Celebrating the PTDL Training Seminar’s 30th Anniversary

In order to celebrate 30 years of the Patent Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) training seminar and two special retirements this year in the February 2007 issue of Ad Libs, the Newsletter of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, Martha Sneed paid tribute both to Jim Arshem, and these milestone events: “... every time I think of our friend Jim Arshem, I think of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and its language regarding promotion of the useful arts. And I think of Everyman and Everywoman Inventor, and the work accomplished through the PTDL Program and its member libraries …”

The first Patent & Trademark seminar was held April 18-20, 1977. There was no budget, so PDL office staff contributed enough money for boxes of doughnuts, halves of Danish, and a 30-cup coffee pot. A conference room in Crystal Mall 3 – part of our former USPTO location up by the Reagan National Airport in Crystal City – was borrowed from the Navy. An austere beginning, but by the time we celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 2002, we celebrated, in style, at the newly-restored U.S. Botanic Gardens in the District of Columbia on the coldest night of that mild winter!

Thirty years after our very first seminar, we continue the tradition of these conferences in order to help with the dissemination of patent and trademark information to the public. As did the 25th Anniversary newsletter, the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to our colleagues working in Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries, and to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for their continuing support of the PTDL Program Office. We are very grateful for the service and leadership that this Program provides.

The resolutions that follow recognize the contributions of Jim Arshem and Ted Cebula, long-time members, supporters, and leaders of the PTDL program and the PTDLA. We congratulate Mande Putnam on her promotion to the USPTO’s Office of Public Records, but we will miss her presence in the PTDL Program. We will remember our last seminar in the beloved, old Crystal City Marriott, and look forward to many future seminars in the lovely new facility in Alexandria.

Congratulations to all of us on thirty successful conferences and seminars, 1977 – 2007!
PTDLA Officers

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

Vice-President/President-Elect:
Leena Lalwani, Ann Arbor, MI,
lalwani@umich.edu

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

Treasurer:
Dawn Rohan, Cheyenne, WY,
drohan@state.wy.us

Past President:
Nan Myers, Wichita, KS,
nan.myers@wichita.edu

Regional Representatives:
Region 1:
Leonard Adams, Amherst, MA,
len.adams@library.umass.edu

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

Region 3:
Marian Armour Gemmen, Morgantown, WV
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Region 4:
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Esther Crawford, Houston, TX,
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Ran Raider, Dayton, OH,
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Region 8:
Nancy Spitzer, Madison, WI,
spitzer@engr.wisc.edu

Region 9:
Suzanne Holcombe, Stillwater, OK,
sholcom@okstate.edu

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

Christina Byrne, Seattle, WA,
cbyrne@u.washington.edu

Region 11:
Sam Kushner, Las Vegas, NV,
kushners@lvccld.org

Region 12:
Kristine Ogilvie, Sacramento, CA,
kogilvie@library.ca.gov
Executive Committee Resolution

Recognizing Mr. James A. Arshem

Whereas, Jim served as the FIRST PTDL Representative for the Denver Public Library at the time of its designation on November 14, 1977, and never lost sight of the true purpose of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program: to provide information and excellent service to inventors and entrepreneurs.

Whereas, Jim served on the FIRST Patent Depository Library Advisory Council, the predecessor to the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association, which was formed in September 1983. In 1984 he served as President, and unfailingly ensured that the lines of communication were open between the Council and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Whereas, Jim served as the FIRST Fellowship Librarian to the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program in ___, thereby setting a high standard for the 20 Fellowship Librarians to follow. As a permanent staff member, he provided unsurpassed mentorship to the Fellows as well as to PTDLP staff, herding them around Crystal City, helping them to find the best restaurants, and making sure that they found whatever they needed while in “the big city.” He has provided invaluable insight and guidance to all of his colleagues.

Whereas, Jim opened his elegant home to legions of PTDL representatives for wonderful pizza parties to give them a chance to learn about the PTDL program, to socialize with their colleagues, to stretch their meager food allowances, and most importantly to feel welcomed into the PTDL fold.

