You Do What You Do So Well

I know few of you or the challenges you face at your own Patent and Trademark Depository Library. While shaking your hand at a USPTO Training Seminar (trying to peek at your name tag), little do I know that you may have just the knowledge and expertise I need to help me with goals I’d like to accomplish — or maybe I have just gone through experiences that may provide answers to questions you have. I have saved and copied lots of insightful answers to questions provided via ALLPTDLS@uspto.gov as well as PTDLA-L@CLEMSON.EDU and, the proverbial mjwhite@ROCKETMAIL.COM. I’ve referred to the Trainings/Best Practices/Open Forums on the CDs of past seminars, read through resources shared on the PTDLP Commons, and looked at presentations we’ve shared on the PTDLA website. Yet…here, at our fingertips, is a glimpse into the happening of our own peers and the strategies they take to download their knowledge of patents and trademarks to others. For example, there is the Ohio quintet who brought on-the-road presentations to library branches, coined the Invent-a-Palooza program, choreographed the tri-state InventorFest, created an Index to Early Ohio Patents, provide 3 levels of patent searches in their PatentQuest Programs, coached “phone-walk” users through the 7-Steps search strategy, and created a display of 40 years of patents granted to their own university professors. The Texas Sextet offers tutorials on patent statistics, developed “Quick Guides” to local resources for inventors, made a Test Your Patent & Trademark Skills contest (with a prize!), has a WebBlog for patent and trademark information, trains ALL their librarians to provide patent and trademark information services, and even has a librarian who sits on the board of their local inventor’s group! Wyoming and Alaska have the lead in presentations on the usefulness of patent searching for genealogists. Kansas, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, and Utah have been teaching university classes on the fundamentals of patents and trademarks for their art, architecture, business, design, and engineering students. Besides involvement with inventor groups, rotary clubs, and Small Business Development Centers, how about participating in Invention Conventions or giving k-12 classroom sessions like Georgia and Florida! Online tutorials are the bomb in Alabama, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. Arkansas worked with a TV station to spotlight inventors in a program called “Bright Ideas.” Still…, nothing is quite as special as the individual attention we ALL provide to our walk-in inventors who receive our hallmark quality, one-on-one lessons in patent searching. Let’s tell it like it is – we do what we do SO WELL, we’re in a league of our own and we use our expertise, creativity and determination to shower intellectual property information throughout our territories. Read previous newsletters back to 2004 from the PTDLA Website, www.ptdla.org/.

Karon King
PTDLA Officers

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

Vice-President/President-Elect: Andrew Wohrley, Auburn, AL
wohrlaj@auburn.edu

Secretary: Marian Armour Gemmen, Morgantown, WV
marmour@wvu.edu

Treasurer: Jim Miller
jmiller2@umd.edu

Past President: Leena Lalwani, Ann Arbor, MI
llalwani@umich.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
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Region 5
Robert Klein, Miami, FL
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Region 10
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wjohnson@mplib.org

Region 11
Patrick Ragains,
ragains@unr.edu

Region 12
Marjory Cameron, Sunnyvale, CA
mcameron@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us
Executive Committee Resolutions

Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing

Ms. Jean Bishop

Whereas, Jean was granted a Significant Achievement Award from the PTDLP in 1994, recognizing her as the first PTDL librarian to obtain a patent, Patent no. 5,212,901 “Shock Absorbing Fishing Device”,

Whereas, Jean has presented patent and trademark workshops at Montana Tech of The University of Montana and at a variety of conferences on intellectual property since 1984,

Whereas, Jean has taught research classes at Montana Tech of The University of Montana, and incorporated patent searching as a component in developing ideas for their Campus Environmental Design Team,

Whereas, Jean has diligently coached inventors, who travel long distances in the large state of Montana, through one-on-one training in patent searching,

Whereas, Jean has answered a myriad of patent and trademark queries in person and via phone and e-mail,

Whereas, Jean has given computer lab training on U.S. and foreign patent databases, as well as Internet instructions on navigating the USPTO Web site,

Whereas, Jean has collaborated with business promotion groups, the Montana Department of Commerce, and Small Business Administration to provide assistance to independent inventors, students, and faculty,

Whereas, Jean has been a devoted member of the PTDLA and her humble manner has made her a friend to all at Patent and Trademark Depository Library Training Seminars,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Jean Bishop for her 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 the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
March, 2009
Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing
Ms. Connie Wu

Whereas, Connie has been a featured speaker at international conferences in China giving patent and trademark presentations in the Chinese language in Beijing, Shanghai, and Changchun,

Whereas, Connie has created and provided more than 60 presentations on intellectual property in the United States and abroad,

Whereas, Lecture notes from Connie’s presentations have been published in conference proceedings,

Whereas, Connie has published over 30 articles on intellectual property, including articles in *World Patent Information*,

Whereas, Connie Wu has represented Rutgers University, PTDL teaching dozens of classes to engineering students about the wealth of information through patent literature,

Whereas, Connie has given excellent patent presentations at PTDL Training Seminars and served as a cheerful representative from her Patent and Trademark Depository Library,

Whereas, Connie was awarded research grants, including one culminating in her paper, the Value of Non-Patent Literature in Patent Prior-Art Search,

Whereas, Connie has been the ever-willing ambassador in sharing her expertise on intellectual property with energy and enthusiasm,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Connie Wu for her 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 the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
March, 2009
Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing
Ms. Cynthia Banicki

Whereas, Cynthia Banicki has worked in the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office since 1996, sharing her knowledge and expertise with PTDL librarians throughout the country,

Whereas, Cynthia has given outstanding presentations at PTDL Training Seminars,

Whereas, Cynthia has served as a reference librarian, answering patent and trademark related questions sent in by PTDL staff,

Whereas, Cynthia has attended state patent and trademark workshops, as well as other conferences on intellectual property, sharing her expertise in presentations,

Whereas, Cynthia has coordinated special events for the PTDL Training Seminars enabling attendees to participate in cultural events in Washington, D.C.,

Whereas, Cynthia goes out of her way to meet and greet Seminar attendees. Her soft spoken manner makes us feel at home at our nation’s Capitol, in Arlington and Alexandria,

Whereas, in keeping with Cynthia’s generous nature, she has always been prominent in advancing recognition for PTDL librarians for their expertise in patents and trademarks,

Whereas, Cynthia has, for 13 years promoted PTDL services to other libraries, business organizations, and government agencies,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Cynthia Banicki for her 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 the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
March, 2009
Executive Committee Resolution

Recognizing

Ms. Joanne Tobin

Whereas, Joanne’s expertise in patents and trademarks has been a boon to inventors in Atlanta, the Georgia Institute of Technology community of students, faculty, and staff, and K-12 students in Georgia since 2000,

Whereas, Joanne answered thousands of patent and trademark questions at her PTDI, and provided over 1500 in-depth research consultations for students, faculty, staff and the general public,

Whereas, Joanne took a personal interest in helping inventors by creating online patent tutorials and patent and trademark research guides, and by attending and contributing to meetings of the Inventors Association of Georgia,

Whereas, Joanne provided patent instruction to undergraduate and graduate students at Georgia Tech, both on campus and off campus via videoconferencing, in classes in mechanical engineering, systems engineering, management, architecture, industrial design, and history,

Whereas, Joanne provided training to her colleagues at the Georgia Tech Library and to Institute faculty and staff in the Office of Sponsored Research and the Office of Technology Licensing in patents and trademarks and intellectual property,

Whereas, Joanne’s outreach efforts introduced elementary, high school, and gifted students in the Atlanta area to patents and trademarks in their classrooms,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Joanne Tobin for her 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 the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
March, 2009
Executive Committee Resolution

Recognizing

Ms. Bernice Littlejohn

Whereas, Bernice Lenora Smith Littlejohn has worked at the United State Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for seventeen years, since 1992, supporting the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program throughout,

Whereas, Bernice has both contributed to and set high standards for the PTDL Program Office, ensuring that PTDLs received what they needed when they needed it,

Whereas, Bernice recognized PTDL telephone numbers and voices coming in on the PTDLP toll-free line and greeted the caller by name before the caller could say anything more than “Hello,

Whereas, Bernice was the first person to greet us at the annual PTDL Training Seminars, with a warm and welcoming smile, and encouraging words to put us at ease, making sure no one felt left out,

Whereas, Bernice was the wind-beneath-our-wings at the Hospitality table, taking care of our every need at the training seminars, ensuring that we were in the right place at the right time and that both our arrivals and departures were as stress-free as possible,

Whereas, Bernice used her formidable talents in juggling multiple assignments while never forgetting the customer, often working from home or into the night to make sure people got what they needed,

Whereas, Bernice recently received a well-deserved promotion in another business area of the USPTO starting in 2009,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Bernice Littlejohn for her leadership and commitment to making PTDL Training Seminars a joy to attend, and for the many contributions that she has made to both the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDL Executive Committee
March, 2009
Executive Committee Resolution
Recognizing

Ms. Ola Flucas

Whereas, Ola worked as a Reference Librarian at the Arkansas State Library for 37 years helping patrons with patents and trademarks,

Whereas, Ola represented Arkansas State Library, PTDL at Patent and Trademark Training Seminars and contributed reports of the Arkansas State Library in the PTDLA Newsletter,

Whereas, Ola has been a major contributor to the success and growth of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library in Little Rock, Arkansas,

Whereas, Ola created and provided classes for the Arkansas SBDC First Trac New Venture Group,

Whereas, Ola promoted the Arkansas Inventor’s Network and was a constant force in promoting patent and trademark training in the public services section of the Arkansas State Library,

Whereas, Ola provided orientation sessions on patents and trademarks in comprehensive, fourteen week courses of the Arkansas Small Business Development Center,

Whereas, Ola’s professionalism and friendship are greatly missed and we’re grateful to her for her many years of excellent work,

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Ms. Ola Flucas for her 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 the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

We miss Ola and wish her many blessings in her retirement.
Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
March, 2009
President’s Message

Dear Patent and Trademark Depository Library colleagues,

Whether or not our own libraries show appreciation for our efforts during the year in providing patent and trademark resources to patrons, in thinking of ingenious ways to keep audiences tuned in to your presentations, in designing displays, giving workshops, rearranging work stations to accommodate researchers, etc., we should all give ourselves a pat on the back for a year well done.

I’m sectioning this report into topics of prominence for the past and present years:

**Annual Training Seminar 2008**

Last year’s Annual Training Seminar, April 6-11, was highlighted with training for first time attendees, three levels of training in PubWEST, patent Web site training, trademark Web site training, and training with CASSIS. It also included presentations about early unnumbered U.S. patents added to the USPTO patent database, resources available in the PTDLP Commons, Classification 101, and patent information from the European Patent Office. Best Practices topics were: Marketing & Strategizing Outreach for Patent & Trademark Presentations, Zotero & Patents, Obscure Historical Patent Documents of the Megenthaler Linotype Company, and Local Inventor Groups and the PTDL: A Win-Win Partnership.

Being able to receive professional training, sharing questions and answers with fellow PTDL staff and PTDL staff, and being able to get away from my own library (where we each have so many other responsibilities), allows me to focus on learning all I can in the realm of patents and trademarks. I’m all revved up when I return home to put all this new knowledge to work and implement new strategies to help inventors, students, faculty, and the general public.

**PTDL at ALA Annual Conference 2008**


**PTDL at ALA Annual Conference 2009**

This year’s ALA Conference will be in Chicago, IL and PTDLA plans to have three speakers on Saturday, July 11, from 1:30 to 3:00pm, on the subject, Intellectual Property for Diverse Library Customers. The three presentations include: From Inventors to Musicians- Intellectual Property Programs for Diverse Library Customers by John Schlipp, Black Inventors throughout the United States 1834-2008 by Margaret Collins, and Patents of Invention as Genealogical Resources by Dawn Rohan. If your library is sending you to ALA this year, please plan to attend these sessions.

