: Jim Charmley will be here tomorrow. Used to have a print budget, but not anymore. Need to find out how they are being updated. Bring question up tomorrow.

Diane Lewis: Patent & Trademark Search Room echos concern.

continued on next page...
John Meier, Penn State: Had to choose between PubWEST and CASSIS. How long to retain PatBib?

MCS: Latest issue only.

Chris Kitchens, PTDLP: There is a listing and our staff will assist you.

Esther Crawford, Houston: I would like to request full PDF for the Index of Classification. Especially the preface pages.

PR: Manual not given in pdf form. Bundled one with the preface pages? Maybe we can do that.

Mike Pollastro, Moscow ID: Is it possible to consolidate old DVDs. We have space constraints.

MD: USAMARK has missing marks. Would like to get the missing marks and cons. 222 CDS and DVDs. 2000 USAPAT was consolidated but no one seems to be interested in the other ones. Would just consolidate what is on the disk still include those on the existing disks. Blue Ray is not common. Instead of having 52 DVDs per year \(\rightarrow\) 15 or 20 DVDs per year.

Full document download by end of fiscal year. To which would you refer your patron, the DVDs or the WWW? Since most of you agree the WWW, it would be better use of money if used on Web.

Suzanne Holcombe, Stillwater, OK: Would it be possible to display which patents have been expired on Web?

PR: Have been told to remove that.

AP: Since it is easier to change better not to get rid of that <????>

Jim Miller: 600,000 TICRS of dead marks will they be available.

MCS: The TICRS has already been loaded. Parts to a trademark application in TDR which contains all parts. Some have not yet been loaded, but the paper is too difficult. These are not necessarily dead marks.

Jim Miller, College Park, MD: these appeared to be dead marks.

MCS: Numbers the same but not that is not what was loaded.

MD: Unable to say what is the standard. I use USAMARK.

MCS: Trademarks are more difficult. We know what is missing and what has been done. Focusing more on what is coming in right now.

Charlotte Erdmann, West Lafayette, IN: How frequently is the classification index being updated? Specifically Nanotechnology.

MCS: Classification does not have priority as before. And there are new strategies. Jim Charmley will speak tomorrow. Schedule used to be every two months.

Esther Crawford, Houston:

MCS: Classification. Pendulum swings in the departments Class.
Message from the Program Office

2007 will always be a special anniversary year in my book. In August of this year I was officially appointed the Manager of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program. Having spent time as a PTDL rep at the Ft. Lauderdale PTDL I can appreciate the dedication, hard work and difficulties that make up the lives of PTDL representatives. I know that in many cases you wear several hats and multi-tasking is a way of life. But I also know that the subject area of patents and trademarks is one of the most intriguing areas to be involved with. You get to work with ideas that are serious, interesting, and fun. You help in educating the current generation, ensuring that future generations will know how to tap into their creative energy. You help people - people from all walks of life - with intellectual property questions at the grass roots level. And an added bonus is that you will never lack for party conversation. Whenever you tell someone you work with patents and trademarks there is instant interest. We are fortunate in that working with intellectual property, we are working with a subject area that encompasses all the many facets of our daily lives.

This is a great time to be with the Program office as we reflect back on where we have come from and plan our future as we move forward. Customer service has always been a focus of libraries but today this is more important than ever. Working electronically opens up new doors, simplifies some things, but also necessitates more individual attention for our customers. No more waiting for the customers to find their way to the library. Our customer service needs to be pro-active. As a group the Patent and Trademark Depository Library representatives have always been willing to share and assist each other with their work. I invite those of you that have worked successfully with outreach in your communities to share your strategies, comments, and lessons learned with your fellow attendees while you are at the 31st Annual PTDL Training Seminar.

This past year has brought additional staff changes at the program office.

Ari Grebstein, from the Chicago Public Library PTDL, completed the 21st fellowship on November 3, 2007 while Dawn Rohan, from the Cheyenne, Wyoming PTDL located at the Wyoming State Library, began the 22nd fellowship on September 10, 2007. Dawn has been busy authoring articles for the USPTO Weekly, an in-house electronic newsletter, and putting together issues of Innovation, a new communication tool promoting the services of the PTDLs. As the Treasurer of PTDLA, Dawn has been an active liaison between the Program office and the PTDLA Executive Committee as we plan for this year’s seminar.

Doug Salser, a member of Martha Sneed’s staff, is helping PTDLP with various projects. Many of you know Doug from former seminar classes that he taught on classification. Doug has been assisting our traveling team with presentations and you will see him at seminar this year.

Chris Black left PTDLP for a position with the USPTO Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC) and the opportunity to work with a new program that will be closely allied with examiners. After many years with the program office Mary Gomez

continued on next page...
also left PTDL for a new position with the Office of the Chief Information Officer Workforce Development Group. While we were sorry to see them go we are happy for the new opportunities they will both have.

This past year has been an exciting one with PTDLP staff attending Grand Openings for our 2 newest PTDLs, University of California, Riverside and University of Baltimore Law Library, and anniversary celebrations at the Troy H. Middleton Library, Louisiana State University PTDL at Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University PTDL in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Read all about these great events in the December issue of AD LIBS.

Many items have been placed in the “Commons” for the PTDL representatives to access including the new marketing tool Innovations. The first issue of Innovations contained intriguing articles on various activities that PTDLs had been reporting to the program office. The second issue concentrates on activities the PTDLs are doing in relation to working with children. Keep those stories coming in – by phone, email, fax or whatever works for you. Our office truly does enjoy hearing what is going on at the PTDLs and we now have a way of sharing this with you. This sharing is what keeps the PTDL creative spirit engaged.

Keep that energy level up and we will soon be seeing you here in Alexandria, Virginia.

Chris

Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report (February 2008)

Dawn Rohan, PTDLA Treasurer

Balance as of March 20, 2007 ......................... $13,956.00
2007-08 Deposits ............................................ $3053.00
Total balance before withdrawals ...................... $17,009.00
2007-08 Withdrawals ....................................... $7,904.25
Balance as of February 10, 2008 ................... $9,104.75
Balance including Certificate of Deposit ........... $14,104.75

Detailed deposits
3/23/2007 Registration, dues & cruise .............. $1,988.00
7/03/2007 Registration, dues ........................... $345.00
9/29/2007 Registration, dues ........................... $140.00
12/1/2007 Dues ............................................ $25.00
1/15/2008 Dues ............................................ $25.00
2/02/2008 Registration, dues ........................... $25.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS ............................................. $3053.00

Detailed withdrawals
3/21/2007 Tom Melvin (PTDLA incorporation) .... $25.00
3/22/2007 Leena Lalwani (PTDLA president’s gift) .... $52.00
3/22/2007 Jan Comfort (lunch cruise gratuity) ....... $500.00
3/23/2007 Jan Comfort (PTDLA reception) ........ $376.52
3/23/2007 Sodexho (Director’s reception) .......... $500.00
6/11/2007 Columbia Flag & Banner (table banner) .... $515.78
9/22/2007 ALA (conference meeting space) ........ $60.00
9/13/2007 Blake Carver (Website hosting) .......... $150.00
9/21/2007 ALA (conference equipment rental) ...... $624.95
11/1/2007 Nathaniel & Samuel White Memorial Fund (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) ................ $100.00
2/2/2008 Certificate of Deposit ......................... $5,000.00

TOTAL WITHDRAWALS ..................................... $7,904.25

Established in 2001, the Intellectual Property Journal of the PTDLA is a peer-reviewed electronic journal published by the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association. The mission of the journal is to promote research and communication on all aspects of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyrights. Both PTDLA members and non-members may submit papers. Current and back issues are located on the PTDLA Website at http://www.ptdla.org/journal. All manuscripts go through a double-blind peer review process.

The PTDLA Publications Committee and an editorial board consisting of eight members, including three editors, are responsible for the journal. An advisory board consisting of three members also provides guidance and support. At the beginning of 2007, the editorial board members included:

- Charlotte Erdmann* (Purdue University)
- Claudine Jenda, co-editor (Auburn University)
- Scott McCullar (affiliation unknown)
- David Morrison* (University of Utah)
- Mary Frances Panettiere (Georgia Institute of Technology)
- Martin Wallace* (University of Maine)
- Michael White+, guest editor (Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario)
- Andrew Wohrley*, co-editor (Auburn University)

*PTDLA member
+PTDLA affiliate

Esther Crawford of Rice University, the PTDLA’s principal Website administrator, also provides technical support for the journal. Board membership has been relatively stable for several years. However, in December 2007 Andrew Wohrley resigned as co-editor due to work commitments.

Submissions to the journal have been rather light in recent years. No submissions were received in 2004, 2005 or 2006. Three papers were received in 2007. Two were accepted for publication with minor modifications; the third was withdrawn after review at the author’s request. The two accepted publications, plus two book reviews, will be published in volume 4, issue 1 (November 2007).

Despite the journal’s recent success, there are many serious challenges to its ongoing viability. First and foremost is the dearth of submissions. Only twelve papers have been published to date: six in 2001, four in 2003 and two in 2007. It is very difficult recruiting authors to submit papers on appropriate topics. Of the twelve published papers, eight were written by PTDLA members. Given the small membership of the PTDLA, more must be done to recruit non-members to submit papers. This will be difficult due to the fact that there are already several well-established journals in the field; for example, World Patent Information and Government Information Quarterly.