Whereas, Jim has logged literally thousands of miles to attend meetings, conferences, and training sessions promoting the PT-DLP to anyone who will listen. Jim has always been the voice of the common man – the ordinary library patron who is the focus of all local and national efforts of PTDLA members.

Whereas, Jim’s office space can only be described as astounding, and has been saved from being cited by the fire marshal only by having it designated as an Urban Archaeology research project. He has tirelessly documented PTDLP seminars, conferences, training sessions, and social events with his ever-handy camera. He tiptoed into every single program and snapped fabulous photographs of every single speaker, and many participants – all of which form a layer in the pre-fossil sedimentary paper on his desk.

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association recognizes and honors Mr. James A. Arshem with a Lifetime PTDLA Membership Award for his valuable years of leadership and commitment to making patent and trademark information available to the public, and for the many contributions that he has made to both the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
14 December, 2006
Executive Committee Resolution

Recognizing Mr. Theodore Cebula

Whereas, Mr. Theodore Cebula has provided exceptional service to the patent and trademark community. His vision for promoting user needs to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, his leadership with the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and the Association, are an inspiration to us all.

Whereas, Ted provided over 30 years service to patent and trademark users in his community and ensured that he and his staff at Milwaukee Public Library had the knowledge, training, and skills needed to assist users.

Whereas, Ted provided vision and leadership and built consensus among librarians and PTO staff to find ways to promote and deliver automated access to patent information. He demonstrated his extraordinary commitment to automation by participating in every pilot project known to humankind, especially CASSIS CD-ROM and the Automated Patent System (APS).

Whereas, Ted was a founding member of the Patent Depository Council, nurtured the organization as it became the Patent Depository Library Association and later the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association and served as its president from 1989-1990. His interesting and colorful stories of our past history enlighten scores of PTDLA members.

Be it resolved that the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association present Mr. Theodore Cebula with a Lifetime Career Achievement Award for his visionary leadership to the intellectual property community. We are pleased to honor Ted for his many contributions to the association, members of the patent and trademark community, his patrons, and staff.

Signed,
PTDLA Executive Committee
4 April 2006

President’s Message

Greetings to you, my esteemed colleagues. It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the PTDLA this past year. I encourage each of you to consider running for a PTDLA office. It is an excellent way to get to know your fellow intellectual property professionals while contributing to the good of our organization. The PTDLA Board has been very active and supportive this year. I would especially like to thank Leena Lalwani, Marian Armour-Gemmen, Dawn Rohan, and Nan Myers for their awesome support! You guys are the greatest! I’d also like to share a couple of thoughts with you:

After having a very relaxing holiday vacation, I was gradually getting back into “work mode,” and was corresponding with a colleague. As is customary during that time of year, the conversation turned to New Year’s resolutions. I mentioned that one of my resolutions was to spend more time on patent matters this year. My colleague responded that requests for patent and trademark information were markedly lower, so he was actually hoping to spend less time on patents this year. This rather shocked me, I must admit. And the more I thought about it, the more shocked I felt. It may be true for many of us that requests for patent and trademark information are decreasing. This is evidenced by the smaller numbers of people making visits to our PTDLs. But I do not for a minute believe that this means that the information needs of inventors and researchers is decreasing. If anything, I think that the explosion of information about intellectual property available from many different sources has contributed to an increase in the information needs of our users.
This brings to mind a conversation I had earlier in the year, with a colleague who describes himself as an “old timer.” (This is a person who was a pioneer in the early days, back when our organization was still called the Patent Depository Library Advisory Council.) In this conversation, he voiced his frustration about the apparently conflicting views of patrons and librarians that “it’s all on the internet, so why should I come to your library,” and “how can I let you know all of the things I can do for you.”