**PTDL Web site**

[www.ptdla.org/](http://www.ptdla.org/) is a great place to find sources that can help us teach patent and trademark information to our recipients. In particular, two sections of our Web site continue growing by leaps and bounds: Handout Central and Online Resources: HANDOUT CENTRAL includes: USPTO Website Guide, Black Inventors 1834-2008 Index, Patents of Invention as Genealogical Source, Patent
Search Checklist, US Patent Number Guide, and US Trademark Number Guide, along with 31 other titles. ONLINE RESOURCES includes: patent databases (national, international, specialized, and historical), patent indexes and Annual Reports from the Commissioner of Patents, patent search tutorials, trademark databases of the world, and six other listings.

CASSIS
This year the ownership of the Cassis workstations was transferred from the USPTO to our own libraries. I’m thankful that we still have Cassis, particularly for downloading bulk search results, until, and if, the USPTO allows these extra search capabilities from their Web site.

32nd Annual PTDL Training Seminar, March 30-April 2, 2009
The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program at the USPTO was informed last year that their offices would be moving to Shirlington, Virginia in the winter of 2008 or spring of 2009. For this reason, our 2009 training seminar was shortened from six days to four. As it turns out, the PTDLP is moving right before our seminar into second floor space in the Patent Search Facility (the public library) in the Madison Building of the USPTO Campus.

Best Practices 2009
At this year’s seminar we have four Best Practice presentations scheduled by our peers: Bringing New “Life” to a PTDL: Easing the Burden by Bob Kackley, Jim Miller, et al; Tools and Simple Techniques for Visualizing Patent Data by Mike White; Outreach Strategies for PTDL Librarians by Jan Comfort; and Index and OG Collections in Hathi Trust by Leena Lalwani.

Welcome New Attendees (and repeat attendees)
As past president, Nan Myers, expressed in her report to new attendees, “You have an excellent experience ahead of you.” Each training seminar brings up-to-date reports of the USPTO and offers beginning through advanced training sessions for our enrichment. We also share experiences and “best practices” between our PTDLs. For me, after each training seminar, I’m confident with more knowledge and understanding of patents and trademarks, lit up with creative ways to teach and share this knowledge, and anxious with plans to work even harder the next year for my own Patent and Trademark Depository Library. I wish the same for all of you.

Special Thanks
I send special thanks to the PTDLA Election Committee and Bylaws Committee for their good work; to Charlotte Erdmann and Purdue staff for providing our electronic elections; to the team of Leena, Marian, and Jan who are providing box lunches for our Business Meeting; and especially to our PTDLP staff for the year long planning involved in giving us another PTDL Training Seminar.

Thank you for this opportunity to be your PTDLA President. May you each share your knowledge and expertise with the rest of us, making this Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association not only helpful to PTDLs, but to any library or individual interested in patent and trademark information.

Wishing you the best in the year to come,
Karon King, President
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association
Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report (February 2008)

There is a discrepancy between our records and the bank’s. It appears to me that we need either a good bookkeeper or a volunteer with 100 or more hours to go through and reconcile the differences. My personal inclination would be to accept the bank’s version, but as a corporate body, I suspect we have a responsibility to get this straightened out.

Jim Miller, PTDLA Treasurer

PTDLA Records
Balance as of 02/10/2008 (per 04/20/2008 Treasurer’s Report) .. $11,844.75
2008-2009 Deposits ............................................. $6,075.00
Total balance before withdrawals............................ $17,919.75
2008-2009 Withdrawals ........................................ $3,727.51
Balance as of March 3, 2009................................. $14,192.24

Bank Records
Balance as of January 1, 2008 (per bank) ................. $13,601.75
Deposits Jan. 2008 - March 3, 2009 ....................... $6,655.00
Total balance before withdrawals......................... $20,256.75
2008 - March 3, 2009 withdrawals ...................... $8,727.51
Balance as of Dec. 1, 2008 .................................. $11,529.24

Detailed deposits
01/15/2008 Dues ................................................. $25.00
02/02/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $530.00
03/04/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $1,460.00
04/01/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $1,280.00
04/15/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $1,545.00
05/06/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $230.00
07/15/2008 Dues ............................................... $25.00
01/16/2008 Fees, dues ......................................... $195.00
02/10/2009 Fees, dues ......................................... $570.00
03/02/2009 Fees, dues ......................................... $485.00
03/03/2009 Fees, dues ......................................... $285.00
Total Deposits .................................................... $6,075.00

Detailed withdrawals
04/07/2008 Leena Lalwani (PTDLA reception) ........... $425.71
04/07/2008 Jerry’s Pizza (business meeting lunch) ...... $202.46
04/09/2008 David Dickinson (honorarium) ............... $800.00
04/09/2008 Tom Melvin (incorporation) .................. $126.50
04/09/2008 Dawn Rohan (business meeting beverages) $11.62
04/12/2008 Leena Lalwani (certificate frames) ........... $26.22
05/08/2008 Sodexo (Director’s Reception) .............. $2,000.00
02/19/2009 Sacred Heart University (overpaid) ........ $25.00
02/24/2009 American Library Assoc. (Affiliate Dues) ... $110.00
Total Withdrawals ............................................... $3,727.51

Savings Account
02/02/2008 Certificate of Deposit ................................ $5,000.00
07/02/2008 Maturity (5-month auto renewal) ............ $5,070.42
12/02/2008 Maturity (5-month auto renewal) ............ $5,136.12

Business Savings
01/01/2008 Balance ............................................ $330.27
12/31/2008 Balance ($0.07 interest per month) ........ $331.11

Detailed withdrawals
02/02/2008 Certificate of Deposit ................................ $5,000.00
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Business Savings
01/01/2008 Balance ............................................ $330.27
12/31/2008 Balance ($0.07 interest per month) ........ $331.11
PTDLA Executive Council Meeting
Sunday, April 6, 2008, 6-9 p.m.
Residence Inn by Marriott, Alexandria, VA
Jim Miller, PTDLA Secretary

The 2008 Council Meeting of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) was called to order by President Leena Lalwani.

**Present:** Leena Lalwani (President), Karon King (Vice-President/President-Elect), Jan Comfort (Past President), Dawn Rohan (Treasurer), Jim Miller (Secretary), Martin Wallace (Region 1), Marian Armour Gemmen (Region 3), Bob Klein (Region 5), Nancy Spitzer (Region 8), Walt Johnson (Region 10), Dave Morrison (Archives Committee), Tom Melvin (By-Laws Committee), Linda Spiro (Long Range Planning Committee), Joanne Tobin (Long Range Planning Committee), Andrew Wohrley (Publications Committee)

**Minutes:** Minutes from March 18, 2007 Board Meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:** Jan thanked the Database Committee for its work encouraging PTO to add 500+ missing X-Patent records to the database.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dawn reports that area hotel costs are well over 6000, if we have to move the Seminar. Her brother, a CPA, says there is no problem with the amount of money in our account, and we can put 10,000 into a CD if possible. Our March 20, 2007 balance was $13,956; February 10, 2008 it was $16,844.75 including $5000 in a CD.

**Committees:**

**Archives:** Dave has 2 shelves, about 6 linear feet of archives, and cannot get support for them from his library. Someone needs to take them over, and preferably digitize them. They were originally divided by officer and committee papers. Newsletters include some regional ones. We need to make a plea at the PTDLA Business meeting, possibly to have a contractor handle them. About 3 large bank boxes will probably need to be moved out of Salt Lake City. Our web site could take scanned files.

**By-laws:** Tom reported on proposed changes for Past President and Regional Representatives. We could have 4-6 members at large serving 2 years to help with the Board’s and committees’ work. Regional Representatives hark back to the days before easy email communication. We could have fewer regions, possibly broken down by types of libraries. We could rely more on ad-hoc committees as needed. These changes would require By-Laws changes, and we need to bring them up at next year’s Seminar.

**Conference:** The Reception drew more people this year. Our speaker, David Dickinson from EPO, will cost $800. PTDLA presentations will be: Bob Kackley, Jim Miller (College Park) and Joanne Dugan (Baltimore), “Marketing & Strategizing Outreach for Patent & Trademark Presentations”; Andrew Wohrley (Auburn), “Free Zotero Firefox plug-in to manage patent citations”; Tom Melvin (Newark, DE), “Identifying historical patent related documents”; and Eileen Fischlschweiger (Fort Lauderdale), “Local Inventor Groups and the PTDL; A Win-Win Partnership”

**Elections:** Vote turnout was very low; people shifted jobs in many PTDLs. New officers are: Vice-President/President-Elect: Andrew Wohrley, Secretary: Marian Armour Gemmen, and Treasurer: Jim Miller. New Regional Reps are: Connie Wu (2), Jan Comfort (4), Esther Crawford (6), Nancy Spitzer (8), and Marjory Cameron (12). Walt Johnson and Chris Byrne tied for Region 10, and they agreed Walt will take it.

**Legislative & Government Affairs:** Committee was inactive this year, per Suzanne Holcomb’s email.

**Long Range Planning:** Linda shared comments to our web site. We will post revisions, and put a final date for commenting up to a vote in Wednesday’s PTDLA business meeting.

**Mentoring:** Informal mentoring this year; Jan sent information on 19 new attendees.

**Program Committee:** Topic for this year’s ALA Conference in Anaheim is: “Patent Information for Science and Technology Librarians”. Leena put out a call for presentations. Tom Turner of PTDL Office may present.

**Promotion & Outreach Committee:** No news, we may combine it with Publications.

*continued on next page...*
PTDLA Executive Council Meeting Continued

Publications Committee: The PTDLA Newsletter was mailed and also put on our Website. Doris Chaney, on 2 month detail to PTDLP, earned praise for replacing 2 defective pages on very short notice. Mike White sent a report on our IP Journal, established 7 years ago as a quarterly peer reviewed journal, but published only 3 times. It needs more volunteers, editors, technical workers and writers. He suggests that an outside focus group evaluate it. Possible ideas are to make it part peer reviewed, open it to writers outside of PTDLA, and offer free affiliate membership to contributors.

Esther reported that our Website has gotten 50,470 hits. She has asked Google to crawl our site. The domain is paid up for several years. We need new content on homepage. Jim Arshem’s large photo collection is a good source of PTDL history, but would need to be organized.

Old Business: We discussed membership issues; including affiliate members not necessarily being able to attend Seminar, possible $10 membership fee for students, and the potential conflict of interest with members from private companies.

The original X-Patent list from Jim Shaw had numbers, dates, and short titles. Since we added extra information, it seems wise to ask him about copyright. Jim, Dave and Karon can follow up on this.

Funds and investment: Dawn investigated credit card and Paypal payment. It seems to be not worth it for fewer than 200 members. One price quote was $3 per month and 30 cents per transaction, or $186 if all members used it. Five accounting departments have asked about it, and Paypal might attract more members. We could use Survey Monkey to see if members’ institutions could do credit card via Paypal. We get about 50-50 personal checks vs. institutional.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of PTDLA Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2008
USPTO Auditorium, Alexandria, VA 11:30 a.m.
Jim Miller, PTDLA Secretary

The 2008 Business Meeting of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) was called to order by President Leena Lalwani.

Minutes of 2007 Board Meeting: Approved.

President’s Report: Leena Lalwani thanked the Board, especially Treasurer and PTDLP Fellow Dawn Rowan, for a very successful pizza lunch. Retirees resolutions will be mailed out after the Seminar. Leena noted many PTDL librarians have retired and it’s getting increasingly hard to find candidates for PTDLA offices and committees. She thanked the Database Committee for its work with PTO to add over 500 missing X-Patents to the database. Jan Comfort’s letter to PTO was especially helpful in getting this accomplished.

Treasurer’s Report: The March 20, 2007 balance was $13,956. As of February 10, 2008, it was $16,844, including our $5000 CD. This does not include receipts at the current Seminar. Three members have never paid from last year. The balloons at this year’s Seminar may turn out to be donated. Today’s speaker fee for EPO’s David Dickinson is $800, and the pizza lunch is $300. The cost of PTDLA’s share of the Director’s Reception is under negotiation, and may be $3000. In the past, USPTO picked up all but $500, even when the total charge at the Crystal City Marriott was $6000.
Committee Reports:
Archives: Dave Morrison needs to give up the 6 linear foot collection, because of tight space at Salt Lake City. The collection has grown about 15% in the few years he has had it. He suggested that scanning the archives might be a good project for a tenure-track librarian. Donna Koch from Lincoln volunteered to help, and Tom Melvin thinks Newark DE could take the paper archive.