New editorial board members and referees must also be found. Production editors are especially needed. Again, the size of PTDLA will make this difficult. Only half of the current board members are members of PTDLA and all are from universities. If it is desirable for the board membership to reflect the general PTDLA membership, more librarians from public and state libraries should be recruited.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael White
Guest editor
michael.white@queensu.ca
2007 was a busy year for us at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. We added a third class to our repertoire and now offer classes covering Intellectual Property, Patent Searching and Trademark Searching. More than 75 people attended our classes either at the Main Library or one of our branches.

Preparation has begun for our May 17th, 2008 program Invent-a-Palooza. Our keynote speaker will be Christine Ingemi, one of the finalists in the Modern Marvels Invent Now challenge. Tom Turner will be presenting a program on conducting a patent search and there will be a panel discussion on local resources for inventors and entrepreneurs. There will be programs for children and teens throughout the day and the Inventor’s Hall of Fame is loaning us patent models to have on display during the month of May. It should be a lot of fun.

-- Valerie Sherman

The most important accomplishment this past year was finally redesigning and updating our patents Web page (http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/patents). This was something I had managed to find one excuse after another to avoid doing for far too long. Recent contact with customers, however, indicates that the Web page is one of the primary sources steering people to our services. Maintenance of the page is now receiving the priority it always should have had. Speaking of customers, 2007 was relatively quiet.

On June 23rd I joined Marian Armour-Gemmen, Alexis Carrasquel, Leena Lalwani, John Schlipp and Tom Turner in presenting PTDLA’s program, “Promoting Patent and Trademark Information Services,” at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Congratulations to Leena and Jan Comfort for arranging a good program. Tom provided an overview of what the PTDLP is and the rest of us gave examples of how different PTDLs have approached this topic.

Preparation for the ALA program led staff at New York State Library to focus more closely on the role of a state library as a PTDL. That has encouraged us to become more active as a patent and trademark information resource for libraries across New York State. As a result we are planning a program at our state library association’s Nov. 2008 conference that will call attention to the services of the 5 PTDLs in New York State. So far the Rochester Public Library PTDL is planning to collaborate with us. I’m hoping to interest the others as the idea evolves.

Last year I reported on some contact I had with the Rothschild Petersen Patent Model Museum in Cazenovia, NY (http://www.patentmodel.org). Here’s some more news. Our sister institution, the New York State Museum (NYSM), which is located in the same building we are, is currently considering purchasing the nearly 4,000 patent models in the Rothschild collection. No decision has been reached yet. If this should happen I will encourage NYSM to follow through with Rothschild’s plans to mount the traveling display that I reported on last year – I’ll keep you posted.

-- Bill Schilling
Albuquerque, New Mexico
University of New Mexico

The University of New Mexico hosted a Patent and Trademark seminar for the public and for New Mexico librarians. It was well attended and very appreciated by attendees.

-- Jackie Shane

Ann Arbor, Michigan
Art, Architecture and Engineering Library, University of Michigan

The Ann Arbor MI PTDL is located in the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library (AAEL) in the Duderstadt Center at the University of Michigan. AAEL houses the Art & Design, Architecture & Urban Planning and Engineering Collection.

My name is Leena Lalwani and I am the PTDL representative since 2000. Other reference staff that help out PTDL users with patents and trademarks are David Carter, Rebecca Price, Bob Tolliver, Paul Grochowski, Annette Haines, Sara Henry, Meredith Kahn and Julie Placentine.

Google digitized AAE Library collection this year. We conducted several workshops for staff and students and also for Technology Transfer Department. We also made a flyer for Technology Transfer Department. As in the previous year’s I have been working with Engineering students on design class assignments and with Business school students.

-- Leena Lalwani
Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Tech Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology

In 2007 we saw 213 patrons in search of patent or trademark research assistance. According to our library statistics, our Information Services Department has spent a total of 5,042 hours in providing assistance to patent and trademark patrons.

This year I again traveled to elementary schools to offer patent information to 4th graders. Their enthusiasm makes it very rewarding.

Georgia Tech professor, Dr. Allen Porter, has developed a software product, called Vantage Point. This product is useful in analyzing the text in large sets of patents and provides the visualization of those results in a variety of graphs, lists or charts. Vantage Point is sold now as a commercial product but because it was developed at Georgia Tech, Dr. Porter has installed it on our patent workstation. I attended several of his training sessions on this software.

Inspired by our colleague, Andrew Worley, at Auburn, I created a patent tutorial using Camtasia. It is now available on our patent workstation along with head-phones.

I held several training sessions this year for our library staff but I am still looking for that perfect assistant who is intrigued and excited by patents.

-- Joanne Tobin

Auburn, Alabama

Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

2008 Auburn University Patent and Trademark Depository Library Events:
The big event of the past year was establishing ties with the Small Business Development Center on campus. The SBDC director sent over three of her staff and reported on what we can do for Inventors and they let me know about what they do for owners of small businesses. I also gave them some of the Basic Facts series handouts about Patents and Trademarks and in the ensuing months I have received several calls from inventors who talked to the SBDC and they referred them to me.

A more minor event is that as part of a “wiki-fication” of our library subject guides, the guide to patents and trademarks has been moved to http://www.lib.auburn.edu/subjectguides/index.php/Patents_%26_Trademarks

I look forward to seeing everyone in Alexandria!

-- Andrew Wohrley
Baltimore, Maryland

University of Baltimore Law Library

Our first full year as a PTDL was certainly action-packed! After becoming “official” in February 2007, we held a Grand Opening Event in August, featuring Christine Kitchens, Chris Black, and Tom Turner from the PTDL Program. Keynote speakers included the University’s provost and the Law School’s dean. About 100 participants attended, including local inventors, members of the local patent bar and their staffs, members of area universities technology transfer offices, and many area librarians.

As a direct result of the contacts made at the August program, I was invited to participate in an information fair at Northrup Grumman, and later co-taught a seminar there with Jim Miller and Bob Kackley from College Park. I also taught a patent searching class to a group of biomedical engineering students at Johns Hopkins University. In October, one of the UB law professors offered a program on the pending patent reform bill. I wrote an article based on the “7 steps” for the newsletter of the Law Library Society of D.C. Last month, I presented a 90 minute program on patent searching for the joint conference of the LLSDC and SEALL (South East Association of Law Libraries).

It’s been a busy year! I’ve really enjoyed working with the staff of the PTDLP, and I’ve especially enjoyed working with my PTDL colleagues at University of Maryland, College Park!

-- Joanne Dugan

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana State University

The LSU Libraries became a PTDL in 1981. Presently, the PTDL collection is located in the Government Documents department, and the CASSIS and PubWest workstations are located in the Reference department. I became the Patent & Trademark Librarian in January 2007, and the year proved to be busy and eventful. As the new P&T Librarian, I established two goals: to build a strong foundation for promoting the patents and trademarks collection, and to raise public awareness of the collection and its applications. Attending the 2007 PTDLA Annual Conference in March 2007 provided an added boost towards achieving my goals.

During 2007, I began offering single session instruction to various departments on the LSU campus such as engineering and business. In 2007, LSU Libraries conducted a total of 22 patent and 5 trademark presentations throughout Louisiana.

At the American Library Association Annual Conference, I participated as a member of the PTDLA Panel Discussion: Promoting your Patent & Trademark Collection. I specifically focused on the importance of promoting the PTDL through partnerships, and used the LSU Libraries partnership with the LSBDC as an example.

The highlight of our year as a PTDL occurred in September when Tom Turner, Cynthia Baniki, and Dawn Rohan came to Baton Rouge for a two-day seminar titled “Researching Patent & Trademark Information.” On Thursday, September 27, we hosted a successful public presentation in downtown Baton Rouge. The next day, Tom, Cynthia, and Dawn participated in the LSU Libraries’ special centennial celebration of being part of the Federal Depository Library Program. We kicked off the day with Tom and Cynthia’s staff training on Patent and Trademark information. Librarians from various Federal Depositories around Louisiana as well as staff members at LSU Libraries attended the training session. Tom stayed late in the afternoon to attend the reception where the Libraries received a plaque for 100 years of service in the FDLP, and Tom presented a certificate of 25 years of service as a PTDL.

-- Alexis Carrasquel
Birmingham, AL

Birmingham Public Library

Work continues on our Alabama Inventors Database. Coverage currently includes the years 1821 – 1987 with more than 19,000 entries. In addition to the database, our staff has been searching for additional information about Alabama’s inventors and is compiling a bibliography of newspaper articles, Websites, and other biographical information. This bibliography, “Alabama Inventors: Additional Resources,” currently includes information about more than 160 Alabama inventors and is available as a link from the Alabama Inventors Database page at http://bpldb.bplonline.org/db/inventors.

We are especially pleased that we are hearing from family members of some of our Alabama inventors. The daughter of one of our African American inventors (Truman C. Tucker; water cooler; patent #1,933,517) has donated her father’s original patent certificate to the Archives Department of the library.

Becky will present a program about developing local databases at the annual Alabama Library Association meeting in April.