He reminded me that it is our job – our most important job – to help patrons to find the patent and trademark information that they need. It is vitally important for us to get the word out about our services. It is not helpful to sit around and whine about the fact that people are using the internet without us, and what can we do? There ARE things we can do. And it starts by learning all that we can about the patent searching process. It continues with putting together publications and programs designed to get this information out to our public, and further, it involves marketing our programs and services to the people who need them.

As our patrons’ needs have changed, so should our responses to their needs. Tending to business as usual is clearly not an effective strategy. If it was, patrons would still be coming to us in droves. No, what has worked so well in the past has been slowly and subtly changing. Or maybe the change has not been slow and subtle in your world. But the fact remains that we need to be examining what it is that we do, and how we deliver our services. The objectives of the PTDLA have not changed: “to discover the interests, needs, opinions, and goals of the Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs), and to advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in these matters for the benefit of PTDLs and their users, and to assist the USPTO in planning and implementing appropriate services.”

We have a lot of support in this mission. First and foremost, we have each other – a network of librarians all across the country and even in Puerto Rico. Chances are, if you are facing a challenge, one of us has faced it and found an answer. Or maybe by facing it together we can come up with some solutions. In either case, you will find a friendly and helpful colleague, and you may even make a lifelong friend. And we have a wonderful support system in the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program. Their mission is completely tied in with ours, so cooperation between PTDLA and the PTDLP is incredibly important for our success.

Highlights for this year include:

- Based on a fabulous suggestion from last year’s Executive Board meeting, we sent a thank you letter to all Deans/Directors of PTDLs to show our appreciation for their support.
- Creation of a PTDLA brochure – This was sent with the thank you letters, to highlight the work of their representatives, and to recognize the importance of the PTDLA.
- Enhancements to the PTDLA Website – Esther has done a fabulous job keeping up with our activities and migrating the website to a more attractive and technologically-advanced platform. Wait ‘til you see the new look and feel! It is really spectacular!
- Hosting a successful program at ALA – This year’s program was geared toward Business Reference Librarians, and we received rave reviews. PowerPoint slides are available at the ptdla.org website.
- Planning for a festive and intellectually-stimulating PTDLA Day at the PTLDP Annual Training Seminar – I welcome your thoughtful participation.

Be on the lookout for:

- Details about the 2007 ALA Program
- Details about the 2007 SLA Pre-conference Program
- Increased access to historic (pre-1876) patents

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Training Seminar, where I presume a number of you are, even as you are reading this. For those of you who did not attend because you were not supported by your institution, or because it is “not your year” in the rotation, I hope to interact with you through phone or email this coming year. Maybe there is something we can do to encourage your administration to be more supportive in the future.

I can’t say enough good things about the fine work done by the PTDLP to host a spectacular event that is action-packed with learning opportunities and a forum to share your own knowledge with others. Thanks, PTDLP staff! I know I speak for many when I say how much we appreciate all you do for us!

Jan Comfort, President
Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association
Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report (February 2007)

Dawn Rohan, PTDLA Treasurer

Balance as of January 1, 2006 ........................................ $8,045.27
2006-1/2007 Deposits .................................................. $5,170.00
Total balance before withdrawals.............................. $13,215.27
2006-1/2007 Withdrawals ........................................... $2,279.07
Balance as of January 31, 2007................................. $10,936.20

Detailed deposits
3/30/2006 Registration & dues...................................... $2,940.00
4/21/2006 Registration & dues...................................... $1,935.00
4/24/2006 Registration & dues........................................ $65.00
5/8/2006 Registration & dues.......................................... $50.00
8/14/06 Check payment stopped................................... $100.00
9/1/2006 Dues ............................................................. $30.00
10/5/06 Dues ............................................................... $25.00
11/7/06 Dues ............................................................... $25.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS..................................................... $5,170.00