By-Laws: Main discussion concerned changing the By-Laws to discontinue the current Regional Representative system, since email has largely replaced the early need for them as means of transmitting information and coordinating PTO’s plans with each region. Comments included the difficulty of finding people to run for these offices, the need to make the Board smaller to be more in line with the size of the membership, and current Regional Reps reports of having had very little to do. Suggestions included having 2 representatives to the Board from each type of PTDL: Academic, Public, and Special. By a show of hands, most members supported that idea. One suggestion was to have small or underfunded PTDL’s represented, to allow for those that have trouble sending an attendee to Seminar every year. Another comment was that PTDLA is one of the few library organizations not split into smaller sections. Tom Melvin will compile suggestions, including any sent later.

Conference: Leena Lalwani thanked Jan Comfort for the turtles and other table decorations at the lunch, Marian Armour Gemmen and Jim Miller for helping with shopping, and all those who helped with setup for the PTDLA Reception. She thanked David Dickinson for his EPO presentation, and PTDLA presenters Bob Kackley, Joanne Dugan, Andrew Wohrley, Tom Melvin, and Eileen Fischlschweiger.

Elections: Bob Klein reported that it was harder than ever to get even one candidate per office. Final election results are: Vice-President: Andrew Wohrley, Secretary: Marian Armour Gemmen, and Treasurer: Jim Miller. New Regional Reps are: Connie Wu (2), Jan Comfort (4), Esther Crawford (6), Nancy Spitzer (8), and Marjory Cameron (12). Walt Johnson and Chris Byrne tied for Region 10, and they agreed Walt will take it. Further discussion underscored the feeling that we should change the Regional Rep system, and reduce the number of committees.

Long Range Planning: Linda Spiro reported on feedback received from drafts of the PTDLA Strategic Plan. The Vision and mission statements were accepted by voice vote. The Committee will post the latest version of the plan on the PTDLA website for further comments.

Mentoring: Has been added to the immediate Past President’s duties. Jan Comfort got information from PTDLP on 19 new attendees, and we did informal mentoring this year.

Program: Topic for this year’s ALA Conference presentation, 4:00-5:00pm on June 28th in Anaheim is: “Patent Information for Science and Technology Librarians”. Leena put out a call for presentations and has gotten a few responses.

Publications: Suzanne Holcombe sent us a report, noting that she emailed PDFs of the PTDLA Newsletter and Esther Crawford posted it on our Website. We thanked Chris Kitchens for 100 print copies; and Doris Chaney, on 2 month detail to PTDLP, who replaced two defective pages on very short notice. Suzanne is happy to continue as Publications Chair, but welcomes any help.

Leena gave Mike White’s report on our IP Journal, established 7 years ago as a quarterly peer reviewed journal, but published only 3 times. It needs more volunteers, editors, technical workers and writers.

Our discussion resulted in suggestions including changing it to partially peer-reviewed; notifying members when new issues go out; more coordinated work by the Committee on all forms of publications: handouts, presentations, archives, website, and IP Journal; further email discussion of the Journal on PTDLA-L; and possibly a “statement of credibility” in the Journal itself.
Webmaster Esther Crawford reports our Website has gotten 50,470 hits. We thanked Margaret Collins for her African American patents collections that have been added to our History page. Some of the links to full text are dead, and Martin Wallace will fix them. In answer to Margaret’s concern regarding potential sensitivity to ethnic stereotypes in some of these early patents, Martin mentioned he had used them in a class demonstration that included negative cultural aspects of patents as well as the positive history of minority inventors themselves.

**New Business:** Dave Morrison called for thanks to all of the officers, and incoming president Karon King gave special thanks to Leena for her work this year.

Meeting was adjourned.

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**PTDLA Open Forum**

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, USPTO Auditorium
Jim Miller, PTDLA Secretary

Representing USPTO: Chris Kitchens (PTDL Program Manager), Mike Harrigan (PTDLP Office), Mande Putnam (Public Records Manager); Lyn Donaldson, Maureen Daley, Brookey Givens, Bruce Cox (Electronic Information Products); Dave Bender (International Liaison), Jim Charnley (Office of Patent Classification); Martha Sneed, Susan Fawcett (Public Information Services)

**PubWEST Discussion. Many agreed proxy server is a problem:**
Ran Raider (Dayton): PubWest needs dedicated workstation (because proxy and TIFF viewer hard to maintain on all stations)

Michelle Hayslett (Raleigh): have to maintain FAQ for special login information.

Connie Wu (Piscataway): patrons resist secure ID login

Mike Harrigan: must keep proxy – USPTO firewall demands it.

Martha Sneed: many different public workstation configurations make dedicated station necessary. Even teleworking examiners have to use SecureID

Linda Spiro (Houston): see Tom Turner and Mike Harrigan’s login instructions and screen shots on PTDL Commons.

Chris Kitchens: PTDL Commons session on Friday.

Specific PubWEST problems – Martha: there are plans to put examiner tools on the web, but no money for it this year. Mike: there is a joint request for Excel downloads both for WEST and PubWEST, but not in this year’s budget.

Martha Sneed: Loud rumbling overhead is setup for TM Expo.

**Website and Databases**
Bruce Cox: new website will be from the point of view of a total outsider; will have a new infrastructure.

Karon King (Des Moines): Will USPC index be easier to find?

Jim Charnley: Working on PDF index, will look at links.

Bruce Cox: Will try for one click to search patents and trademarks, with MPEP not far down.

Jan Comfort (Clemson): Front Matter needed in Manual of Classification; how to search

Charlotte Erdmann (West Lafayette): Any plans to combine Grants and PGPub search, and change TIFFs to PDFs?

Bruce Cox: no plans to combine search. PDFs are purely a policy issue – it is technically possible. Data Mining is an issue; they are looking at solutions.

Mande Putnam: This is on the radar; discussed on lists, but hasn’t made it to top priority.

Charlotte Erdmann: TESS has links to status, assignments, etc; any plans for Patft to do the same for patents?

Mande Putnam: That is on our list. (Martha Sneed took note of question)

Charlotte Erdmann: How current is USPC updating?

Jim Charnley: Current to Feb. 2008; Martha Sneed: Online now

**CASSIS Plans:**
Margaret Collins: Please save Cassis until the Web replaces its features; one of our recent classes used parts of it.

Maureen Daley: Cassis products won’t be phased out; only the support for the workstations will be.

Connie Wu: but we need workstations for Cassis DVDs.
Maureen Daley: Bruce Cox can advocate for Cassis support, but the DVDs do work on any PC

Bruce Cox: Cassis does have good features, but the examiners’ need drive the system. Will have to convince SIRA (Search and Information Resources Administration) that Cassis on the Web would be useful. Bruce’s website redesign job is temporary – he does not see himself as influencing Cassis plans.

Marian Armour-Gemmen (Morgantown): “DVDs are what make us a depository; symbolic to administrators.

Martha Sneed: Some PTDLs still maintain even print, but “footprint” of most PTDLs has on average become much smaller. Marketing of services is equally important at PTDLs and USPTO.

Mande Putnam: recruiting new examiners is another potential role for PTDLs

Andrew Wohrley (Auburn): If hardware is going away, can we get specifications for replacement?

Maureen Daley: wants input from us; not necessarily getting rid of equipment; may turn it over to us. There are no plans to discontinue the information products.

Margaret Collins: If USPTO recalls or surpluses the equipment, the printers are very good.

Martha Sneed: “Surplus” in this case means giving them to the PTDLs.

Maureen Daley: Not cost effective to return them to USPTO; there will be advance notice of turning them over to PTDLs.

Patron applicant questions: Hal Mendelsohn (Orlando) had a patron who wanted more secure application system on Web; wondered about EPO and PCT filing.

Brookey Givens: Patron can click the “Clean Up Searches” icon on Cassis to delete searches.

Mande Putnam: PCT is not a “World Patent”, just simplifies process of applying in multiple countries.

Resources for patrons: Martha mentioned MYPE as THE resource examiners use for PCT information, for example, see MYPE section 2400 for “Biological Deposits”. David Press-

man’s Patent it Yourself translates MPEP into regular English. Mande: remember TMEP also.

Official Gazette issues: Stewart Chun (Honolulu) raised the question of OG on DVD; any chance of backup if we lose the microfilm of older ones?

Martha Sneed: USPTO won’t convert old OGs; there are commercial sources. She had tried to get some Public Search Room items digitized and these were much smaller than the OGs. Google may be scanning old OGs.

Maureen Daley: Scanning film costs up to 50 cents/image

Nancy Spitzer (Madison): Madison and Ann Arbor both have digitized OGs.

Leena Lalwani (Ann Arbor): Date determines availability on Google Books; use “M Books” option in Merlin to get to some of them, but U of Michigan does not have full OG run.

Pat Ragains (Reno): DVD index of Reports of the Commissioner has caused problems for his library, he welcomes comments from others.

Martha Sneed: Those DVDs are not a supported product; PT-DLP Office had second thoughts about even making it available. Comments are welcome, they will keep considering it. On a related note, USPTO has pre-National Weather Service weather information that could be made available.

Brooke Givens and Maureen Daley: These Reports of the Commissioner are all separate indexes. Check with Brookey and with Michael Hydorn – these DVDs are very machine-dependent.

Historical Data and Retrospective Indexing:
Dave Morrison (Salt Lake City): Need retro index for ALL patents. PTDLs see the importance of historical and genealogical information every day, but USPTO sees only the needs of examiners in granting new patents. We see ALL patent information as very important [applause].

Susan Fawcett: National Archives believes some of USPTO’s information should be made permanently available and more is coming online.

Martha Sneed: 1800’s assignee info is in National Archives. 

continued on next page...
Margaret Collins (Springfield): EPO, Google, Lexis understand need – why not USPTO? She often comes across “problem patents”, uses Google Patents to find correct information and sends USPTO notice of errors.

Martha Sneed: EPO will probably do [more retrospective indexing] first; not being worked on at USPTO. No systematic correction with Google, USPTO only sells data to Google.

Bruce Cox: “Beltway blindness”; attitude that “2400 new examiners don’t need historical data; hard to persuade people to see the whole picture. Send a letter to the Undersecretary.

Martha Sneed (noting David Dickinson’s presentation): EPO takes a much more sympathetic stand toward patent information to the public and sees it as an important byproduct of the entire process of patenting.

Message from Program Office

“The times they are a-changin”
Song by Bob Dylan

2008 has been a busy year for the PTDL Program.

This year we were pleased to welcome the 23rd Fellow, Alexis Carrasquel, from Louisiana State University Libraries in Baton Rouge. Alexis began her fellowship in May, and you will have the opportunity to greet her at this year’s seminar. We bid farewell to our 22nd fellow Dawn Rohan of the Wyoming State Library. Dawn wrapped up her fellowship in September and returned to Cheyenne, WY.

We are also bidding a sad farewell to Cynthia Banicki as she retires with 30 years of government service. Many of you have worked with Cynthia during her time with the PTDL office, and her presence as a part of our team will certainly be missed. We very much appreciate all her hard work and the many outstanding contributions she made to the PTDL program over the years. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

In January 2008 Bernice Littlejohn, who has been associated with the PTDL Program since she began working at USPTO in 1992, received a promotion to USPTO’s Office of General Counsel as an Administrative Management Specialist. Bernice started in PTDL as a Program Assistant and worked her way up to a high level Program Analyst in the Public Information Services Division (PISD). While we are sad to see her go we are pleased for her success.

Both Cynthia and Bernice will be making a “guest appearance” Tuesday, March 31, 2008 at the Annual PTDL Training Seminar. Everyone will have the opportunity to join them for an informal no host lunch on Tuesday at the USPTO cafeteria to say farewell.