-- Michelle Andrews & Becky Scarborough

Burlington, Vermont

Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont

The Burlington, Vermont PTDL is located in Government Documents in the Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont. I serve as Coordinator of Documents and Maps and as Coordinator of the PTDL. All of the Documents and Maps staff work with PTDL patrons. In the past year, we have added a new staff member, Catherine Tran. Catherine is our “Web person” but she is also involved in all aspects of public services.

This past June I gave a guest lecture at the Franklin Pierce Law Center’s Summer Intellectual Property Institute.

Jon Cavicchi teaches a course on patent information sources and I discussed the USPTO patent resources. It turned out that one of the students was a staff member at the University of Vermont’s tech transfer office. She has referred several inventors to us over the past year. There is a lot going on on our campus in terms of technology and the relationship between the University and the local community. We hope to become more involved in these endeavors.

-- Scott Schaffer
Butte, Montana

Montana Tech Library, University of Montana

2007 Activities
This past summer the Montana Tech Library offered a Patent Searching Seminar in collaboration with the Montana Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration. Three workshops were offered in the day-long event geared toward independent inventors and university researchers. In the 2-hour searching session, we toured the USPTO Website in detail and handed out an electronic list of links to help inventors navigate the site. The session was also peppered with YouTube invention clips to lighten up the complexity of the intellectual property world. The inventors came to appreciate the classification system after brainstorming a boggling number of keywords to describe a simple example invention. It was a great success!

Tech also has two courses that include patent searching sessions. One is an ACS certification Chemistry Literature course, and the second is an Engineering Concepts course. Because of attending the latter, one of Tech’s engineering graduates is now drafting patent applications for an engineering firm while earning his law degree.

-- Noni and Jean Bishop

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Wyoming State Library

Things continue to be in an unsettled state at the Wyoming State Library’s Patent and Trademark Depository Library. We are still in our temporary quarters with no indication as to when we will be moving to our permanent location. Our big project is the creation of the Wyoming Trademark Database. All of the active state trademark applications have been scanned and the creation of the actual database has begun. The project has been delayed however, due to the absence of our intellectual property librarian, Dawn Rohan. She left at the beginning of September 2007 to spend a year as the 22nd PTDLP fellow at the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office in Alexandria, VA. We’re trying hard to answer patent, trademark and copyright questions during her absence.

-- Venice Beske
Clemson, South Carolina

R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

This has been a terrific year! Most years I don’t have a lot to report. But this year is exceptional. Our library is undergoing HVAC renovations, so I’ve had to temporarily relocate my office to a cubby in the Resource Sharing office. In addition, the entire government documents collection is inaccessible. Students in hard hats (literally) pull requested items 2 or 3 times a day. So that has been interesting. But the timing is pretty good, as I have had some really fun projects to work on.

Clemson has long recognized the importance of research, and has been looking at ways to expand opportunities to undergraduate students. We are exploring the concept of Creative Inquiry, defined as “an experience that will be meaningful to undergraduate students, and will promote reasoning and critical thinking skills, ethical judgment, and communication skills as well as a deep understanding of the methods of scientific and/or humanities research.” In the fall, I submitted a proposal to lead a Creative Inquiry Team. The topic was From Inspiration to Realization: Tracking an Invention from Inception to Marketplace. To my great joy (and consternation) the proposal was accepted! I have really had to scramble to organize my thoughts on topics, assignments, etc., even while recruiting students and planning guest speakers. I have 5 dedicated students, and it has been such an amazing learning experience for me. Just yesterday, John Calvert of the USPTO popped into my office. He was on campus for another event, but he was free in the afternoon, when class was meeting. So he came by and spoke to my students. What a wonderful opportunity for the students to hear from such a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker!

In the midst of all of this, I was finally able to track down the planners of a local Invention Convention – an event like a Science Fair for young inventors in Grades 4-8. In my typical overachieving way, I managed to get deeply involved, recruiting judges and exhibitors from Clemson. It will be held in March, so I will have lots to share at the Training Seminar.

Both of these activities have helped to raise awareness of our PTDL, and have given me more opportunities to work with Clemson folks. I am a member of Clemson’s Intellectual Property Committee, and I am often asked to sit on subcommittees that hear presentations made by faculty inventors and make decisions as to whether to pursue intellectual property protection. This has strengthened my relationships with staff at our Office of Technology Transfer. I will be demonstrating WEST, and doing some searches for them. And in return, they will be showing me the steps they follow in investigating emerging technologies. They are also sending more people my way, to help prepare them for their disclosure meetings. Another truly wonderful opportunity!

-- Jan Comfort
College Park, Maryland

Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, University of Maryland

College Park PTDL will be preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2009. We are housed in the University of Maryland Engineering & Physical Sciences Library. Jim Miller is the PTDL Rep, and Bob Kackley is especially active in organizing patent and trademark training for University classes. This year we have had more outside classes, including presentations at Frederick County Library and Prince Georges County Library, which drew about 25 attendees each. In November we did a presentation at a DC law firm for DC Special Libraries Association that included a look at PubWEST. In February, Baltimore PTDL Rep Joanne Dugan joined us for our biggest presentation, for 40 Northrop-Grumman engineers at their 10,000 person facility near BWI Airport. 11 logged in from off-site, at this very modern, stadium seating facility. A business-related follow-up session is planned for later this spring, and we hope to include Zaida Diaz and Lily Griner, our business experts up at McKeldin Library, which we in the branches affectionately refer to as “The Big House”. EPSL is participating in a library-wide “Year of the Potato” exhibit. One of our technical assistants, Karyna Witoszka-Swistak, is leading our branch’s part of this exhibit, which will include representative potato harvesting patents over 200 years.

-- Jim Miller
Dallas, Texas

Dallas Public Library

An additional handout was developed for our patent researchers and program attendees this last year. It lists contacts for local resources and a “Quick Guide” to books on topics of interest (general patent guides, patent searching, licensing and marketing). We’ve always had bibliographies on patents, trademarks, and copyrights but this new handout seems to fit our patron’s needs even better.

Our bi-monthly One-to-One: Questions and Answers inventor workshops with Patent Attorney Bob Wise continue to be well attended. We average 8 – 10 inventors per workshop in the 20-minute individual sessions and always have a waiting list. Bob Wise is a former Patent Examiner who is also president of the Texas Inventors Association.

Patent Agent Robert Frantz still comes back from Oklahoma once a year to present a program at the library as well. This year’s workshop, Your Patent Has Been Rejected – Now What?: A Practical Workshop for Independent Inventors” attracted thirty-two attendees. Robert has been partnering with the library to provide free programs on the patent process since 1998.

The Central Library held a 25th Birthday celebration in April (a 25-hour event, no less, which means we had staff scheduled around the clock. Guess who got to help with the graveyard shift!). Activities in the Government Information Center included a Test Your Patent and Trademark Skills contest. Ten correct answers entered contestants in a drawing for a Borders Books gift certificate.

The Library hosted a Trademark Office Trials and Appeals Board Judge again this year. The judge lives in the Dallas area and used our videoconference facilities to participate in several Appeals Board hearings.

We were fortunate to have an opportunity to partner with the Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Copyright Office to present a videoconference at Dallas Public Library in January 2008. Peter Vankevich, Head of the Copyright Information Section, and Rob Kasunic, Principal Legal Advisor, were the featured speakers for Copyright Basics: [Almost] Everything You Wanted to Know About Copyright. The workshop answered questions on topics such as how copyright protection developed, what kind of protection it provides, the application process, and practical pointers on the “do’s and don’ts” of using copyrighted materials. Forty-five people attended. Attendees included a mix of library staff from public and university libraries, law librarians, and the general public.

-- Jared Saxon
Dayton, Ohio

Wright State University

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Library has been a PTDL since 2000. Our collection is stored in the Information commons area of the main library. We are currently in the stages of planning renovations to our Information Commons area. The renovations will include more than 90 additional workstations, group study areas, and integrated computing and reference services.

The University will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. As part of that program I contacted faculty and obtained lab notebooks, prototypes and other documents for a display on 40 years of WSU patents. A highlight of the exhibit was the original shoes and harnesses Drs. Chandler Philips and Jerrold Petrosky used in their experiments with Nan Davis for electrical stimulation-feedback systems for paraplegics and quadriplegics. The system allowed paraplegics and quadriplegics to exercise limbs, pedal stationary bicycles, and take steps in walking experiments (4,785,813 Apparatus for assisting muscular contraction). The research of Petrosky was featured in a “60 Minutes” program in the early eighties. Davis was the student who volunteered to work with Philips and Petrosky and she walked again for the first time since a car accident left her paralyzed in November 1982. Her story was made into a movie in 1985, called “First Steps.” Judd Hirsch played Petrosky and Ned Schmdtke played Philips. Their National Center for Rehabilitation Engineering put Wright State on the map as both a leading institution for rehabilitation research and a university with unparalleled access for the severely disabled.

Our walk-in patron counts were down this year but telephone and email reference more than made up for it. I continue to provide 10 patent and 2 trademark workshops a year. There were a total of 111 workshop attendees this year. I have been using John W. Corwell’s “Beer Launching Fridge” in my academic presentations. I use a portion of his appearance on David Letterman to demonstrate how the refrigerator works. We then work through the classification system until we find similar patents (Mechanical guns and Projectors, class 124 and subclasses 6 and 7 – baseball and trap shooting devices).