Detailed withdrawals
3/31/06 Harland Deposit Slips ....................................... $17.00
4/3/06 Leena Lalwani (PTDLA reception food).................. $454.58
4/4/06 Joseph Kaufman (PTDLA seminar balloons).......... $60.00
4/4/06 PTDLA speaker honorarium
(Payment stopped).......................................................... $100.00
4/12/06 Glennor Shirley
(PTDLA speaker expenses)............................................. $34.74
8/31/06 Stop payment fee............................................. $35.00
9/1/06 ALA (2006 conference meeting space)................... $60.00
11/9/06 Samantha Hager (newsletter printing).................. $512.93
11/9/06 Glennor Shirley
(PTDLA speaker honorarium)......................................... $100.00
11/9/06 Seminar lunch cruise deposit............................. $750.00
1/11/07 Blake Carver (web hosting)............................... $140.00
1/16/07 Dawn Rohan (receipt books)............................... $14.82
TOTAL WITHDRAWALS.............................................. $2,279.07

PTDLA Extended Executive Committee Meeting

April 2nd 2006

The 2006 President Nan Myers called the Executive Committee Meeting of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) to order.


Minutes of the 2005 Executive meeting

Jan Comfort called motion to approve the minutes with corrections if any be sent in and the motion was seconded by Nan Myers and approved by many others.

Presidents Report

Nan Myers mentioned this information is in the Newsletter

PTDLA Day

Nan said everything is set for this day. We are going to do a surprise honoring for Ted Cebula at the beginning of the PTDLA Business Meeting. We will also dedicate the next year’s Newsletter to Ted (??? Do we want to mention this? As I thought it would be a surprise too). Jan Comfort, Charlotte Erdmann and Dave Morrison agreed to work on the on the proclamation.

Nan passed around folder that contains: Minutes from last year’s meeting

Treasurer’s report

Round table’s information for this afternoon. We have biographies of five speakers the sixth speaker was added by the program office after the flyers were printed.

Information on the ALA program put together at the last minute is also included.

Information on the Guest speaker. Nan said she is a fascinating character.

Treasurer’s report

Nan said Suzanne Holcombe took over as interim for Karen Hertel and Suzanne has done a great job. Nan mentioned we
currently have a large balance and that is a good position to be in. We do not know if the seminar will be hosted at USPTO next year or we may have to move back to a hotel. We may also have to pay for the director’s reception. Once we have a better idea this summer we will look into setting up 2 scholarships to fund representative and second line person.

Leena bought up if the large balance as a non-profit was going to cause any IRS issues. Nan said she will ask Tom Melvin about this.

We also discussed the PTDLA reception. Do we need a different time, day, place for this to get better attendance? We can tweak this depending on where the conference will take place later in the summer.

Guest Speaker: Nan said we would reimburse her for her mileage. In addition, do we need to write her a check or give her a gift certificate?

Committee Reports:
Archives Dave Morrison

Archives are happily living on the shelf in my office. They will go with Dave to his new office. No one is the Archive’s committee this year with Dave. Dave talked about his institution having and Institutional repository and he could store the archives in it. But the board was concerned what will happen after Dave leaves Utah. Next step would be to talk to Esther and figure out how much space we need? What will it cost of additional space on PTDLA.org be? We need an order to prioritize the order of scanning the archives. In addition to materials with Dave, other materials could be added too.

Bylaws
Tom Melvin Nan Myers and Dave Morrison will work on it. Nan said she has been looking at bylaws and not finding many answers we need to look at these thoroughly this year. We need to provide better direction to regional representatives by defining their role & duties clearly. We will discuss this at the business meeting.

Conference Committee (Nan Myers)
A. PTDLA Reception
B. PTDLA Speaker
C. PTDLA Round tables
As discussed earlier we are all set with this.

Elections Committee (Bob Klein)
Thanks Charlotte and Amy Van Epps from Purdue helping with the electronic elections.

Here are the results:

Vice President/President Elect: Leena Lalwani
Treasurer: Dawn Rohan
Secretary: Marian Armour Gemmen
Region 2: Connie Wu
Region 4: Jan Comfort
Region 6: Esther Crawford
Region 8: Nancy Spitzer
Region 10: Walt Johnson and Christina Byrne
Region 12: Kristine Ogilvie

Bob said he would continue to chair this committee.