Throughout the year our Program Office visited PTDLs in support of both public programs and library staff training. Tom Turner, Doug Salser, and Alexis Carrasquel presented public programs and library staff training in both San Antonio, TX and Albany, NY. Doug and Tom provided public programs at the Akron PTDL’s “Invent-a-Palooza. In addition to PTDL visits, our staff had a very busy summer exhibiting at several conferences: ALA in Anaheim, SLA in Seattle, and ASEE in Pittsburgh.

Over the last few years PTDL librarians have requested as a priority that the VHS video “Conducting a Patent Search at a PTDL” be updated. We were very pleased this year to be able to provide the PTDLs with an updated version that is a computer based training CD entitled “How to Conduct a Preliminary U.S. Patent Search.” This training module has also been made available on the USPTO website.

This year ownership of the USPTO Cassis workstation was transferred to each PTDL. This project is now very close to completion, and I want to thank everyone for your support and assistance with this major undertaking.

The PTDL offices are on the move once again. We are relocating to the second floor of the Public Search Facility. This is an exciting move for our office which will open up new opportunities for collaboration with staff of the Public Search Facility. We are both part of the organization within the USPTO that provides patent and trademark information assistance to the public. We are currently preparing our offices for the move, and hope to be settled in our new location in by late February.

We are now making the final preparations for the upcoming 32nd annual seminar. This year’s seminar will be on a shortened schedule, and we encourage you to participate in making this seminar a success. We look forward to seeing you all here on campus very shortly.

Chris
PTDLA Journal Annual Report

Established in 2001, the Intellectual Property Journal of the PTDLA (ISSN 1534-1143) 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. The journal accepts submissions from both PTDLA members and non-members. Archived issues are available on the PTDLA website at http://www.ptdla.org/journal. All manuscripts go through a double-blind peer review process.

The journal is administered by the association’s Publications Committee and an editorial board consisting of six members, including three editors. An advisory board consisting of three members also provides support. At the beginning of 2009, the editorial board listed on the PTDLA website included the following members:

- Mary Kordyban (affiliation unknown)
- Leena Lalawani (University of Michigan)
- Nan Myers (Wichita State University)
- Rachel Walker (affiliation unknown)
- Martin Wallace (University of Maine)
- Michael White (Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario)

Technical support is provided by Esther Crawford of Rice University and other members of the PTDLA website sub-committee.

No new manuscripts were received in 2008-2009, once again raising serious questions about the sustainability of the journal. Although the journal was established with much enthusiasm and the best of intentions, it has struggled to fulfill its mission. Since its inception in 2001 only twelve papers have been published: six in 2001, four in 2003 and two in 2007. Four of the articles were submitted by non-members. Five of the authors who were PTDLA members at the time of publication are no longer employed by a PTDL library. Several potential authors who submitted proposals for articles withdrew after they accepted new positions or promotions. Competition from well-known journals such as World Patent Information and Government Information Quarterly has made recruiting authors very difficult.

It is my opinion that the PTDLA should form a committee to explore and offer recommendations on the future of the journal. The committee’s terms of reference should be brief and the deadline for submitting a final report should be set within six months. The membership of the committee might consist of eight members, with at least one representative from PTDLs in academic, public and state libraries, and at least two external members familiar with intellectual property information and/or library services.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michael White
Guest editor
michael.white@queensu.ca
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program

Akron, Ohio
Akron-Summit
County Public Library

We are in our 19th year as a PTDL. The patent collection is located in our Science and Technology Department. A lot of new and exciting things are happening here at the Akron PTDL this year. First, we have a new librarian, Monique Mason, who is working with the patent and trademark collection with me. You will get to meet her this spring as she will be representing the Akron PTDL at conference. Francie Labriola who used to work with patents here in the science department was promoted to the head of the Magazine and Newspaper department. We wish her all the best. We continue to work on the Summit County Patent Index, where we are in the process of collecting all the patents from our local inventors from 1790 to present. This will be of special interest to genealogists and local historians. We are also teaching three different intellectual property classes. One, the “How to do a Patent Search” where we feature the “Seven Step Search Strategy”, another class on trademarks and a general intellectual property class where we talk about the differences of patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets. This fall we will be hosting our second “Inventaplooza”, a day long inventor festival that will feature guest speakers, a round table, exhibitor tables as well as children and teen activities.

Curtis Bower

Albany, New York
New York State Library

Two notable things happened this past year. In November Tom Turner, Alexis Carrasquel and Doug Salser came to Albany to present a full day public seminar at our library. The turn out was good. The audience was an interesting mix of IP professionals, independent inventors and economic development types. Tom, Alexis and Doug did a great job. By the time the afternoon break came around the atmosphere was more like a party than a seminar. A spike in patent and trademark activity at the library followed – a number of the attendees have come back in, mostly to use PubWEST.

Tom stayed over and attended the New York Library Association annual conference in Saratoga Springs, NY the next day where he presented a fine program aimed at librarians titled “Helping Your Customers with their Patent and Trademark Questions.” Ken Johnson of New York Public Library, Alla Levi and Kate Meddau of Central Library of Rochester and I also participated in the program. We gave an overview of the PTDL network and Tom gave a how-to look at using the USPTO web site. Many thanks to Tom and the PTDL office for making those two programs possible.

The other notable event this past year has been welcoming a new State Librarian to New York. Bernard Margolis was appointed to that post late in 2008 and began work in January, 2009. The State Librarian serves as head of the New York State Library. Bernie, as he quickly let us know he prefers to be called, last served as director of the Boston Public Library (also a PTDL). He has wasted no time in getting to know our library and its staff. We have quickly seen that he understands libraries, brings leadership and a broad range of experience to the job, and has a dedication to public service. In these dismal economic times, his arrival is providing us with something to be optimistic about.

Bill Schilling

Albuquerque, New Mexico
University of New Mexico

UNM hosted an all-day Independent Inventor’s Conference in February of 2008. We also held a half-day workshop for librarians at the NM State Library in Santa Fe. Both received very positive feedback. The New Mexico state budget is suffering. The university libraries have been facing cuts in the materials budget and positions are generally not replaced as people retire. The Science and Engineering Library recently lost another librarian. Library administrative travel was unfunded this year (money which would have gone to fund my attendance at the PTDL seminar). Otherwise, business as usual.

Jacki 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. We are celebrating our 25th year as a PTDL this year. We were official designated as PTDL on Nov 4, 1983. Our 25th anniversary celebration is April 7th 2009 along with 125 years for Federal Depository Library Program at Michigan.

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, Paul Grochowski, Annette Haines, Sara Henry, Meredith Kahn and Jamie Lausch.

I created collections for some of the patent resources in Hathi Trust/Google digitized books. I will present more information on this at the seminar. We conducted several workshops for staff and students and also 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

Auburn, Alabama
Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

The big news for the PTDL was gaining the legal title to the CASSIS workstation. This was more involved a project than for other libraries, so it might be worthwhile to tell the whole story. In the past year the library received a generous donation from the CEO of EBSCO (A fine Birmingham, AL firm of whom you may have heard!), and since the condition of the gift was that it not go toward materials, so as to avoid a conflict of interest between the donor and his business, we decided to devote the gift to recarpeting the library.

The result was that the 1st and 2nd floors of the library were recarpeted over Christmas break and the Patent Collection was boxed up. The Systems department took the opportunity to take the CASSIS workstation to its offices, re-ghost it according to the instructions that the USPTO, and they replaced the old monitor with a new flat-screen monitor.

Our old, beaten blue carpet is replaced with a nice carpet with a gold pattern which brightens the floors up nicely. If the new carpet ever gets beaten like the old one, it is in replaceable squares so the new carpet should look better even after use.

We also took the opportunity to move most of the Patent and Trademark Gazettes into closed storage. The recarpeting project allowed us to make the library lobby a more wide-open space by removing shelves, and moving the books around, which required us to move the Gazettes.

I am preparing for the Alabama Inventor’s Conference in Jacksonville, AL on March 26. There, I plan to talk about the PTDL and its services and what we can do for inventors.

Andrew Wohrley

Baltimore, Maryland
University of Baltimore Law Library

Greetings from Baltimore! After a couple of years of frenzied activity, UB settled into life as a “mature” PTDL. We now have a handful of regulars who use the PTDL workstation, plus we get a steady stream of phone calls. I continue to offer research classes for courses on intellectual property here at the law school. In March, I presented a program on Basic Patent Law Search Strategies at the Annual Meeting of the South Eastern Association of Law Libraries. And … I finally have a very basic patents page up on the library’s website. Lots more to do there, but it’s great to have taken the first step.

Joanne Dugan Colvin

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Louisiana State University

Alexis Carrasquel is a Fellow at the PT-DLP at USPTO 2008-2009.
Work continues on the Alabama Inventors Database. Coverage currently includes the years 1821 – 2003 and consists of almost 30,000 entries. In addition to the database, our staff continues to search for additional information about Alabama’s inventors. This information is included in a bibliography of newspaper articles, websites, and other biographical information and currently includes information about more than 300 Alabama inventors. “Alabama Inventors: Additional Resources” is available as a link from the Alabama Inventors Database page at: http://bpldb.bplonline.org/db/inventors

During the Alabama Library Association Convention in April 2008, Becky presented a program about the development of the Birmingham Public Library’s local databases located at: http://bpldb.bplonline.org/

She also presented a program, “How to Conduct a Preliminary Patent Search,” to a local inventors group, Invent Alabama, in November 2008.

Michelle Andrews and Becky Scarborough

Hello from Buffalo NY,

The Buffalo PTDL is located in the Business Science & Technology Dept. (BST) at the Central Public Library in Buffalo NY. Within BST we have a Patent & Trademark Center with a dedicated computer and a collection of circulating and reference materials. We have six librarians in the department, all cross trained in patent & trademark information. This year’s patent outreach was slightly curtailed when I went on family sick leave for three months. Everything worked out well and I now have a little daughter, Emma Grace. Thank you to everyone who sent kind wishes to me and my family and later congratulations. I missed the PTDL seminar last year but thanks to the training disk I was able update my classes and present them to the five other librarians in our dept. This cross training takes about six hours and is split into three days. The first two hour session covers a review of Intellectual Property (Patent, Copyright and Trademarks) the next section, Trademarks, and the third Patents. These PTDL training classes bring all our librarians (most familiar with the basics) up to date on searching the USPTO website, CASSIS and West. Cross training in our department is heavily emphasized to maximize the quality of our PTDL service to our patrons.

I also work closely with our local Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center and SCORE adding to their workshops with insights on intellectual property and its importance in business. This past fall I was the featured speaker at two local business workshops sponsored by SCORE. The first workshop focused on an overview of intellectual property in business, and the second workshop covered market research tools and resources. As well as PTDL representative I am also in charge of the Central Libraries Small Business collection and outreach. Having control of both collections I have the ability to order materials that deal with conducting market research and how to find customers. These materials, along with resources from the USPTO compliment each other and provide potential inventors the business intelligence they need before the patent process begins. If they have a patent, these materials help them gain insights on how to sell their invention as a business or lease their ideas.

I also continue to work with teachers to prepare curriculums covering inventing, creative thinking, and the history of invention. Reinventing the Wheel, the history of the bicycle video, remains very popular among the teachers and leads in well to the creative process of inventing. Depending on the grade level some students may draw or create inventions, while others write on inventing or particular inventors. I have also spoken at the University at Buffalo about the patent classification system to students enrolled in both the School of Library & Information Studies and Engineering Departments. (They still love the Koosh ball example)

Currently there is a new inventor group forming in Buffalo. I have introduced myself and have offered assistance. Hopefully this group can grow and our PTDL can offer them facilities and resources for any upcoming events. I know I’ll be looking for any ideas about cultivating inventor groups at this upcoming conference, and I look forward to seeing everyone in April.

Dan Caufield
Burlington, Vermont
Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont

The Burlington PTDL is housed in Government Documents and Maps at the Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont. Our staff remained intact this year comprised of our Government Documents & Maps gang of three plus me. Lots of interest in patents from students and faculty. A number of faculty members wanted to track down their own patents. It seems they had misplaced their copies. (Absent-minded professors?) This lead to a new rule; Free patent printing when you are one of the named inventors. We continue to notice increased sophistication in our patrons. Lots of tough questions.