Our nine county historical patent database is almost complete. As of now, our library computing services is creating the front end search engine for the database and it should be up and running by the end of summer. It will feature a blog where researchers or relatives can add additional information for the inventor.

Ran Raider – PTDL Representative
MECHANICAL GUNS AND PROJECTORS
Des Moines, Iowa

State Library of Iowa

December 9th, 2008 marks the State Library of Iowa’s 20th Anniversary as a PTDL. Back in 1988, we just had CASSIS, volumes of Official Gazettes, and patents on microfilm only. It seems unimaginable how far technology has brought us (through patents – no doubt). Now we have the USPTO Web site, patents online, and still have PTDLP staff keeping us continually up-to-date so we can personally pass it on.

While giving patent search instructions to new inventors, I’m continually amazed at their focus on solving problems, their different bent on how things work, and their ability to see things others can’t. In instances when they share their ideas with me, I usually wish their inventions were already available for purchase (so I could get one).

Staff at our Library have been working for over a year on compiling an Iowa Trademark Database including all trademarks by Iowa businesses obtained through the USPTO. It’s not finished yet, but we’re hoping to have it up on our Library Web site by the end of 2008.

Thanks to Margaret Collins of the Illinois State Library PTDL, who is compiling a list of African American Inventors from each state. For Black History Month in February, our Library used her list to showcase African American Inventors from Iowa with short biographies, photos, and diagrams of the inventions (including flying machines, can openers and button punches for buttons made from clam shells).

-- Karon King
2007 has been an exciting year at the Detroit Public Library. In February 2007 we merged two departments, plus our Patent Reference Desk, to form the Business, Science & Technology Department. It was the first time in the library’s history that departments merged seamlessly, with all materials being integrated together, and all librarians being trained to handle all subjects. We’ve had a whole year to settle in, and are finding that the change is positive. Our intellectual property customers need help in so many different ways, that we’ve become a good resource for them in one stop. We’ve also been working hard on PR and community outreach. So far we’ve had a program presented twice – Patent Your Million Dollar Idea: From Patent to Marketplace, which was well attended. We’ve had several classes from Wayne State University visit us and learn how to search patents and trademarks. We’ve also reached out to the Inventor’s Society of Metro Detroit and are getting ideas from them as to how to reach out to the experienced inventor, to attract them as well as the beginner. They want more focus on marketing and personal stories from inventors, so we are planning to integrate their ideas with those of other customers to start new programs. We learn just as much from our customers as they do from us!

We are proud of our long history of being a PTDL, since 1871. Our Manager is Uzoma Onyemaechi, our Assistant Manager and PTDL Representative is Mary Kordyban. We also have a wonderful staff of librarians: Susan Taylor, Ann Braid, Marian Rodgers, Joyce Middlebrooks and Jenny Caruso. 2008 is going to be a great year for us, and we are looking forward to this period of growth and excellence.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Broward County Main Library

Hi Readers!

My name is Eileen Fischlschweiger. I’ve been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL Representative for eleven years, and have worked at the PTDL in the capacity of Patent and Trademark Librarian for thirteen. I have worked for the Broward County Library System for over 19 years, and am looking forward to celebrating my 20th Service Anniversary in November. I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in both Chemistry and Physics, a Master’s degree in Communications, a considerable amount of graduate level coursework in Education, and a second Master’s degree in Library Science.

The Fort Lauderdale PTDL has been housed at the Broward County Main Library in Downtown Fort Lauderdale since its inception in November 1984. Originally part of the Government Documents Department, it is currently a part of the Business, Law, and Government Section since the Library reorganization in November of 1996.

Everything Under the Moon
On October 23, 2007 Broward County Library, home of the Fort Lauderdale PTDL, was honored with the Ambassador of Exploration Award presented on behalf of the late Apollo 7 Astronaut Donn Eisele by Ms. Susan Eisele Black. She and Donn Eisele called Fort Lauderdale home for a number of years, and she is connected with the Broward County Public Library Foundation. One of the reasons Ms. Eisele Black gave for selecting the Library was that people would not have to pay admission to see the Moon rock.

The press conference event was very memorable. Ms. Eisele Black and Astronaut Walt Cunningham, the only living astronaut of the Apollo 7 mission, spoke. The local media, TV and newspaper, ran stories. The Moon Rock was placed on permanent display beginning October 24. It is a small piece of a rock collected during the Apollo 15 mission, encased in Lucite, and it has lots of character. It is about the size of a garbanzo bean, angular in shape, and with white or very light grey spots on a dark grey colored matrix.

As a recipient of the Award, Broward County Library will help NASA communicate the benefits of space exploration and work to inspire careers in science, mathematics and engineering. The Patent and Trademark Depository Library is a great resource that has much to contribute to that goal. During the current year the library will have a variety of programs featuring space themes, and emphasis is being placed on library collections involving science fact and fiction. This year of programming is being funded by the Broward Public Library Foundation.

For more information on the Ambassadors of Exploration Award, please use the following links or copy them into your browser:


2007 Highlights
Most of the barcoding work for the Federal Depository items is behind us.

The big PTDL highlight of the year, on February 2, 2008, was the Inventors Society of South Florida’s Inventor Expo, called Latest Inventions Under the Moon, followed by Eileen Fischlschweiger’s workshop Finding Information On The United States Patent And Trademark Office Website. Although the Expo/workshop combination was used as in the previous year, this year the sequence was reversed, as the inventors chose the timing for the workshop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This led to some logistical problems regarding lunch time, but it all worked out in the end. As always, Eileen had a table for the PTDL with many handouts and answered questions throughout the exhibit time. In addition to having PTDL related handouts, she had several handouts promoting the FDLP and upcoming business programs at the Main Library. At one point during Eileen’s introductory speech, just before the workshop, the audience of 37, primarily ISSF members, gave Eileen a heartfelt applause and thanked her for her continued efforts in providing them with high quality training. Of course, Eileen gave credit where credit is due, and rightly pointed out that she owes her knowledge to the Annual PTDL Training Seminar and the interaction with the PTDL librarians throughout the country who contribute to discussions on various intellectual property topics throughout the year. Without this important continuing training, such public workshops would not be possible.
In mid 2007 Eileen presented training sessions for her Business, Law, and Government Section coworkers and the Reference and Information Services Section at Main Library in anticipation of the merger between the two sections which was expected to occur early this year, although the merger has been delayed.

At the Broward County Main Library we had our annual book display during National Inventors’ Month in August 2007 using printouts of old patent drawings to enhance the display’s appearance.

In mid October 2007 the Bank of America / Broward County Library Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) ceased to be a separate section within the Business, Law, and Government Documents Section. The books were incorporated into the collection, and over half of the computers formerly in that area were reallocated for public use throughout the building. The four that remained are used for the special software, including business planning software and Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing software. The entire building is undergoing renovation in stages, requiring temporary relocation of affected staff in various parts of the building, and the former SBRC area was one of the ones selected for such use. Although no longer in a separate section, our staff continues to assist customers with business information, and to coordinate classes geared to small business. This occurrence also coincided with the loss of the position heading the Business Unit, when the person who formerly held that position transferred to another location. The Business Unit was then merged into the Intellectual Property Unit.

More changes immediately affecting our section loom over the horizon as one of the unit supervisors in the BLG section will retire at the end of February, and it is uncertain as to whether her position will be filled.

On February 13, 2008, Eileen Fischlschweiger provided system-wide staff training at the Reference Forum, a periodic meeting of reference staff throughout the Broward County Library System where librarians share their areas of expertise with others. The program presented was titled *The Patent and Trademark Depository Library and Intellectual Property*. Starting off with a full-length 2 hour presentation Eileen cut it down to about 45 minutes without losing any essential information, a very challenging task indeed.

During 2007-8 our area has seen an increase in patent customers, as well as some unusual and some complex questions. One customer was a Barrister from the UK on vacation in Fort Lauderdale who stopped by to do a US patent search for a friend. Another customer came in with a list of prior art references for a patent similar to his idea with one elusive European design patent, which Eileen found for him in Public PAIR. And another customer had a list of Chinese patents with some publication numbers that didn’t match those in Esp@cenet, but which Eileen was able to locate in the English version of the Chinese patent database from the Chinese intellectual property office by using a key portion of the number. From the bibliographic listing Eileen was able to locate the appropriate Esp@cenet number and pull up the patents for the customer. In many instances of providing customer assistance Eileen has made reference to some of the more specialized information learned at several of the PTDL Training Seminars, including information on U.S. Customs and Border Protection regarding intellectual property rights recordation for trademarks and copyrights. The PTDL Program staff and everyone connected in providing the annual PTDL Training Seminar is to be commended for their thoroughness in preparing us so well to help the customers.

A successful and exciting Invent Bowl is expected in March 2008, and will be reported on in next year’s newsletter.

-- Eileen Fischlschweiger
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hawaii State Library

Aloha PTDL staffers,

Hopefully you got a chance to meet with Arlene Nagamine at the last training seminar. If you were able to meet with Carole Suzui the year before, you were able to meet my entire librarian staff. Both of them have come back from the seminars with lots of enthusiasm and some good ideas. Mahalo for taking care of them.