Legislative & Government Relations (Suzanne Holcombe)

Chaired on the past. Is this a committee we need? We need someone to monitor legislative issues may be something added to regional representative charge.

Long-Range Planning Committee
This committee was not active this past year. Virginia Baldwin has volunteered last year. She is planning to chair it this year. Joann Tobin said she would like to be on it. We could ask for more volunteers at the business meeting.

Mentoring Committee: Nan said Leena picked this up at the last minute. Leena said she has matched regional representatives with first time attendees. Nan said she would chair this committee next year. It is a good role for a past president to take.

Needs & offer Committee: This committee did not do much last year. We can dissolve this committee for now.

Program Committee
PTDLA at ALA Program in New Orleans, information regarding this is in the folder. Leena will be the program coordinator and 2007 conference is in Washington D.C. and she can work something with the program office.

b. Other - SLA, PIUG Karen MacDonald said she would look into what they can do at SLA 2007
Promotion & Outreach Committee 2005-06.
3 people volunteered for this committee. We need someone to chair this committee.

Publications Committee
Overall chair

a. Newsletter extra copies are available. Suzanne is doing the Newsletter.

b. IP Journal (Andy Wohrley, Claudine Jenda)
Nan read report from Claudine. We need to combine some issues and bring it up to date.

c. Website (Jim Miller for Esther Crawford) Nan wanted Jim to talk about the databases on the PTDLA site.

d. Inventor’s digest Claudine was the contact. The journal is no longer publishing in print it is published in electronic format only. We can send them events to promote.

Old Business:
Dues: Currently there is no need for an increase. We will not know what it will cost next year. We will look at this issue again.

Long Range committee: is done.
Nomination for Patent Advisory Committee: We did this for the second year. Very heavy hitting individuals. We are going to approach it again in the coming years.

New Business
Continuance of PTDLA-L Kevin Harwell who has done a great job for 10 years will not doing this. Jan Comfort volunteered to do this.

By Law Revisions talked about.

Committee Meetings during Training Seminar time for committee meetings.

Task Force on Identifying who our customers are (Charlotte Erdmann) Last years committee. Where are we now? How can we serve them better? Charlotte asked for helpers.

Announcements: None

Adjournment:
Nan Myers called motion to adjourn and Jan Comfort seconded this motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of PTDLA Business Committee Meeting

April 4th 2006

The 2006 President Nan Myers called Business Meeting of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) to order.

Nan mentioned that we have a large agenda and asked officers to sit upfront. Nan introduced officers and thanked Suzanne Holcomb for doing a great job as an interim treasurer.

Minutes from 2005 Business meeting
Nan called motion to approve the minutes with correction to be sent in. Tom Melvin moved for the minutes to be approved Carol Giles seconded along with many others.

President’s Report:
Folder passed around contains: Minutes from last year’s meeting
Reviewing bylaws
Letter to directors of participating organizations thanking them for sending representatives and letting them know how the representative participated.

Add new members to broaden base

Providing Regional Representatives with a better direction

Ted Cebula Honored:
PTDLA recognized Ted Cebula on his retirement and 30+ years as a PTDLA representative. Nan presented him with a proclamation. He was also honored by the PTDLA. On behalf of the PTDLA Martha Crocker-Sneed presented him with a plaque and Memory of photographs on behalf of his dedication over the years.

Ted said thank you to everyone.

Treasurer’s Report: (Suzanne Holcombe)
Send in registration to Suzanne by mail, if you do not have your checkbook. She said we currently have a balance of over $10,000.

Committee Reports:
Archives Committee: (Dave Morrison)
Dave mentioned archives are in his office. Working on moving these online. Did not do much this year. He will need either more space on the PTDLA.org server or the other option is load them up as part of the Institutional Repository at Utah, but this could be a problem after Dave leaves Utah. He needs help with archives and please sign up on the sign up sheets.