Scott Schaffer

Butte, Montana
Montana Tech Library, University of Montana

Montana Tech Library’s long-time Patent Librarian and Professor Emeritus, Jean Bishop, is retiring in May – for good this time she says! Jean will be greatly missed not only by the library staff, but by inventors across Montana. Jean has been busy as usual. Last semester she presented two Patent sessions to a Senior Engineering Class here at Montana Tech of The University of Montana. The students viewed and evaluated the 36-minute tutorial, “How to Conduct a Preliminary U.S. Patent Search.” Their evaluations were generally favorable, but they did think the tutorial was too long. The students also did patent searching on the PTO homepage, and Jean gave them a demonstration of PUBWEST. One of Jean’s recent projects was to create a unique trademark display in the library called “Hall of Trademarks.”

She used three large trademark and intellectual property posters and displayed numerous trademark symbols. It will not be easy to fill Jean’s shoes, but Mr. Scott Juskiewicz, the library’s new Science & Technology Librarian, will be in that spot after May. Scott is looking forward to being a first time attendee at the 2009 Patent Training Seminar this spring.

Ann St Clair
Montana Tech Library Director
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Wyoming State Library

Thanks to my absence and new job responsibilities the Cheyenne PTDL has been a little less active this past year. A few weeks before returning to Cheyenne from the fellowship at the PTDL P I was named acting FDLP representative and Federal Documents Librarian for the State Library. While learning my new responsibilities, the State Library was also experimenting with a new shared regional depository model with the university in Laramie and preparing for the library’s move to our new location back near the Capitol Complex. The PTDL has unfortunately received less attention from me as a result.

The creation of the state trademarks database remains a priority for the PTDL and the library will be hiring a new staff member to assist me with scanning the 10,000 inactive applications in the State Archives and entering metadata in the database (along with assisting numerous other library digitization projects). I continue to visit the Secretary of State’s office to scan new trademark applications and renewals.

Dawn Rohan

Clemson, South Carolina

R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

I have recently made the move from being the Government Documents Librarian (after 10 years) to being the Engineering Reference Librarian. This is just a change in subject specialty - I am still part of the Reference Unit. But I am very happy to have made the switch. I will have more direct contact with students and faculty, and I didn’t realize how much I had missed it until I was back in the swing of it. In addition, I will have responsibility for a small library at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research – CU-ICAR for short. This is one of the few programs in the country that offers a Ph.D. in Automotive Engineering, and it is a very visible group. We share a campus with BMW, Michelin, Timken, and there will be other partners in the future. It will be nice to have an excuse to travel to Greenville, and the campus is very near Whole Foods – a real treat for those of us in the boonies.

There has been a slight change in the USPTO workstation location as well. It has been moved closer to the Reference Desk, and we ordered a 2nd CD-ROM Cabinet to house the growing collection of disks. We got the order in just in time, too. Like many other states, South Carolina is really struggling financially. All state employees were furloughed for varying amounts of time. At Clemson, everyone took 5 days off without pay. There have been huge cuts throughout our budget, including our materials budget. We didn’t have to cut any journals this year, but if things continue at the same pace, we are facing much deeper cuts next year. I sincerely hope that we weather this storm and that I have better news to report next year.

Because of our uncertain budget situation and my new subject responsibilities, I was not able to continue my Creative Inquiry (Undergraduate Research) project that I started last spring. So I basically had a semester long project of teaching 5 students all about intellectual property and patent searching. I hope to pick this back up in the fall, but there are many planets that will need to line up for that to happen. I do plan to be a judge at this year’s Invention Convention, which will be held in early March. I look forward to seeing my colleagues. Wish we could ALL be together.

Jan Comfort

College Park, Maryland

Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, University of Maryland

Our main event this year is our 25th Anniversary Celebration on March 4, 2009. Doug Salser from USPTO will present our 25 year Certificate. Following remarks by Interim Dean of Libraries Dr. Desider Vikor, Bob Kackley and Jim Miller will present “Patent Searching: Making the Most of the Free Databases for Business, Engineering & Science”. The event will close with a reception and light refreshments. EPSL Head Nevenka Zdravkovska has been a cheerful and very efficient organizer of this event. Through May, we also have an exhibit: “Plant Patents. Collections at EPSL” Karyna Witoszka-Swistak curated this exhibit, featuring full color plant images and even color copies from the old microfiche Plant Patent set. See www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/ptdl25th.html.

On October 29 Bob and Jim gave a presentation for staff at George Mason University, hosted by Theresa Calcagno, formerly a grad assistant at College Park and now Engineering Librarian at GMU. In November, EPSL staff enthusiastically welcomed Agriculture Librarian Damon Austin, who joined our team after 3 years in McKeldin Library.

Continued on next page
Since last Fall’s economic crash, we have noticed less patent and trademark business from the general public. Under Bob Kackley’s leadership we have taught more classes and continue to help with Gemstone and other honors student teams. As one of the University Libraries’ major contributors to Questionpoint, I have seen a significant increase in patent and trademark questions there. Usually, the patrons have not thought about patent and trademark resources.

Jim Miller

Dallas, Texas
Dallas Public Library

Patent Librarian Jared Saxon was promoted to Integrated Library Management System (ILS) Project Manager for the Library beginning in May 2008. Previous to that he had been filling the position on an interim basis. We miss his expertise!

The patent collection is an unending source of material for tours and displays in the division. In March we organized a display on the First Floor of the Library which included, among other things, the design patent for Howdy Doody (D156,687). For the un-initiated, Howdy Doody was a puppet character in a children’s television program airing from 1947 – 1960. Popular topics for school tours include patents and inventors, crime scene investigation resources, and “glow in the dark” maps. We have a permanent exhibit of African American inventors inspired by the video From Dreams to Reality which was distributed by the PTDLP Office in prior years.

The bi-monthly One-to-One: Questions and Answers inventor workshops continue to be well received. There are slots for 10 inventors in the 20-minute individual sessions with patent attorney Bob Wise. Bob is a former patent examiner and the president of the Texas Inventors Association. We always have a waiting list for this program. It’s especially fun when we get young inventors coming to the workshop. In the most recent session we had two different teenage inventors attend with a parent.

In November Oklahoma-based patent agent Robert Frantz drove down to teach a program titled You Asked for It!: What Inventors Really Want to Know. Most of the workshop was organized around questions inventors submitted in advance but allowed plenty of time for additional questions that cropped up during the program. Thirty-one people attended the 3 ½ hour workshop. We’ve done this kind of program once before. Robert is funny and very sharp.

Progress was made this year in restoring access to PubWEST thanks to help from persistent Library staff, PTDLP staff, and our Computer and Information Services techs. With luck we have found a reliable “fix” and will soon (with some staff training) be able to offer this resource again to our library users. Access was lost several years ago when a new firewall was implemented by the City.

Once again we hosted a Patent and Trademark Office Trademark Trials and Appeals Board Judge based in Dallas who utilized the Library’s videoconference facility to participate in Appeals Board hearings on several occasions.

Library Director Laurie Evans received a note of thanks from the PTDLP Office commending the cooperative partnership between the PTO, the Copyright Office and Dallas Public Library in presenting and promoting a videoconference on copyright issues to the local community. The letter said they would use this presentation as a model for future cooperative programs.

All in all, it’s been an interesting and productive year.

Johanna Johnson
Dayton, Ohio

Wright State University

Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University Dayton, Ohio

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Library has been a PTDL since 2000. Our PTDL collection is stored in the Information Commons area of the main library.

Our walk-in patron counts were up this year and we also had increases in telephone and email reference (303). I continue to provide 2 basic intellectual property classes, 6 patent and 2 trademark workshops a year. There were a total of 147 workshop attendees this year. This increase from last year includes 2 additional engineering classes. I was invited to speak at a local small business conference in October. My presentation covered basic information and useful web sites for research. I have begun incorporating more information on copyrights in the workshops. There has been a definite increase for copyright information in our area. I have also co-presented with the university’s new tech transfer director on a number of occasions. Since she is a patent attorney, she covers the legal issues and this allows me to concentrate on researching patents.

We launched our historical inventors’ database in July. The database covers a nine county area around Dayton and includes over 5,000 individual names, some with historical notes. We plan on expanding the database past 1875 to 1920 when possible.

Ran Raider

Des Moines, Iowa

State Library of Iowa

Iowa’s PTDL is part of the State Library of Iowa, located in a 101-year old beautifully renovated Miller building.

Along with five other state buildings, we’re all connected through underground tunnels to the State Capitol where another part of the State Library is located – the Law Library. The Miller building has several comfortable classrooms where, this year, we offered classes on “Patent Searching Made Easier,” and “Trademarks; Empowering the Customer” to regional libraries. We gave a presentation to a group called SLAM (Special Libraries Across the Metro) on our role as a Patent and Trademark Depository Library. Since our Library is not open in the evenings, we’ve been giving community adult education classes for the last two years in the evenings at a local high school. Last year’s topic was “Calling All Inventors; Protecting Your Ideas.”

As always, on a daily basis, we enjoy answering questions on all types of intellectual property, instructing patrons on doing patent searches to determine the patentability of an invention. Frequently we also help researchers doing historical searches for old inventions as well as trademark searches for businesses in Iowa that no longer exist.

Highlights of the year:
Our Iowa Inventors Database is now updated from 1843 through 2008
http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/patents/index.cgi

Our Iowa Trademark Index is completed from 1870 through 2008, but we’re still waiting for access to house a database provided the State Library of Iowa “Iowa Heritage Digital Collections” which will enable direct links to these trademark images…(hope to brag about this in next year’s newsletter).
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Broward County Main Library

Hi Readers!

My name is Eileen Fischlschweiger. I’ve been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL Representative for twelve years, and have worked at the PTDL in the capacity of Patent and Trademark Librarian for fourteen. I have worked for the Broward County Library System for over 20 years. 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 (BLG) Section since the Library reorganization in November of 1996.

Happy Anniversary!

There are several major anniversary celebrations coming up in 2009! The Broward County Library system will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in June 2009. Since its beginning in 1974, Broward County Library has grown from a small group of local libraries into the ninth largest library system in the United States including 37 library locations, a collection of more than one million items, programs and services in a variety of languages, and a web site that draws in thousands of visitors daily. Also, in October, 2008, Broward County Library welcomed its ten millionth visitor to North Regional/ Broward College Library in Coconut Creek.

Our PTDL will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in November, and the Broward County Main Library is looking forward to also celebrating its 25th anniversary. On April 29, 1984 the Main Library first opened its doors to the public. Robert F. Gatje, the library’s principal architect, was a longtime partner of famous Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer, well known for his design of houses, furniture (his Cesca chairs designed in 1928 are ubiquitous throughout the library), and major buildings such as the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Breuer had just retired in 1980 when his firm (along with the Fort Lauderdale firm of Miller & Meier Associates) was commissioned to design this library. Although Breuer passed away before the building was completed, he would have been very pleased with the work, brilliantly designed, primarily by Robert Gatje, who was also primarily responsible for IBM’s Boca Raton, Florida complex. The building incorporates much of the Breuer style, including strong geometry and the receded window design prominent in many of his earlier buildings. The stark color of bare cement in the interior, also a Breuer feature, is juxtaposed with colorful tile. On the North side of the building exterior layered terraces and floor to ceiling glass windows create a cascading effect; and, on the other sides, the building is surrounded by walls covered with coral rock and a work of art in tile on the Southwest corner, artist Ivan Chermayeff’s tile mural boasting a bold, geometric pattern of rust, orange, gold, blue, beige, brown, black, white, and grey tiles. Ivan Chermayeff is the son of architect Serge Ivan Chermayeff, who was one of Breuer’s colleagues. Another of Breuer’s colleagues was Alexander Calder, famous for his mobiles, and some Breuer buildings have Calder mobiles. Although the Broward County Main Library was built after Alexander Calder’s death in 1976, the building does have a mobile made in the style of Alexander Calder by William C. Gaterman III, who is also a named inventor on US patents 4,515,346 and 5,188,068. The design of the Cesca chair, mentioned earlier, also has an interesting patent history. Although too extensive in scope to discuss here, there is an article about the patent litigation over the design of this tubular structured chair. The citation for anyone interested is “Avant-Garde Design and the Law: Litigation over the Cantilever Chair”, by Otakar Mačel, Journal of Design History, Vol. 3, No. 2/3 (1990), pp. 125-143.