Our small staff is busy working on various projects. The most significant future project is the redesign of our homepage by Carole. She will be using Dreamweaver 9 to add some pizzazz to our main publicity tool. If all goes well, we may have something in place before the next training seminar is held. The new design should allow us to expand the sections of our current homepage, which will mean a bigger area to explain the various hats we wear.

I also plan to upload our shelflist onto the new Webpage because our holdings are not in the library’s OPAC. All of this will take time and much energy to complete. Hopefully, progress will be made and I’ll have something more concrete to report next year.

Some of you may remember me reporting that our regional depository library was wiped out in a pre-Halloween flood back in 2004. Our library still has many unique resources that could be used elsewhere in Hawaii. Ever since the flood, I have been working on retrospectively converting my entire holdings onto an Access database so I can share this information with the other FDLP depository libraries in our area. We are halfway converting our print resources and have completed our electronic resources. Most of my focus has been in this area.

I’m mostly excited to be able to put our handouts on the Internet. This will allow me to place our publications on the handout areas of GODORT and PTDLA Commons. This will allow me to only have to make changes to our copy and everyone else will have updated copies instantly. I can post our disclaimer and list of area patent attorneys and agents and other related materials on the Internet for all to see.

Our HSL Director has retired at the end of last year. As soon as a permanent replacement is selected, I will be making changes to the various directories and notifying the PTDLP for the update.

I hope to be able to come over this year, thanks to support from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii. So as soon as I get this year agenda, I will be busy working to put my travel package together. I hope to see you all soon. Take care and have fun.

-- Stewart Chun
Houston, Texas

Fondren Library Rice University, Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms

The Houston PTDL staff really focused on education this year. We offered over 20 patent searching classes to area inventors as well as individual training to our walk-in customers. We also participated in an inventor’s event hosted by the Houston Inventors Organization and the Small Business Development Center in August. Linda Spiro offered a two hour class on patents to staff and students from Leadership Rice, a program designed to provide leadership training and opportunities to undergraduate students. Esther Crawford met with staff from the Office of Technology Transfer to discuss library resources and ways we could work together. Following that meeting, Esther, technology transfer staff and reference librarian Bob Sabin team taught a session on patenting and library resources to a biotechnology design class. Linda Spiro participated in virtual Esp@cenet training and shared what she learned with the rest of the department.

Staff member Greg Eow left for a position at Yale last summer and Lindsey Simard joined our department. While Lindsey’s main focus is Texas state publications, she helps provide reference assistance to our PTDL customers. More recently our main weekend and evening staff person, Aniqua Colbert, left Rice to pursue other opportunities. Aniqua worked in the PTDL for 10 years and assisted many members of the inventor community.

-- Esther Crawford

Lincoln, Nebraska

University of Nebraska

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln PTDL is in the Engineering Library. Virginia Baldwin, The Engineering and PTDL Librarian, is on sabbatical until September 1, 2008, working on a compilation of statistics regarding the citations of engineering faculty from five universities, and the availability of their cited works on institutional repositories. The Library’s Operations Manager, Donna Koch, who is the expert trademark search assistant here, will be helping patrons with patent search requests and attending the 2008 PTDL Seminar. This will be her second time in attendance at the seminar, the first having occurred in 2001. Virginia is sad to miss the conference this year.

Highlight of the year was Virginia’s attendance and presentation at the PATLIB2007 Conference in Seville, Spain. Her conference report is on the PTDLA Website. Also on the Web site are the review of, and comments on the PTDLA Long Range Planning Document which the PTDLA committee, under her chairwomanship, produced.

-- Virginia Baldwin
Little Rock, Arkansas
Arkansas State Library

The Arkansas Patent and Trademark Depository Library, designated a PDL January 1985, has had a year of new beginnings and significant endings. 2007 witnessed the beginning of the Arkansas Inventor’s Network that Mary Leckie, Arkansas PTDL representative, was instrumental in establishing. Inventors and representatives from private industry and government collaborated on this joint venture.

The first meeting of the group was held May 17, 2007 and included key ideas for the organization and membership. At the next meeting, following much brainstorming and research, the group determined the name of the organization, “Arkansas Inventor’s Network.” Local television was used to publicize the new inventors’ organization along with mailings sent to inventors and others interested in patents and patent research. The inaugural meeting of the Arkansas Inventor’s Network attended by over 85 participants was held July 19, 2007 at the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in Little Rock. The focus of this meeting was on education and networking opportunities. The organization meets every other month and continues to appeal to inventors from over the state.

During the fall Ola Flucas made a presentation to the Arkansas Small Business Development Center First Trac New Venture Group. The orientation session consisted of an overview of the Arkansas State Library, Patent and Trademark resources with an emphasis on trademarks and the importance of doing trademark research. The First Trac New Venture Class provides new business owners with an opportunity to learn fundamental business concepts.

2007 also witnessed the retirement of Mary Leckie, Coordinator of State Library Services at the Arkansas State Library. A long time PTDL representative, Mary helped create and transform the Arkansas PTDL. In 1985, in coordination with then Governor Bill Clinton and the USPTDL Program, she worked to establish the Arkansas State Library as a PDL in 1985. For 23 years Mary served on numerous committees and worked tirelessly to support the Arkansas Patent and Trademark Depository Program. She never missed a PTDL Annual Training Seminar, and she made it possible for the members of the ASL reference staff to attend those training seminars regularly. During Mary’s tenure, the Arkansas State Library hosted three training visits from the PTDL Program staff and she participated in starting two inventors’ networks in Arkansas. Her efforts at outreach to Arkansas inventors and publicizing inventors on local television have been called models for other PTDLs. Because of her dedication to the intellectual property needs of Arkansans and the continuing education of her staff Mary’s legacy is a well-established Patent and Trademark Depository Library ready to embrace the challenges of the future.

-- Ola Flucas
Lubbock, Texas

Texas Tech University

My name is Tom Rohrig and I am the Patent and Trademark Librarian at the Texas Tech University Library which is also one of two federal regional depository libraries in Texas. Our Depository is integrated into Information Services and our p/t workstation is housed with the other public service workstations on the Main floor.

Starting January 2008, our service approach has changed. Librarians no longer are covering service desks at all. Student assistants are covering all hours and librarians are on 2nd tier. Instead, librarians are going into their departments to do library instruction, hold office hours, consult, etc.

One of my goals is to do more refresher courses for our librarians and develop training modules that librarians can use in their presentations. Although usage of our collection for research is growing, our main clientele are still patrons interested in obtaining a patent but I would like to increase the percentage of usage for academic research.

I have been getting more calls for assistance with patents questions which is encouraging. I did on-site training for the El Paso Public Library staff who had a new depository librarian and several new staff and included patents/trademarks training in the program. I also consulted with an Amarillo lawyer who is working with the Amarillo Inventors Association and discussed the resources and services of our depository.

Our Website is at http://library.ttu.edu/ul/govdocs/PatentsTrademarks.php

-- Tom Rohrig
Madison, Wisconsin

Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Kurt F. Wendt Library serves the departments of Engineering, Computer Science, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, and Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The PTDL representative is Nancy Spitzer. Sarah Calcese, Head of Collections and Technical Services, also provides patent searching expertise. This year Nancy will be attending the patent seminar in Alexandria.

During fall and spring semester, Nancy and Sarah taught the patents component for 15 sessions of an advanced undergraduate course in engineering professional development. Students learn about patents and the patenting process and what they can learn from this type of technical literature. We then demo the USPTO and Espacenet databases, and give them a taste of Google Patents. Nancy also continues to present patent searching on free resources to several senior design classes in mechanical engineering.

In October, Sarah presented an overview of free patent resources to a class at the Biopharmaceutical Technology Center Institute. The class included students in the UW Masters in Biotechnology Program and industry employees. In February Nancy presented the patent searching component of a library resources class for a graduate class in Microbiology.

We try to keep all Wendt reference staff up-to-date with patent searching and resources. Last spring Nancy gave a 3 hour workshop to Wendt liaison and reference staff on patents searching and resources.

We regret to report that there is no movement yet on getting our older patent materials to Google for digitizing.

Most intriguing but unfindable patent last year: The Nelson Bullseye Barn Cleaner. There are many “barn cleaners” but none by the Nelson Brothers.

-- Nancy Spitzer
Miami, Florida

Miami-Dade Public Library

The Miami-Dade Public Library PTDL, established on July 25, 1984, is housed in the Business & Science Department of our Main Library. The Business & Science staff includes Robert Klein (our assistant manager and PTDL representative since 1990), Sue Cvejanovich (our department manager); librarians Murray Wilcox, Julio Granda, C. J. Ivory and Carlos Morejon, and library assistants Liza Acosta and Juan Figueroa.

Our “Introduction to Patent Research” class which was being taught monthly is now held bimonthly. The class site still alternates between the Main Library training room and the computer labs at the North Dade and South Dade Regional Libraries. The class will continue to be taught by Bob Klein, assisted by Julio Granda and/or C. J. Ivory.

We have been contact with the Miami-Dade School District and hope to begin offering programs at local schools. We plan to include information on the different forms of intellectual property (patents, trademarks, copyright, etc.) and to demonstrate TESS, the Issued Patents and Published Application databases on www.uspto.gov and PubWEST.