By-laws committee: (Tom Melvin)
We have not done much this year. We are going to do a systematic review this year of the bylaws. Towards the end of year have a ballot to vote on changes. Main issue will be to address the changing role of regional representative which include; Discovering needs and interest of your region, Being mentors, Yearly check of needs in your region, legislative issues and etc.

Conference Committee (Nan Myers)
A. PTDLA Reception was a success
B. PTDLA Speaker we are all set with this for today afternoon.
C. PTDLA Round tables: We now have 6 round tables, there was a last minute addition from the program office. Information for all the above items is in the folder.

Elections Committee (Bob Klein)
Thanks Charlotte and Amy Van Epps from Purdue helping with the electronic elections.

Here are the results:
Vice President/President Elect: Leena Lalwani
Treasurer: Dawn Rohan
Secretary: Marian Armour Gemmen
Region 2: Connie Wu
Region 4: Jan Comfort
Region 6: Esther Crawford
Region 8: Nancy Spitzer
Region 10: Walt Johnson and Christina Byrne
Region 12: Kristine Ogilvie

Bob also mentioned it is important to participate. He will continue to chair the committee next year.

Legislative & Government Relations (Suzanne Holcombe)
This committee was not active last year.

Long-Range Planning Committee: (Nan Myers)
Virginia Baldwin is planning to lead this committee Tom Melvin and Joanne Tobin have signed up too. We are looking for a few more members. The committee needs to set it charge.

Mentoring Committee:
Nan Myers will chair this group and this could be something that is set for Ex-president to do.

8. Needs & Offer Committee: (Nan Myers)
We can collapse this committee at this time.

continued on page 10
Program Committee
PTDLA at ALA Program in New Orleans the information is in the folder.

Leena will be the program coordinator and 2007 conference is in Washington D.C. and she can work something with the program office.

Other - SLA, PIUG Karen MacDonald said she will look into what they can do at SLA 2007

Promotion & Out reach Committee 2005-06.
Three people volunteered for this group. We need a chair

Publications Committee
Newsletter extra copies are available on the back table. Samantha Hager has moved, but she still volunteered to do the newsletter and did a great job. Suzanne Holcomb is going to do the Newsletter next year.

b. IP Journal (Andy Wohrley, Claudine Jenda)
Nan read the report from Claudine. Journal is behind in publication and we may want to combine some issues. Nan promoted journal and invited organization to publish in journal.

Website
(Jim Miller for Esther Crawford)
Jim Miller talked about how he got the backfiles database from Jim Shaw. This database is now on the PTDLA website. Most of us thought we should send a thank you note to Mr. Jim Shaw.

We are now missing data from 1874-1920. Most felt we need to investigate how we can get this data up USPTO is selling the data. Jim Miller will be heading the committee to look into this. Others interested should contact him.

Dawn Rohan has regional databases are linked from her website. People who are making state databases regional data should contact her.

d. Inventor’s digest Claudine was the contact. We had a complete schedule for publication. Print copy of journal is history and is published in electronic format only. We can send them events to promote.

Old Business:
Dues: Currently there is no need for an increase. We will not know what it will cost next year. We will look at this issue again.

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Announcements: None

Adjournment:
Nan Myers called motion to adjourn and Jan Comfort seconded this motion. Meeting was adjourned.
Open Forum April 4th 2006

1. Martha Crockett Sneed
2. Amanda Putnam
3. Brookey Givens
4. Nan Myers
5. Donna Cooper
6. Harold Smith
7. Pamela Reinhart
8. Chris Kitchens
9. Terry Howard
10. Mike Harrigan

Andy Wohrley (Auburn): How soon will we see a patent granted and patent application as a unified search interface?

Pamela: Not soon but few changes are in work

Nan Myers: (Wichita State University): USPC Index can we search on its own and not via First Search Gov

Pamela: First Gov was revamped in January. Search engine will be crawling and searching will be working better soon.

Nan: Will you notify us in advance of changes coming to the webpage?