2008-2009 Highlights

- On Saturday August 2, 2008 Eileen Fischlschweiger gave a workshop to an audience about 40 people, largely from the Inventors’ Society of South Florida, on Patent, Trademark and Copyright e-filing titled Electronic Application Filing Systems for Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights: EFS-Web, TEAS, and eCO. This program was inspired by the session demonstrating EFS-Web given at the 2008 PTDL Training
Seminar, but given the inclusion of all three e-filing systems it was a very complex program to put together and cover in only two hours!

- In August 2008, National Inventors’ Month, we had our annual book display using various attractive posters to enhance the display’s appearance

- On February 7, 2009, the Inventors’ Society of South Florida’s Inventor Expo, once again came to our library, and, as always, Eileen had a table for the PTDL with many handouts relating to patents, trademarks, copyrights, the FDLP, and upcoming business programs at the Main Library, and she answered questions throughout the exhibit time. Twenty seven inventors exhibited various patented or patent pending items, attracting between 500 and 600 visitors to the library. About 50 people asked a total of approximately 250 intellectual property questions. The exhibit was followed by FDL librarian Tom Fischlschweiger’s, workshop NTIS, DTIC, and NASA: Government Sources of Prior Art and Technical Information for Inventors.

- Various building maintenance, reorganization, and construction projects are underway and are expected to take several years to complete. For instance, two of the public elevators have been upgraded, and the Computer Center is currently under construction on the 7th floor, with an opening expected no later than mid 2009. Because of the number of projects involved and their scheduling there is a shortage of event space in the building, so Invent Broward was cancelled for March 2008 as the space was completely booked up with various other exhibits.

- On January 20, 2009, Eileen Fischlschweiger was interviewed by a report for the Eastside Forum, a Sun-Sentinel affiliated local newspaper, doing a follow-up interview on the Business, Law, and Government Documents Section of our library. She told him about the library being a PTDL and an FDL, and explained how library staff knowledgeable in government documents reference work can be an essential social safety net resource in helping people in these troubled economic times. The reporter’s original interview was with Helene Palmer, and the resulting article published in both the Eastside Forum and the Sun-Sentinel was a very well written affirmation of the value of libraries and government information in these difficult times of economic uncertainty.

Eileen Fischlschweiger

Honolulu, Hawaii
Hawaii State Library

Aloha Patentites and Trademarkians,

The denizens of this island state bid you a fond aloha and hope all is well with you and your library. Our wet season has provided a welcome relief from the years of below average rainfall. Forever the optimist. Hopefully, we will have more gentle rain to recharge our aquifers.

After a long battle of wills and threatening physical contact, Carole Suzui and I are almost ready to present our revised home page for your review and comments. Our web design is based on Adobe Dreamweaver software. A hacking incident shut down our ability to easily change our website. This new web design will allow us to change the location of our webpage for easier updating of information. Our new design will incorporate less web links, making the page easier to update. One notable page will have our publications in PDF format. This will include our handouts for patent resources and for trademark and copyright information. These handouts were originally formatted in MS Publisher. If you would like an original attachment e-mailed to you, just ask. The new website will also have our disclaimer on the Patent and Trademark page. This disclaimer was not vetted by an attorney. Notifying me of any legal holes in the disclaimer will be greatly appreciated.

Most of you are experiencing turmoil in your library operations, our thoughts are with you for a smooth recovery. Our library system has absorbed a 19% cut in our budget since last year. We already have a hiring freeze and are staring at the possibility of closing some of our 51 library branches with the loss of personnel. Our section has weathered the storm, so far, and we are on solid foundation. However, as you know, this could quickly change. The last time I went through this, almost 6 years ago, I was a newly appointed section head with no permanent employees and it was several years before I could restaff my section. Ah, good times, good times.

When you see me at this year’s training seminar, stop by and say hi. This may be the last training seminar I attend for awhile due to changing fiscal priorities. Take care and have fun.

All pau for now,
Stewart Chun
Houston, Texas
Fondren Library Rice University, Kelley Center for Government Information & Microforms

The Rice University PTDL in the Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms recently welcomed a new staff member, Ericka Goudeau-Diliberti, who helps provide reference services for patents and trademarks. Esther Crawford, Linda Spiro, and Siu Min Yu continue to offer bimonthly patent search classes to the local public. During August our staff manned a booth at the Houston Inventors Association tradeshow which gave us an opportunity to speak with area inventors and attend presentations on a wide variety of intellectual property topics.

Phyllis Karrh

Little Rock, Arkansas
Arkansas State Library

This past year has been a busy year at the Arkansas State Library. In November, 2008, State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, announced that the State Library will be moving in late 2009 from its present location at One Capitol Mall to a new location at 900 W. Capitol Ave, the former home of the Dillard’s Department Store headquarters. The building is currently being gutted and will be rebuilt into a new space for the State Library and three other state agencies. The renovated building will meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED certification. The Arkansas PTDL, designated in January, 1985, has been at its current location since 1979.

Last year also witnessed several staff changes at the Arkansas PTDL. The first major change occurred in April when Michael Strickland was promoted from reference librarian to Coordinator of State Library Services. Michael succeeded long-time coordinator Mary Leckie who retired in November 2007. The second major change was the retirement of reference librarian, Ola Flucas, in August. Ola worked at the Arkansas State Library for 36 years and was a major contributor to the success and growth of the Arkansas PTDL. We are grateful to her for the many years of excellent work that she did for the State Library. Her professionalism and friendship are greatly missed. In a related development, reference librarian, Elizabeth Danley, has assumed Ola’s previous supervisory duties and is working with staff members Wendy Briley and Ava Conway who help manage the State Library’s federal documents collection including the patent and trademark depository section. The last major staff development of the year was hiring two new reference librarians. Last fall, Sarah Lipsey was promoted from circulation librarian to her current position as reference librarian. Hope Rider, originally from Bellevue, Washington, was added to the reference staff in October. Both librarians will be attending the upcoming PTDL training seminar in March.

The reference staff has continued to provide information and other services to Arkansas inventors and librarians. One of those services has been working with and attending the bi-monthly meetings of the Arkansas Inventor’s Network. The organization is in its second year of existence and has provided both myself and the reference staff opportunities to help educate inventors on the patent and trademark process along with discussing several patent/trademark resources. The reference staff has also conducted training sessions on Patents and Trademarks with the reference librarians at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). These sessions have been well-received and have led to the opportunity to offer future sessions for the reference librarians both at UALR and the Central Arkansas Library System.

Phyllis Karrh

Indianapolis, Indiana
Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

Our new Central Library has been open for a year. The most exciting news is that a local intellectual property law firm is paying for the library to establish an area with new tables and new, large-screened computers to run only PubWest and the USPTO site. Heretofore, users of West had to mix with the masses. I was pulled out of the meetings at the seminar last year to meet an Indianapolis attorney who’d dropped by to see the Public Search Room. I talked to him and he went back to talk to the firm’s attorney in charge of training the new hires. When the trainer found that they were surrounded by game-playing etc. patrons, they wondered if we could arrange something more conducive to searching. The Library Foundation and the firm came up with this solution. The new area still hasn’t happened, as manufacture of the tables seems to be outsourced to Mars, but I hope it will be realized soon. I will invite other firms to join, but so far these folks have been about the only customers.

Linda Spiro

Michael Strickland
Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Free Public Library

Louisville Free Public Library has been a Patent and Trademark Depository Library since 1988. The library also has the oldest Federal Depository Collection in the state. We have one staff member, Rae Shepherd-Shlechter, managing the PTDL Collection, since 1998. I also am the Government Documents Librarian, the Business Reference Librarian, and the acting Career and Job Resources Librarian.

I have a strong business focus (emphasis on small business and independent inventors) when it comes to helping inventors and clients seeking help with intellectual property questions. I offer 2-hour monthly workshops in patents and trademarks and in business resources online. I also offer individual sessions (Librarian is In Program) by appointment with clients who need extra help with intellectual property-related questions.

Most of our clients are referred by SCORE, Greater Louisville Small Business Development Center, Community Ventures, Inc., and the local office of the Small Business Administration. We also get referrals from the other federal depositories in the state.

In April we were fortunate to partner with the Greater Louisville Small Business Development Center for an open-house event describing the information, organizations, and services that are offered in Louisville to help the entrepreneur and (in my case) the intellectual property client who needs help with research and marketing his/her product or service. We had 80 in attendance, and it was a great advertising moment for us.

In September Louisville held its annual Idea Festival, an event that explores and celebrates imagination, innovation, and cutting-edge ideas. LFPL didn’t have any money to send me to the event, but I was allowed to distribute my intellectual property handouts and training materials at the conference. Marketing, marketing, it’s all marketing!

Once again Louisville Free Public Library will not be able to attend the training seminar this year because of extreme funding problems with the city of Louisville. All training and travel funds have been frozen. I will sincerely miss you all, and I wish you a productive and exciting training conference.

Rae Shepherd-Shlechter

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.

We are starting our 2nd year of our new service approach. 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. For those attending this year’s Texas Library Association annual meeting, Laura Heinz, TTU Library Information Services Head, will speak on our experiences as part of a panel presentation titled "Next-GenReference: Maximizing Space, Staff, and Technology."

I have been getting more calls for assistance with patents questions which is encouraging. I did on-site training for the new depository librarian at Angelo State University (now part of the Texas Tech university System) and included patents/trademarks training in the program.

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

Tom Rohrig
Madison, Wisconsin

Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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. Amy Kindschi, Head of Faculty and Student Services, also provides patent searching expertise. This year Nancy will be attending the patent seminar in Alexandria.

The most momentous event this past year was Sarah Calcese’s retirement. We all greatly miss her at Wendt. We have greatly benefited over the years from her vast knowledge of patents, government documents and technical reports. We are glad to know she is happily retired, doing volunteer work, taking long walks and fun trips with her husband.

The other big news is that we finally got the go-ahead to send a large group of our Official Gazettes and patent indexes to Google for digitizing. The wheels turn slowly, but we are just now starting to see links for the Official Gazette from our catalog to Google Books and the HathiTrust (a shared digital repository that also contains Michigan’s scanned patents materials).

Nancy continues to teach patents searching in numerous undergraduate and graduate classes in engineering professional development, mechanical design, and microbiology. She also co-taught a seminar on intellectual property for an innovation competition at the College of Engineering. A new experience was giving an overview of free patent resources to a class of Masters students in Biotechnology at the Biopharmaceutical Technology Center Institute, affiliated with a local Madison company, Promega.

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), Jennifer Shipley (our department manager); librarians Murray Wilcox, Julio Granda (our Urban Affairs Librarian), C. J. Ivory, and Douglas Hart; Librarian 1 Intern, Claudia Torres, and library assistants Liza Acosta and Demetrius Mitchell.

Due to budgetary constraints, we have stopped providing formal “Introduction to Patent Research” classes. We now provide instruction to individuals, primarily by appointment. 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
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hennepin County Library

In January 2008 the Minneapolis Public Library system became part of the Hennepin County Library system. We now have 41 libraries in the county. Many librarians from the suburban system have visited the downtown Central branch to become familiar with our special collections. They’re very interested in learning what we have to offer, especially as a PTDL (since 1980). My colleagues Helen Burke and Carrie Brunsberg have continued to provide me with support and customer assistance when I’m not available.

Minnesota celebrated its statehood sesquicentennial (150 years) in May 2008 and the Central library participated with Minnovation, a gallery display full of well known Minnesota inventions. Showcased were things such as Spam, Rollerblades, Spam, Zubaz (remember them?), Spam, the Tilt-A-Whirl, Twister, the Bundt pan, and of course, Spam.