-- Bob Klein

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee Public Library

The Milwaukee Public Library has been a PTDL depository since 1949. We have a complete run of patents and gazettes in our collection. The patent and trademark collections are housed in the Science, Business and Technology section of our Central Library. The collection, including the Cassis machine, is maintained by the librarian in charge of selecting materials that fall under the subject of engineering. I have filled that role at Milwaukee Public Library since May of 07 after the previous engineering librarian retired after 30 years of service.

The Milwaukee Public Library offers a one hour class on patent searching the 4th Monday of every month. We go over the seven steps and explain the patent process in basic terms. I recently taught such a class and it was well received by attendees. MPL put on a one day “Inventors School” and it was attended by 74 people.

At our MPL’s last annual fundraiser, I helped to create a very well received display that highlighted patents from prominent local businesses. I basically found patents from local companies and displayed drawings and the patents themselves to highlight innovations and products produced in Milwaukee.

-- Daniel Kentowski
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hennepin County Library

Library staff was just getting settled into the new Central library in downtown Minneapolis in 2007 when another big change came along. As of January 1, 2008 we merged with the Hennepin County Library system. Founded in 1860 as the Minneapolis Athenaeum, the Minneapolis Public Library is no more. The patent and trademark collection and services will remain at the Central location.

As a PTDL (since 1980) we continued to give monthly patent talks to the public, and I gave presentations to a variety of groups: homeschool kids, library school students, and chemistry students at the University of Minnesota. It’s always good to hear after these student presentations that they never knew patents and trademarks could be so fun and interesting. The number of inventors who request one-on-one meetings seems to be increasing, I’m happy to report.

My colleagues Carrie Brunsberg and Helen Burke also assist patent searchers, and I thank Carrie for doing the patent talks for me when I’m out of town.

2008 is Minnesota’s sesquicentennial (150th year of statehood) and the Library will be featuring an exhibit on Minnesota innovation. I’m looking forward to working with the curator on this event.

--Walt Johnson
Morgantown, West Virginia
Evansdale Library, West Virginia University

Evansdale Library at West Virginia University has been a depository since 1991. The Evansdale Library serves Engineering, Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, Education, Creative Arts and Physical Education. Independent as well as university inventors come to the Evansdale Library for assistance.

This year was highlighted by presentations and displays. I also continue my contact with the WVU Office of Technology Transfer who lists me as “our expert patent librarian.”

This summer I participated in the Panel Discussion sponsored by the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association at Annual ALA conference in Washington, DC. My presentation was entitled “Sowing the Seeds of Innovation: A University Library Perspective.” I took this theme and changed it for a West Virginia Library Association conference “Sowing the Seeds of Information-Promoting Library Resources.” I lead a discussion on this theme and used it as an opportunity to promote WVU’s Patent and Trademark collection.

I prepared various presentations on Patents and Trademarks, some to serve the entire university community as well as three colleges: Business & Economics, Law, and Ag/Forestry/Consumer Sciences.

My two major displays this year were a poster and a display. The poster “What’s Inside the new iPhone? U.S. Patent Applications Reveal the Technology” highlighted the use of Patents and Patent Applications to reveal technology instead of having to physically tear the device apart (as seen on YouTube). I also used the poster to draw attendees to a presentation. My second display entitled: “Nobel Prize in Physics 2007: GMR Giant Magnetoresistance (Computer Hard Drive Technology)” featured patents, books, journal articles, hard drives, and CD and DVD players. The brochure accompanying the display was reprinted twice and a professor asked to use the material for an upcoming class.

-- Marian Armour-Gemmen
What’s Inside

The new iPhone?

U.S. Patent Applications Reveal the Technology

USApat 2006/0197753
"Multi-Functional Hand-held Device"

USApat 2006/0238517
"Electronic Device Having Display and Surrounding Touch-Sensitive Bezel For User Interface and Control"

USApat 2006/026528
"Handheld Computing Device"
Nobel Prize in Physics 2007

**GMR**

Giant MagnetoResistance

*(Computer Hard Drive Technology)*

Albert Fert & Peter Grünberg
Moscow, Idaho  
University of Idaho

Here’s news from the University of Idaho Library:

I’m pretty much it as the staff for the Patent & Trademark Depository Library at the University of Idaho. I do have a student worker who spends about an hour each week shelving plant patents and loading and shelving CDROMs and DVD-ROMs. She’s leaving at the end of this semester and I’ll be forced, after 2 years, to hire someone new for the job. That tends to be a student worker in our Regional government documents depository library and I expect that will be the case this time, especially since I recently assumed the role of head of that operation also. So now I also have 2 full-time staff and another student worker reporting to me and that’s working out well so far.

Calls for my services have been fairly low, but activity seems to go in streaks. A recent call was for help in trademark searching, which has become very rare indeed. Because of the caller’s distance from Moscow, Pocatello being about a 10-hour drive from here, I sent her as much information as I could by email. She took me up on my offer to conduct a training session by telephone and that worked quite well, with us both at computers and walking her through the steps needed to conduct her search. I’ve done several patent search training sessions that way successfully, also.

This past summer I went on academic appointment, kind of a prep school for retirement as I get the whole summer and breaks during the school year off. That sent my reference colleagues into a tither of anxiety about not having anyone knowledgeable available for patents and trademarks consultation, but that was alleviated with first, an intensive workshop on searching patents for a number of them, second, one of them stepping up to volunteer as my stand-in for the summer, and three, the knowledge that I wasn’t totally gone from the area all the time.

I did help with one client, but Rochelle Smith, my summer replacement, handled a couple others very capably, so it turned out it could work and did.

Our library as a whole went through a realignment of space with a lot more of our 1st, main floor devoted to “community”, including much more group and individual study space and a lot less collections, namely the reference and patent and trademark collections. Frankly, I haven’t used an Official Gazette in years anyhow, so all of that has been moved to the basement and now, the P&T collection at hand consists of the file cabinets for the plant patents, the annual print indexes to the patents, a number of patent and trademark reference and how-to books, the discs for the patents and trademarks, and the workstation.

-- Mike Pollastro
Newark, New Jersey

Newark Public Library

Hello, my name is Jim Capuano and I am the PTDL representative for the Newark Public Library (NJ). Patron assistance for patents and trademarks is on the second floor of the Main Library in downtown Newark. The collection is spread out over the second and third floors of the building, but is within easy reach of the reference desk.

The reference staff includes Jordan Brewster, Elaine Gold, Curt Idrogo, Leslie Kahn, Monica Malinowski, Lisa Rose-Wiles, Deirdre Schmidel, Jane Seiden, Nadine Sergejeff, and Patricia Winship. Curt will be the representative to this year’s conference.

The library assists patrons and other libraries from around the state with patent and trademark questions. One interesting request from a library was: “How and when was a method or machine developed to count the number of times a piano string vibrates to produce its note?” The staff found some books on the history of piano tuning that had information, and the USPTO site and Google patents came through with a number of patents that followed “the history of technology” on this subject. One interesting (later) patent was US 844,838 “Device for Registering Vibrations of Musical Sounds” (1907).

In the last year we received several requests that needed the assistance of the PTDL Office. One was on time limits for the payment (or non-payment) of patent maintenance fees. The Office advised as to the section of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) that had the regulation regarding these payments.

The Office also assisted with a request for the Official Gazette -- Trademarks -- faxing us the page that our patron requested.

The staff looks forward to another year of helping individuals and libraries with patent and trademark requests. One future event that we hope will “get out the word” about our services is a program on patents and trademarks at the New Jersey Library Association 2008 Spring Conference. Deirdre Schmidel and I will be presenting the program on April 30.

-- Jim Capuano
Greetings from frosty Orono, Maine

PTDL. Established in 1993, our PTDL is located at the Raymond H. Fogler Library’s Science & Engineering Center at the University of Maine. I have been the PTDL representative since August 2006, as well as the subject liaison for the engineering, computer science and mathematics academic units at UMaine. Over the last year I have kept very busy with PTDL matters and have come a long way in my knowledge of patent information.

In 2007 I was awarded the Brian Stockdale Memorial Award presented by the Patent Information Users Group (PIUG).

This award included an all-expenses paid trip to their 2007 conference in Costa Mesa California, plus a fee-waived one-year membership into the organization. Besides that week-long conference, I have also attended many local IP related workshops and seminars and have been an invited presenter at a public library, a food science & technology class, a small business conference, and the annual Maine Inventors Forum.

For the first time in the history of the UMaine PTDL, patent information has been incorporated into an official 3-credit course in our Innovation Engineering program. I will be co-teaching this course, called “Expressing Innovation”, which is designed to teach entrepreneurial students how to effectively express their ideas. I will be teaching a section of the course on technical writing, using patents as examples and with an assignment for students to draft a patent document.

I’m looking forward to the 2008 PTDL conference and hope to see you all there.

-- Martin Wallace, Librarian
Science & Engineering Center
During the past year, we found that an increasing number of our users for the patent resources at the Library of Science and Medicine are those who want to start their own business with their own inventions. The Small Business Development Center network has based its lead center in northern New Jersey at Rutgers University Newark campus for over 25 years. And in the southern half of the state, the Rutgers-Camden Business Incubator, launched in 2001, currently assists almost 50 companies, providing low-cost services and funding connections at the Rutgers-Camden Technology Campus. Only conjecture, but the boost in our PTDL traffic at LSM may be a result of the half dozen small business incubators founded recently throughout the state, two of which are here in central New Jersey at the Rutgers University New Brunswick campus.