Pamela: Trying to work on it. Projected dates it is a mystery to all of us, we need to coordinate better.

Nan: When will we have multi-page printing?

Martha: it will be in place if you use a commercial tiff viewer.

Nan: Do we have plans to make more than 52 weeks of Patent OG online?

Pamela: Space is an issue. CIS will have the back-file.

Dave Morrison (University of Utah): Size of tabs for classification Index. Is there a way to make them visible?

Pamela: I will look at this.

Dave: We can download full texts from Pat2pdf.org, Espacenet and other sites

Ciella Mitchell (San Francisco): Direct link for searching for patents changed too with the new update. Is there a possibility to have a link from the homepage?

Pamela: At this time no. Large number of Guidance, tools are moving of the homepage. Can’t put everything on the webpage

Ari Grebstein (Chicago Public Library): Talked about changes to the webpage. Web page is currently not easy to use.

Pamela: Drop down menu on the left menu bar. What is on the site or how to use the site is on the top menu bar. About and all the links are moved on the left hand side.

Karon King (Iowa State Library): Change images from tiff to PDF. You can see PDF wrappers on tiff.

Charlotte Erdmann (Purdue University): Help files are confusing. List of help things fielded guide for searching are not for this database

Kevin Dal (Chicago Public Library): Is it now possible do a patent search by using to a USPTO website. Or do patrons have to come to the depository library?

Martha: Information and data source is on the web. Pubwest is different. Patrons might do a better search at a PTDL. In terms of how they construct a search if they come to a PTDL and learn. They search with limited level of knowledge on how information is arranged they could phone a PTDL

Bob Klein (Miami-Dade Public Library): How to search a patent? How to search a patent at a PTDL? Why is it setup like that?

Pam: Created the page and just pulled the information for Business information. We need to turn something around short period of time. Clean up after. Federal rules have to be followed.

Bill Schilling (New York State Library): Webpage describes the old version of 7 steps. At the seminar we have been shown an expanded version. When will it be changed on the page?

Pamela: Expanded 7 steps are being worked on.

Mary Kordyban (Detroit Public Library): We have giant collection of official gazette in paper.

continued on page 12
Martha: It is not on the web. It is a reminder to all of you; if you are planning to withdraw anything you are suppose to inform us.

Ran Raider (Wright State University): How soon Index to Classification is updated with newer terminologies?

Harold: Revision projects are bogged down due to the logjam. Try different approach or try EPO

Marian Armour-Gemmen (West Virginia University): For Pubwest, You need to proxy to logon. It is not a good idea and it is insecure to use Pubwest. I can’t offer to public

Martha: Next phase is portal, which will be available soon

Margaret Collins (Illinois State Library): When will pre 1920 OCR be available?

Martha: Do not know at this time.

Suzanne Holcomb (Oklahoma State University): Classification information. Screen shot of class and subclass.

Pamela: How to read the index of classification. Build it into patenting 101. We are looking into this?

Suzanne: Are there any plans to put more classification orders online prior to order #1825? Will orders currently online stay online?

Jim Charnley: No plans currently to add orders prior to #1825 online. We are performing an inventory of our archived classification orders and plan to convert these from microfiche to PDF. If we have funding to convert these to alternative formats. Web publication will be the preferable version. Classification orders online will stay online for now unless we have any limitations. It’s a fairly big effort to get rest of them online, it has to be customer driven. We don’t get too many requests.

Marian Armour-Gemmen (West Virginia University)

MPEP some lawyers looking for earlier edition and were wondering if the changes were kept anywhere.

Dave Morrison (University of Utah): PDF documents at Pat2pdf.com site requires payment. Our customer base is doing historical patent research. Genealogical searching is important for our clientele.

Martha: OCR data Pre 1920 is different. Proposal with national archives, GPO stepped back they will have to key in the information. We have not given up.

Leslie Brown (Howard University): Web changes, they are still confusing. Where do we start our patrons? It is complicated.

Pamela: Some tutorials available, Penn State we link to there website tutorial.