Once again I had the opportunity to speak with chemistry students about patents at the University of Minnesota, and in June I spent a day in Redwood Falls, MN at the annual Invention and Idea Show, sponsored by the Minnesota Inventors Congress. I shared a booth with John Calvert from the USPTO’s Inventor Assistance Program. It was another chance to spread the word about the PTDL program and network. I also partnered with a local patent attorney to present his “Traps and Pitfalls of Intellectual Property” program twice during 2008.

It seems like IP questions are on the rise in 2009, and I’m looking forward to another challenging year of patents and trademarks!

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

Looking back on this past year, it has been a year of new-found access and on-going publicity for the Patent and Trademark Collection.

In December the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office abandoned the CASSIS computer and gave it to WVU Libraries. As a depository library we must continue to provide access to CASSIS software programs. While trying to install an anti-virus program, we realized that to get system drivers from the PDLP in order to connect the computer to the Internet to download the AntiVirus. On a positive side, now the computer was connected to the Internet. We could now connect to the PubWEST database from this public computer. The slight glitch was the need to update the Prizm viewer in order to print images from PubWEST. I have wanted for several years to make PubWEST available on a public computer, but settings would not allow it.

This year we bound the remaining backfile of our Plant Patents. Having bound plant patents allows you to carry several volumes to a lecture, or check them out to interested faculty. Also related to Plant Patents was the acquisition this year of the Munsell Color Book. While consulting with a visiting professor about the mate or gloss images indicated that she would be willing to donate the book to the library. In preparation for renovation, we are moving our patent microfilm collection to off-site storage.

I provided a Patent bulletin board with Patents issued to West Virginians on a week-by-week basis. I continue to update “Patents in the News” to another Evansdale Library bulletin board. I continue to send out informational announcements announcing the publication of either a granted patent or application.

This year I created two different displays which had aspects of intellectual property. Last July I co-created the display “Let the Games Begin: the Olympics.” I created a sheet highlighting the various trademarks associated with the Olympics. The second tied in with hurricane season: “Hurricanes: Confronting the Fury with Engineering,” Evansdale Library, West Virginia University, September 2008. The hurricane display highlighted how hurricanes destroy infrastructure and how engineers try to design in order to account for the various forces of hurricanes. I included several U.S. patents in the display.

I prepared various presentations on Patent and Trademarks, some to serve the entire university community as well as for classes in engineering, law, and horticulture. I continue my contact with the WVU Office of Technology Transfer. I continue to refer faculty and staff to that office when they have questions as well.

Marian Armour-Gemmien
Moscow, Idaho
University of Idaho

I’ll be retiring at the end of the Spring Semester, on May 15, 2009, after 3 years of service as the patents and trademarks librarian here at the University of Idaho. Due to requirements for budget cuts for the library currently and into the next fiscal year, my position will not be refilled. Neither will two other professional librarian positions nor three staff positions that are currently vacant.

There’s too much to do already for those that remain working at the library and patents and trademarks shake out at the low end of priorities. Therefore, the University of Idaho Library is currently in the process of withdrawing from the Patents and Trademarks Depository Library Program.

I speak for myself and my predecessors, Donna Hanson and Karen Hertel, when I say that we have enjoyed immensely being part of your community and regret that the University of Idaho Library will no longer be a part of it. We appreciate greatly the camaraderie of our fellow patent and trademark librarians and that of the PTDLP staff. We applaud your continuing efforts to provide and access useful information about patents and trademarks for the benefit of all.

Mike Pollastro

Newark, New Jersey
Newark Public Library

Hello from the Newark Public Library. My name is Jim Capuano and I am the PTDL Representative. Our patent and trademark collection is located on the second and third floors of the Main Library in downtown Newark. Patron assistance for patents and trademarks and the CAS-SIS workstation is on the second floor of this building.

The Central Reference staff at the Library includes Elaine Gold, Curt Idrogo, Leslie Kahn, Monica Malinowski, Jane Seiden, Nadine Sergejejff, and Patricia Winship. I will be attending the seminar this year as the Library’s representative.

In the spring of 2008, I spoke at the annual New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Conference along with my colleague Deirdre Schmidel. We presented a program titled: “Patents and Trademark Searching for Public Libraries: How to Help Businesses, Inventors and Students.” Our program was designed to inform NJLA members about the patent and trademark resources of the Newark Public Library and to explain how we help libraries with questions about this collection.

I began by describing the operation of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the role of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) in assisting inventors and researchers. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation on patent and trademark searching, we had literature available including copies of: General Information About Patents, 7 Step U.S. Patent Search Strategy, USPTO Web Searchable Patent Databases, Basic Facts About Trademarks, 7 Step U.S. Trademark Search Quick Start, and Benefits of TM Registration.

The latest news in our Newark neighborhood is that the Rutgers School of Business is moving into the office building next to us. Their web site gives the details that: “The facility at 1 Washington Park is the second largest capital investment in Rutgers history. A total of $83 million has been committed for the purchase, complete renovation, and expansion of the facility.” We look forward to having the students, faculty and staff visit our library. (Maybe even try a patent or trademark search.)

Jim Capuano
Chilly greetings from Orono, Maine! Established in 1993, the Orono, ME 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 PTDL business has escalated and has really kept me on my toes.

Patent searching and patent information have been officially introduced into the curriculum as part of the new Innovation Engineering minor offered at UMaine. I am working side-by-side with faculty to teach and assign work involving the use of patent information in a variety of ways. In one course, the assignment is to use patents and non-patent literature to write a story about an innovation. Students use what they learn about patents to write a history of a product or invention, its historical significance, what problems were solved by the innovation, and whether there was anything controversial about the subject matter. In another course, I am teaching students how to use CASSIS’s data-export feature to analyse patent data in an MS Excel Spreadsheet - this technique, more commonly known as patent landscape analysis, helps students to identify leaders and innovators in their technology area of interest. Students must complete a report on the companies that they identify, including a summary of issued patents and pending applications.

On another horizon, I performed the keynote address at the 2008 Patent Information Users Group (PIUG) NE Conference and spoke on the benefits of certification among patent information professionals. I am co-chair of a newly formed workgroup within the PIUG. The Certification workgroup is collaborating with other patent searching organizations in Europe and Asia to draft a certification proposal that ultimately will become the basis for certifying patent information professionals. We hope that by establishing a process and examination for patent information professionals to become certified, we will elevate the profession to a new standard of quality that will be sought after by companies and institutions.

Last but most certainly not least, I got married on August 22, 2008 to my lovely bride Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen is a graduate student here at the University of Maine and we met in the library. We are getting settled in and planning our future together.

Unfortunately I will not be in attendance at the 2009 Annual Seminar. Due to financial and time restrictions, not to mention the calamities of beginning a new chapter of my life as a husband, I have opted to attend the PIUG conference this year instead, which will be held in my home-state of Texas where I will be able to visit with friends and family; but, I do hope to see you all in 2010!

Martin Wallace

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**U.S. Patents: Prior Art Searching Tutorial**

Please view this thirty-six minute patent searching tutorial [How to Conduct a Preliminary Patent Search](http://www.ptdl.org/patent_search) prior to contacting the PTDL for assistance. Below is a listing of other self-help tools for searching patents:

- The value of a patent search
- PTDL 7-Step Strategy for Patent Searching
- Patent searching on the Internet: Keyword Searching & Classification System
- Obtaining copies of U.S. patents
- Searching for pre-1976 patents
- Websites and library resources on historical patents
- Maine Statewide databases and free Internet databases for prior art searching

**Patent and Trademark Research Guide** - Guide to a wide variety of patent, trademark, and business resources. Compiled by the Orono, PTDL

**University of Texas McKinney Engineering Library Patent Searching Tutorial** - Recommended by the USPTO training team, thorough and easy to follow tutorial for conducting a patent search.
Piscataway, New Jersey
Rutgers University

It has been a very quiet year here at the Library of Science and Medicine. Both our chemistry librarian Howard Dess and our pharmacy librarian Pat Piermatti retired. We were lucky to hire Qian (Ella) Hu as our new chemistry librarian, and our current medical librarian, Jackie Mardikian, assumed responsibility for pharmacy. One science librarian line was given back to the university due to state budget cuts. Our professional ranks are thinning, and there are now only 7 full time science librarians at LSM. When LSM became a PTDL in May of 1989, we had 14 librarians on site, or twice our current number.

Although the CASSIS workstation seems a bit dusty these days, we still have questions about patents to answer, and patrons appreciate the opportunity to use the workstation in a quiet and private environment. Of course they can access the USPTO website from any of our public PCs, and print to our networked printer, color prints optional. More patrons are using the PCT and EPO patent databases in addition to the USPTO resources, and Connie Wu has assisted many non-Rutgers affiliates who want to search those databases.

This spring, the libraries began a pilot program to assess the use of PC reservation software on the public PCs at the main library in New Brunswick. Depending on the results, we may institute the sign-in process in other libraries as well. PC availability has not been a problem at LSM, and we opted not to participate in the pilot.

Connie Wu was busy in China again this year, and her activities included two invited talks titled: “Patents and Environmental Protection,” Invited talk at the Guozhuan Intellectual Property, a sub-division of the State Intellectual Property Office of China, Beijing, China, October 30, 2008; and “Introduction of the Intellectual Property and Overseas Experience,” Invited talk at the Guozhuan Intellectual Property, a sub-division of the State Intellectual Property Office of China, Beijing, China, October 31, 2008. Staffs from the Guozhuan Intellectual Property Office and graduate students of the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics were in attendance. To support her travel to the lectures, Connie obtained travel support funding from the State Intellectual Property Office of China, October 2008.

Here at Rutgers University, the office that handles patents for the university has changed its name to better reflect its mission and goals. The Office of Corporate Liaison and Technology Transfer (OCLTT) is now called the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC). According to statements made by OTC director William Adams in the annual report of the office for 2008, Rutgers University had a steady stream of active new inventors in FY08. Ninety-six options and licenses were signed, placing Rutgers in the top 10 universities in the country. The university also had a record year of licensing revenues, exceeding $8.4 million. Fifteen years ago Rutgers had one spin-off company, and now we have over 60, most in the last decade. In this same time period, the annual value of corporate contracts generated by the university has tripled to over $22 million and over 840 transactions a year.

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Ellen Calhoun

Reno, Nevada
University of Nevada, Reno, Business and Government Information Center

UNR’s Patent & Trademark Depository Library Service is located on the main floor of the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. PTDL service has been available in this new location since the Knowledge Center’s opening on August 11, 2008. The Knowledge Center is UNR’s new main library; the Noble H. Getchell Library, former site of the Reno PTDL, is now closed. Patent and trademark services available to the public include access to PubWEST, instruction in prior art searching, access to a collection of intellectual property self-help books and referral to related services. A page on the Knowledge Center Web site provides links to important intellectual property-related services (tinyurl.com/6zu84g). Patrick Ragains serves as Patent & Trademark Depository Librarian and may be contacted at (775) 682-5593. Patrick works in the new Research Services department. Others in this department are learning about the PTDL, in order to provide the best possible service to the public. (Patrick Ragains)

Patrick Ragains
Salt Lake City, Utah
University of Utah

The Salt Lake City PTDL is located in the Government Documents collections of the University of Utah’s Marriott Library. The Marriott Library was first designated a PDL (note – no ‘T’rademarks 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 as Treasurer; as chair of the Finance Committee; and as PTDLA Chair in 1999/2000. I was delighted to be selected as the Thirteenth Patent Fellowship Librarian for the PTDL Program Office in our previous (and still missed!) Crystal City location from 1996 to 1998.

The Marriott Library is near the end of our three-year major renovation project. Government Documents are now part of our general collections, and our librarians have moved into new library positions. I have been moved into our new Knowledge Commons, with my primary responsibility being reference service to our patrons, but continue my in-depth reference with both IP and government information in general. I still bring training and presentations to audiences around the University, and in the community at large.

I continue to lecture and present to selected business students in our campus Entrepreneurial Program; bioengineering design classes with semester-long technology development projects; and campus administrative staff working with Sponsored Research. My presentation to our campus administrative staff continues with my two-hour workshop on searching patents and patent families in the USPTO Web database and Esp@cenet.