In 2007, the Rutgers Food Innovation Center, an economic development program and business incubator of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, was named “Incubator of the Year,” in the services and manufacturing category, by the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA). The New Brunswick campus also hosts the Environmental Incubator, part of the Rutgers EcoComplex.

We also noticed an increase this past year in the number of undergraduate students who are interested in inventions and patent searching. This coincides with the establishment of the Aresty Research Center for Undergraduates, administered by Rutgers College, to benefit students throughout the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus. The program encourages and supports undergraduates to pursue original research projects with Rutgers faculty.

Connie Wu was granted a research sabbatical leave this past year, from July to December 2007. Her research topic was on the “Importance of the Non-Patent Literature as Prior-Art Citations in Patents.” The purpose of the project was to analyze the non-patent literature (NPL) in patent prior-art searches, and to compare the ratio of NPL citations in the patent references between emerging technology inventions and traditional patenting areas.

Connie received a Lecture and Research Travel Grant, awarded by Beijing Foreign Expert Bureau, China, which she used to travel to China, naturally, during her leave. While there, she made the following presentations:


“Introduction of the Intellectual Property and its Management in an American University” invited talk at the Changchun University of Science and Technology, China, Sept. 28, 2007

And, the results of her research while on leave will appear in the following publications:


For the rest of us here in the Piscataway PTDL, it was business as usual. Low key and laid back, with the door to the library open to all. Especially on those warm days when they haven’t turned off the heat yet!

-- Ellen Calhoun
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) had the distinct pleasure of hosting two PTDLP seminars in April, 2007. Approximately sixty people attended two respective educational workshops designed to inform library professionals and the general public on the fundamentals of intellectual property and on specific procedures for effective searching for patents and trademarks. The audience included legal professionals, inventors, and members of nearby colleges and universities. The enthusiastic response to PTDLP associates, Chris Black, Tom Turner, and Ari Berman was hardly surprising, because their efforts met the typically high caliber of training provided annually to Depository members.

What is surprising, however, is that even today, the April workshop is continuing to influence and benefit the Depository Program in Pittsburgh.

Like other components of CLP’s Reference Services Department, staff directly involved with patents and trademarks continually looks for ways to increase awareness of services in order to satisfy the patrons’ needs. The workshop immediately provided public recognition of our role as a resource for information that is critical to our constituents. Our regional community includes nearly 20 institutions of higher learning (including two library schools!!), business incubators, intellectual-property professionals, and inventors, all of whom are potential beneficiaries of our services. Activity associated with the workshop has culminated in referrals by the University of Pittsburgh, guest lectures at university classes, one-on-one sessions on trademark and patent searching, increasing interest in PubWest, requests for lectures, and incipient plans to develop relationships with local student and professional groups.

-- Gwendolyn Hawk
Reno, Nevada
University of Nevada, Reno, Business & Government Information Center

In 2007 our Patent & Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) services were covered in an article in the June 8th issue of the Reno Gazette Journal, the largest daily newspaper in northern Nevada. This short article accompanied a longer piece on inventors in Nevada. Our staff used PubWEST more frequently than before, due to its ability to search U.S. issued patents, pre-grant publications (U.S. applications) and abstracts of other national patent systems simultaneously. We also assisted the public by finding information in patent file wrappers using the USPTO’s Public PAIR system. The year 2007 is the last year that our PTDL services will be based in the Business & Government Information Center (BGIC). Although the BGIC is being dissolved, the PTDL area will be located prominently behind the Research & Computing Help Desk on the main floor of our new building, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. This new facility is scheduled to open in mid-August, approximately two weeks before the fall semester begins. The same core staff will assist the public with their patent and trademark-related information needs.

-- Patrick Ragains, Business & Government Information Librarian.

Richmond, Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University

Greetings from Richmond! Virginia Commonwealth University’s James Branch Cabell Library has been a PTDL since 1985, and is the only one in Virginia. Our depository services are housed in the Research & Instructional Services department, although they are primarily provided by two individuals – me and John Jovanovic, our Government Information Specialist.

Several outreach events from the previous year have generated greater awareness of the Richmond PTDL throughout Virginia, and we are seeing a modest increase in patent questions directly from other librarians in the state. One librarian recently emailed me to ask for assistance in tracking down several Japanese patents for a professor. I was able to locate these patent on Esp@cenet and share information about this great (and free) resource with her.

Regarding in-person assistance, our patent search room remains well-received, and we created a display on its work table featuring the PTDL brochures. As John and I continue to provide research help via scheduled and walk-in consultation sessions, this private, one-stop space has served us well.

-- Renée Bosman
St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis Public Library

This past year included some of the same events as in previous St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) PTDLA reports, i.e. the Illinois Innovators and Inventors (III) workshop, an Inventor’s Association of St. Louis (IASL) meeting, and the St. Louis area Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) lunch meetings/programs.

The 2nd Annual “Intellectual Property Day: Patent and Trademark Law for a New Age” (IPD) was another encore event. One of the speakers was Mr. John Calvert, a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Mr. Calvert also works with the Independent Inventors Office of USPTO and has done presentations for the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) at the annual Training Seminars. He introduced me to the IPD attendees and encouraged them to use St. Louis Public Library’s Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL). This was a great opportunity to talk briefly about PTDLs and how they can help inventors and small business entrepreneurs.

At SLPL patent and trademark inquiries are answered in the Business, Science & Technology (BST) Department. Copyright questions are handled by the Government Information Department. BST does not get very many copyright queries but my colleagues and I attend copyright workshops when available to stay current on the topic. One such presentation was “Copyright in the Print and Digital World: Collision or Opportunity” by Donna L. Ferullo, J.D., Director of the University Copyright Office at Purdue University. It was a worthwhile refresher and she shared some very informative handouts.

In addition to SLPL’s long time Downtown Central location at 13th and Olive, we now have Central Express (CE), located in the Old Post Office at 8th and Olive. It is a convenient location for the 80,000 people who work downtown and for the rapidly expanding population living in the area. It features approximately 3,500 items on face-out shelving including best sellers, current fiction and non-fiction, books for children and young adults, DVDs, CDs, and books on CD. Central Express also has great exhibit space. In recognition of August’s National Inventors Month, I mounted a “Patents and Trademarks” exhibit at CE that included a map of the PTDL Program libraries, books and posters of African American men and women inventors and scientists, enlarged copies of Abraham Lincoln’s patent and of a patent issued to a contemporary St. Louis neurosurgeon. On the lighter side, there was also an enlarged copy of the Slinky® toy patent and some actual Slinky® dog toys.

Please let me know if you will be visiting St. Louis. I would be very happy to show you either of our Central locations or any of SLPL’s 16 other locations.

- Carol Giles-Straight
Salt Lake City, Utah
University of Utah

The Salt Lake City PTDL is located in the Government Documents and Microforms Division of the University of Utah’s Marriott Library. The Marriott Library was first designated a PDL (note – no trademarks back then!) in 1984. In addition to our PTDL depository, the Marriott Library has also been a federal GPO depository since 1893; a U.S. Department of Energy depository; United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization and UNESCO depository; and depository for the State of Utah.

As the PTDL representative, I have been one of the Marriott Library’s federal documents librarians since 1987, and a member of PTDLA since my first conference in spring 1987. I have served the Association in a number of positions, most notably on Finance Committee as member and Chair; and as PTDLA Chair in 1999/2000. I was delighted to be Thirteenth Patent Fellowship Librarian at the PTDL Program Office in our previous (and still missed!) Crystal City location for eighteen months from 1996 to 1998.

The Marriott Library is now about two years and six months into a three-year major renovation project. The Government Documents Division and reference desk, plus the open stacks with our collections, have been moved into their new locations in the renovated portions of our building. Prior to that we identified portions of our collections that were cataloged and pulled for storage in a new Automated Retrieval Center (ARC) system, which uses robotic arms to retrieve bins of varying sizes matching a catalog record. The new ARC provides climate-controlled storage that will extend the life of our collections, and yet provides access for a patron in less than ten minutes.

This internal renovation project has taken most of my time and effort in the last three years, but I have continued many of the PTDL activities most heavily supported in past years. We continue to provide in-depth patent reference and patent-searching tutorials upon request; have had groups of K-12 children brought to the Marriott Library for outreach and had an exhibit of patents and trademarks available with a short, ‘live’ presentation. I continue to lecture and present to our campus Entrepreneurial Program; bio-engineering design classes; and campus administrative staff. My presentation to our campus administrative staff has just been expanded to a two-hour workshop on searching patents and patent families in the USPTO Web database and Espacenet.

I have recently been asked to serve on the Board of Advisors for the Spirit of Renaissance® Foundation, a Utah non-profit organization found on the Web at www.utahinventor.org. This Foundation was started within the last two years to address the start-up and commercialization concerns of multiple inventor groups within the state – business, academic, and independent inventors. Most of the advisors come from state or academic administrative positions, economic development and commercialization offices, and one director from the State’s major technology development project, USTAR (ustar.utah.gov).

As always, I’d like to thank the Marriott Library for funding my attendance at every annual PTDL program since 1987; providing me with the many opportunities to put the knowledge I bring back into practice; and encouragement to promote the use of patent and trademark information throughout the state of Utah and the West.

-- Dave Morrison
Wow, where has the year gone? In the 2007 issue of the Newsletter, I mentioned our stacks replacement project. From October 2006 to March 2007, we received new shelving throughout the library. We survived the construction and the disruption. Now, if we could only get funding for new furniture, carpet, elevators... The new stacks allowed us to shift and re-arrange some of the collection, so now all of our Official Gazettes are back on the first floor, shelved in the reference collection. It is nice to have the older Gazettes in proximity to our PTDL research area.

Collections remain the theme this year as well. We have been relocating materials to offsite storage and making decisions about what will remain in the building. Once space is free, we will be shifting the entire collection in order to maximize growth space in areas where it is needed.

Over the next few months, we’ll be preparing for librarians to descend on Seattle. The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is the host chapter this year for the 2008 SLA Annual Conference in June! Hope to see you in Seattle, June 15-18. Bring your sunglasses (and your umbrella – just in case).

-- Christina Byrne
Springfield, Illinois
Illinois State Library

In the fall, a focus group was convened at the Illinois State Library Patent and Trademark Depository Library. Participants included Linda Dillon, Illinois Small Business Development Center at Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL; Robert Patino, Esq., Director of Technology Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; Linda Farley, inventor; et al. The group’s recommendations included:

1. Identify Illinois attorneys’ e-mail address and share various mailings from the USPTO with them.
2. Send a targeted mailing of the PTDL brochure
   Schools
   Home Schools
3. Join the Springfield, Illinois Chamber of Commerce at $150.00 per state employee
4. Sponsor an open house

The two latter recommendations are in the making, but ISL/PTDL moved forward in reaching out via Internet and “snail” mail to attorneys and educators. After telephoning attorneys in downstate Illinois, one corporate and 9 independent patent attorneys agreed to join the PTDL newly established e-list for attorneys. They received via e-mail:

Federal Register Notices from the USPTO
News@USPTO
USPTO e-COMMERCE e-ALERT
Some e-patent exhibits

A home schools list of 48 Web addresses was established. Initially, participants on the list received an email encouraging them to take a look at ISL/PTDL Website and highlighted historical patents on the site. They also received mailings of:

**Historical patent lists:**
- Current events, e.g., the article Jan Comfort’s shared, “A 15-Year-Old Invented Earmuffs”
- Downstate Illinois Public School science, history and art teachers received via e-mail messages:
  - List of trademarks using the word “mole” for Mole day
  - Historical patent lists
  - Private and Parochial science departments in Springfield were mailed a copy of the ISL/PTDL brochure.

**Webpage for Historical Patent Lists and Bibliographies**
The agency assigned the PTDL a Web page for historical patent and bibliographies. Historical patents featured on this page included:

- Celebrating the Holidays With Illinois Inventions

These historical patents lists have been very popular as shown by the Website traffic that follows.

**Other Historical Patent**
Other historical patent lists prepared but not included on ISL/PTDL Website were:
- Images of Native Americans on U.S. Patents from 1870-1971
- Santa Claus Patents From 1883-1975

**Speaking Opportunities Included**
- The Illinois Library Association Annual Conference on October 11, 2007
- The Entrepreneurship Meeting in Galesburg, IL
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Technology Transfer Symposium on September 27, 2007
- Meetings Attended Included:
  - Illinois Innovators and Inventors 10th annual meeting on
  - Illinois Federal and State Document Depository Libraries Meeting
- PTDL annual training seminar
- Reference Transactions

The number of reference transactions increased significantly thanks to the number of e-mail messages sent to targeted populations. However due to the elimination of floor exhibits in the PTDL, the number of walk-in patrons decreased and the number of persons trained to conduct patent and trademark searches also decreased.

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African American Inventors
Proofing the African American Inventors’ List continued. Members of the PTDLA have assisted in proofing and adding to the list. Many expressions of appreciation have been received from the PTDLA members and USPTO. Completed lists by states are: AL, AK, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MO, MS, MT, NC, NM, PA, SC, TN, TX, WV, Canada

Stillwater, Oklahoma
Oklahoma State University

The Oklahoma State University Library has been a Patent and Trademark Depository Library since 1956. We are housed in the main University Library and are part of the Government Documents Department, a regional depository for federal government documents.

Two major events this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of OSU as a Patent Depository Library included invitation of staff from the USPTO Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program for a two day workshop on the OSU campus, September 13-14. We were so pleased to have Cynthia Banicki, Tom Turner, and Chris Black with us for these two days. They did a wonderful job! 70 people attended the event and gave very positive feedback. Advertising of this event included all contacts at OSU, University of Oklahoma, city of Stillwater, patent attorneys in Oklahoma, depository libraries in Oklahoma, Small Business Development Centers, and 250 independent inventors.

Also to celebrate this event John Phillips, Department Head and I completed the Oklahoma Inventors Database, http://oinventors.library.okstate.edu/, an index of United States patents issued to individuals residing in Indian and Oklahoma territory 1880-1907. A subscription to Micropatent, Thomson Scientific, allowed us to identify Oklahoma patents for each of the years. An Oklahoma Inventors Facts section was included (First Oklahoma patents, patents issued to women, etc.). Thank you to Dawn Rohan and her staff for their assistance with this.

Using the paper Index to Patents, I also created an Excel file of patents issued to Oklahoma State University this year. This is often requested by different departments on campus.

In the past year I made a strong outreach to OSU faculty in the sciences promoting patents as a resource for research not found in journals. Response was positive but limited, so I will continue outreach this year. I will be contacting faculty featured in OSU’s Vanguard magazine (Research, scholarship and creative activity at Oklahoma State University) as to their research and how we can assist them as a patent depository. I worked with our IT Department to make PubWest more easily accessible for searching on the Department’s public patent workstation.

We continue to cooperate with the other IP related groups on campus and in the state.

I appreciate being able to serve as the PTDL newsletter editor again this year.

– Suzanne Holcombe

2007 was a productive year for the Illinois State Library Patent and Trademark Depository Library.

-- Margaret J. Collins
Sunnyvale, California,  
Sunnyvale Public Library

A highlight again this year was live training on the patent Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web). The PTDL partnered with the local intellectual property bar association to host two sessions—one for patent attorneys and the other one for patent agents, paralegals, and patent administrators. The well-received seminars with USPTO Manager Bill Stryjewski included not only training on EFS, but also briefing on new developments, common filing mistakes, and time for questions and answers. Targeting independent inventors, the class titled “I Have an Idea, Now What?” is offered at the library several times during the year. Other recurring classes for the public include “Tips for Using the USPTO Web Site with an Emphasis on Patents,” “Focus on Trademarks,” and “Basic Business Research,” which includes an intellectual property segment. A patent searching class was presented at a local inventors’ meeting and was simultaneously Webcast. PubWest was briefly introduced to staff.

-- Marjory Cameron

West Lafayette, Indiana  
Purdue University

Staff at the Patent and Trademark Library Program at Purdue University have been working with individual inventors and mentored university students for EPICS and Entrepreneurship competitions. We are currently investigating ways to do instruction using Captivate software since less classroom instruction is requested. Charlotte Erdmann, PTDL representative attended the annual meeting of the Patent Information Users Group in May and acquired knowledge about specific databases that may help of the University’s Office of Technology Commercialization. We have discussed jointly funding some databases. Charlotte also presented a paper on searching nanotechnology patents using classifications systems at the annual meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education in June 2007.

The USPTO also sent John Calvert, head of the Inventors Assistance Program to do patent training session for several university classes and the Office of Technology Commercialization. The Libraries also hosted a session for library faculty and staff on perspectives of a patent examiner.

-- Charlotte Erdmann
CALL FOR PAPERS

The Intellectual Property Journal of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that publishes articles on intellectual property (IP), including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. The purpose of the journal is to foster communication among librarians and information professionals who provide IP research and training services or manage IP collections, producers of IP databases and anyone interested in IP information.

The journal welcomes submissions of original research papers on the history, organization, retrieval, application and analysis of IP information including but not limited to the following topics: research and information services; training services and materials; users of IP information and their needs; marketing and outreach programs; IP databases, IP classification systems and search tools; management of IP documents and publications; IP statistics and informatics; publishers of IP information; IP laws and treaties; bibliographies, research guides and literature reviews.

Call for Papers for Volume 5 (2008-2009)

The Journal invites proposals on all topics for volume 5, scheduled to be published in 2008-2009. Proposals should be submitted to the guest editor and include a title, overview of the subject to be covered and, if appropriate, a description of research methodologies, data sets and sources of information. All manuscripts, solicited and unsolicited, will be evaluated for interest and relevance to the readership, subject content, accuracy, readability and contribution to the field of intellectual property information. For more information on the preparation of manuscripts, please see the Advice to Authors at http://www.ptdla.org/journal/authors.

Reviewers Wanted

The Journal is seeking reviewers for upcoming issues. If you would like to be a reviewer for the journal, please contact the guest editor and indicate your areas of expertise or interest. Reviewers will receive articles for review in electronic format and will be expected to return their comments electronically.

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