I would like to once again thank Marriott Library administration for recognizing the value of our PTDL status and participation, and continuing to (mostly!) fund my attendance at every annual PTDL program since 1987.

Dave Morrison

Seattle, Washington
University of Washington

The Seattle PTDL is located in the Engineering Library at the University of Washington. Seattle hosted the 2008 Special Libraries Association Annual Conference in June. The PTDL exhibited at SLA, and it was great to see Tom, Chris and Dawn! I spent most of the conference at the Hospitality Booth hosted by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of SLA, but we were able to make a field trip to the University so that the PTDLP staff could see the Engineering Library. We dashed up to campus, trying to avoid the UW graduation day traffic! The 2009 SLA Annual Conference will be in Washington, DC.

We spent a lot of time this year at the Engineering Library identifying materials to move to storage - over 25,000 volumes were relocated to an off-campus facility. Next project: shifting the entire collection in order to maximize growth space. We are also in the midst of a project to reclassify our remaining Dewey materials into LC, so we will shift as the reclassification progresses.

In other PTDL news, we were able to acquire some old patent index volumes from the Seattle Public Library. I am also beginning work with another UW librarian to help a group of UW faculty and staff identify older University of Washington inventions and patents. The goal is to create a list as a basis for an ongoing online exhibit or digital collection. I hope to have more news about this endeavor for next year’s Newsletter.

Christina Byrne
Springfield, Illinois

Illinois State Library

The Illinois State Library is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a PTDL in 2009. A review of the original plan of service for the PTDL confirms that our focus remains the same, promoting the availability of access have improved over the years, as staff decreased. Nevertheless, looking statistically, the Illinois State Library PTDL website received 30,495 hits in 2008.

Outreach

After the Annual PTDL training seminar last year, my commitment was to return to Springfield and reach out to engineering programs at Illinois colleges and universities. Instead, I had a long telephone conversation with a patron from out of state who urged me to reached out to historical and genealogical societies in Illinois. He started by asking me to send a patent to a particular library, which I did promptly. I copied and sent early patents to downstate, Illinois historical and genealogical societies. Then came the budget cuts and paper shortages. So I turned to the Internet and started compiling indices of early patents from specific Illinois counties. I sent school and public libraries in these counties an e-mail copy of the indices. These were well received and created some visits and telephone calls to the PTDL. I was contacted by a couple of journalists that were interested in early patents. Drafted a couple of historical patent articles with the help of a coworker.

Visits to the website for patents by counties include:

- Sangamon County .................. 1,368
- Vermillion County .................. 163
- Randolph County ................... 333

I am currently working on an index of patents for Peoria County, Illinois.

Reference Transactions include:

- 95 patrons were trained to search patents and/ or trademarks.
- 225 Extended Reference Requests were handled
- 277 visits were made to the PTDL.
- 1,901 Ready Reference requests were processed. Ready Reference includes email messages sent to Illinois independent attorneys, homeschoolers, inventors, selected Illinois teachers and non-research reference calls.

A major accomplishment last year was the completion of the African American inventors index by state of residence.

Margaret J. Collins
St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis Public Library

The past year’s activities can be divided into outreach and exhibits. Outreach included presentations to colleagues from Central library and the branches about patents and trademarks for the 2008 Staff Day. Hershey’s kisses provided good examples of both. Everyone was surprised to see that numerous patents and trademarks existed to protect such a small piece of candy. They were also pleased to get samples of Hershey kisses at the end of the talk.

As in previous years, I spoke with inventors and entrepreneurs from the Inventors Association of St. Louis (IASL) and the Illinois Innovators and Inventors (III) Inc. in April. Both groups were shown what tools St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) has to assist them with patent and trademark information as well as business start up information.

In October, several of my colleagues and I spoke to four groups of freshmen at a local high school who were learning about how to do research. In my share of the program I discussed the inventive thinking needed to solve problems. In addition, I stressed the value of patents and the serious research needed to obtain them.

In the first of the Exhibits, I provided laminated copies of the Statue of Liberty patent and Abraham Lincoln’s patent. This was for a display of the wide variety of materials and resources available only at the Central library.

On a larger scale I mounted an exhibit at SLPL’s Central Express branch. This location serves the business people and residents of St. Louis’ growing downtown population. Among other items there were enlarged copies of patents as well as books and posters about inventors, especially African Americans and women.

A patent and trademark exhibit in four large glass display cases was my most recent project. The cases were in the foyer at Central and were visible to the many people who came through the foyer everyday. The display included books about patents, including Patent It Yourself. There was also a large copy of the patent for the Slinky toy, the toy itself, and a Slinky dog pull toy. The trademarked items were also light hearted with examples such as Pez candy and Pez dispensers, a Hush Puppies shoe box, a Candy Land game, a travel size Etch A Sketch, and a box of Cheerios cereal. It was enjoyable to put this exhibit together. I received very positive feedback from the public and from my colleagues for this display.

Carol Giles-Straight

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.

Last year we celebrated our 50th anniversary as a Patent Depository Library which included a program given by USPTO PTDL Program staff on September 13-14. We also completed the Oklahoma Inventors Database, http://okinventors.library.okstate.edu/, an index of United States patents issued to individuals residing in Indian and Oklahoma territory 1880-1907. An Oklahoma Inventors Facts section was included (first Oklahoma patents, patents issued to women, etc.). We are continuing to update an Excel file of patents issued to Oklahoma State University.

I am continuing to make a strong outreach to OSU faculty in the sciences promoting patents as a resource for research not found in journals. I contacted professors 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. We also participate in our Research Week on campus to highlight our services.

Engineering Librarian Kevin Drees and I have surveyed PTDLs and engineering librarians to determine how patent information is best incorporated into instructional sessions for students and faculty, and how engineering librarians and other information specialists are equipped for patent instruction. We hope to present this at the ASEE annual conference this year or submit our findings as a research article.

We continue to cooperate with the other IP related groups on campus and in the state (Inventors Assistance Service and Oklahoma Inventors Congress, etc.), which included six patent search clinics and a monthly trademark programs on campus.

I am updating our the website for our PTDL which is an important resource for our staff and patrons as it includes links to key resources such as our location information, links to patent attorneys and Small Business Development Centers, etc.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to be able to serve as the PTDL newsletter editor.

Suzanne Holcombe
OSU Patent and Trademark Library

The PTDL at OSU has been designated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to support the intellectual property needs of the public since 1956. It is the only PTDL in Oklahoma.

The OSU Patent and Trademark Library offers assistance by appointment with preliminary patent research (U.S.) and trademark searches (federal) and guidance with general questions regarding intellectual property. Searching is done on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website: www.uspto.gov/.

A preliminary patent or trademark search is necessary to determine if another party has already obtained protection for the product or name you plan to make or use.

Suzanne L. Holcombe, Patent Librarian
1501 Edmon Low Library, OSU
Stillwater, OK 74078-1011

Phone: (405) 744-6546
Fax: (405) 744-3578
Web site: www.library.okstate.edu/patents/

\[\text{New discoveries and innovations, especially in chemistry, biotechnology, and materials science often appear in patents before they are reported in scientific journals.}^{*}\]

Richard D. Walker,
Patents As Scientific and Technical Literature, 1995

\[\text{Patents disclose the research of industrial and private inventors that is not published in scientific journals and proceedings. By searching patent literature prior to embarking on a new research project or grant application, one avoids duplicating work that has already been done.}^{*}\]

Mike White,
Research Services, Queens University, 2005

\[\text{A patent document has much more detailed information about a technology than any other type of scientific or technical publication. It is also a unique source of information; on average, 70\% of the information disclosed in patents is never published anywhere else.}^{*}\]

WIPO,

Search assistance is provided free of charge.

Contact us if you need:

- To schedule an appointment for a preliminary patent search
- Trademark search assistance
- Assistance printing the full text of patents
Sunnyvale, California, Sunnyvale Public Library

Sunnyvale Public Library has been a PTDL since 1965. The PTDL resources are part of the Business and Patent Collections in the Adult Services Division of the Library. Two work stations are devoted to patent and trademark research and there is a small print reference collection. Eight librarians provide basic patent and trademark reference assistance. A volunteer demonstrates U.S. patent classification searching and orients the public to the USPTO Web site. Another long time volunteer logs and maintains PTDL materials.

The Library hosted a program on funny patents as part of a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant project, We’ve Only Just Begun: Learning and Leisure. The podcast is available at http://www.librarypodcasts.org/

Several intellectual property classes that repeat throughout the year focus on what inventors and small business owners need to know, patent and trademark information available on the USPTO Web site, and search steps and resources for patents and trademarks. Also a PubWEST demo highlights its advantages in searching and its variety of databases.

The Patent and Trademark Services page of the Sunnyvale Public Library Web site includes a link to a brochure of basic online and print patent resources and links to a small selection of intellectual property Web sites.

Marjory Cameron

Toledo, Ohio

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Toledo Lucas County Public Library is a county-wide public library system of middle size. It has been a PTDL since 1934.

Fairly recently the Main branch of TLCPL has been remodeled and doubled in size, a project completed in 2004. During the construction process the entire collection of paper patents was moved to a remote storage facility. At present there are still large blocks of stored paper patents being returned sporadically to the Main Library.

The Business/Technology/Sciences department of the main library houses our patent collection. All Business/Technology/Sciences reference librarians have some familiarity with the USPTO website and the concepts of intellectual property. However, one librarian – yours truly - is designated as the Business/Patent Specialist.

As Specialist, I am responsible for collection development in these area as well as being the “go to person” when other staff or members of the public have complex or difficult request for searches within these subject areas. The specialist is the liaison between USPTO and the TLCPL, handling correspondence and maintaining the CASSIS database, as well as assisting customers unfamiliar with patent searching, and occasionally training new staff members.

The TLCPL sponsors monthly Q&A sessions where local intellectual property attorneys meet with small groups of local citizens in a free wheeling dialogue. This very successful series is now beginning its third year. The local Inventors’ Council holds meetings at the library on an irregular basis.

The Business/Patent Specialist is exploring the possibilities of cooperating with other department librarians who do an annual set of science programs for public school students at the beginning of the school year.

Barbara Stein
Membership Information
Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association was established in 1983 for those employees of Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs) who work with the patent and trademark depository library collections. PTDL's objectives are "to discover the interests, needs, opinions, and goals of the PTDLs, to advise the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in these matters" and "to assist the USPTO in planning and implementing appropriate services."

Regular PTDLA membership is open to any interested person employed at a Patent & Trademark Depository Library. Regular members may vote on PTDLA business, and may hold elective offices or appointive positions.

Affiliate membership is open to persons not eligible for regular membership who fall into the following categories: retired PTDL staff, former PTDL representatives, librarians and staff at libraries who respond to questions from their clientele regarding patent and trademark information, current and former USPTO staff, and students enrolled in a library and information science/studies program.

Dues for membership remain a bargain — just $25 a year. Currently enrolled library school students are eligible for affiliate membership at a reduced rate of $10.00. Membership in PTDLA does not imply an invitation to attend the annual training seminar. Our membership fees pay for Seminar expenses, publication of our Newsletter, maintenance and upgrades of our website, gifts, stationery, and other operating budget needs. Dues cover membership from the last day of the current Seminar to the last day of the next year's event. Only individual memberships are permitted; there is no provision for institutional or group memberships.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please direct them to Jim Miller, PTDLA Treasurer. Jim's telephone number is (301) 405-9152 and his email address is jimiller2@umd.edu.

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Membership Form – Detach (or photocopy) and mail

NAME: ____________________________________________

INSTITUTION: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________

EMAIL: __________________________________ PHONE: ___________________________

PTDLA MEMBERSHIP = $25.00  Student = $10.00

Please make checks payable to: PTDLA. Do not send cash. Do not make checks payable to any individual or the PTDL Program. If you require a permanent address for an IRS W-9 Form, use the address on the right but please mail the check to the Treasurer address on the left.

Mail this form and your check to: PTDLA Permanent Address:

Jim Miller, PTDLA Treasurer
Engineering & Physical Sciences Library
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-7011

Tom Melvin
Reference Department
University of Delaware Library
Newark, DE 19717-5267