Chris Bryne (University of Washington): Contractual agreement information for most of the contract/transfers we get this information from Lexis-Nexis. What is the cutoff date when they got sent to archives?

Mande: I will confirm the dates of what we can retrieve from archives. After 10 years applications are destroyed if they were not issued

Leena Lalwani (University of Michigan): Have you done a usability study on the webpage?

Pamela: We have done these in the past and it is hard to implement suggestions on a large system.
A Message from the Program Office

2007 is a special anniversary for the PTDL Program as it marks the 30th year PTDL libraries have joined together for an annual training seminar. Since that first seminar with only 22 Patent Depository Libraries, the program has grown to include “trademarks” as part of its moniker and to expand across the United States and U.S. Territories with 85 current PTDL member libraries. Thirty years ago, the Program’s emphasis was on the dissemination of tangible copies of documents. Over the decades, the PTDL libraries became a conduit through which new electronic patent and trademark search products could be provided to the general public. Now the PTDL program emphasizes customer service, training, specialized IP resources, and outreach to a myriad of interested user groups. Here at the Program Office, we look forward to celebrating our history and planning for our future at the upcoming 30th Annual PTDL Training Seminar.

This year we were pleased to welcome the 21st PTDL Fellow, Ari Grebstein, from the Chicago Public Library PTDL. We are happy to have Ari’s help and input in the Program Office during his year on the Fellowship, which began in November, and you will be able greet him at this year’s seminar. The most recent staff development was the retirement of James “Jim” Arshem in December 2006. We miss his encyclopedic knowledge of the history of PTDL, but if his busy social calendar is any measure, then we know he’s having the time of his life!

Throughout the year, our Program Office librarians have visited many PTDLs in support of both public programs and library staff training. Cynthia Banicki, Chris Black and Tom Turner visited libraries across the U.S. and enjoyed talking with inventors, entrepreneurs, legal professionals and library staff about their IP searching questions. Please read our Ad Libs newsletter and the articles from individual libraries in the PTDLA newsletter for more details on our travels.

The Program Office also worked hard to promote the products and services available at member PTDL libraries by exhibiting at national conventions. This past year we reached out to attendees at the Public Library Association Conference in Boston, the Special Libraries Association Conference in Baltimore, the American Library Association’s Conference in New Orleans, the Independent Inventor Conferences in Chicago and Alexandria, and the American Intellectual Property Law Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. All the librarians, legal professionals and inventors we spoke with were pleased to learn about the PTDLs in their own states – especially the availability of PubWEST at many of our PTDL locations.

Another exiting new initiative at the USPTO this year has been the Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA). Through this program, government officials from around the world are invited to USPTO headquarters in Alexandria for presentations on many different areas of intellectual property. Our Program Office has been asked to speak to these groups on the importance of the PTDL Program in disseminating intellectual property information and assisting the public with patent and trademark searching. Many of you have participated in the U.S. outreach portion of this program by taking part in the USPTO Road Show that came to your cities. This road show was geared towards making U.S. citizens aware of the importance of protecting their intellectual property rights both here and abroad. Many thanks to all you reps who took the time to either speak or provide informational handouts on your PTDLs at these programs.

The biggest event of the year was on July 12, 2006 when two new PTDLs were designated on the same day. These new libraries are at the University of California, Riverside and the University of Baltimore Law Library in Maryland. Both libraries used the second half of the year to build their collections and train their library staff, and they will be opening in the spring of 2007 to the public. We are happy to have added these libraries to the PTDL network, and you will have a chance to congratulate their representatives in person at the 30th Annual Training Seminar.

Now we are in the final stages of preparing for our special 30th Anniversary Seminar. Each PTDL has been asked to submit a historical patent or trademark from 1977 to the Program Office as part of a slide show for attendees, and PTDLA has planned a special lunch cruise on their “Association Day”. There will be two levels of PubWEST training this year and special tours of the old Patent Office Building in Washington, D.C. by Temple of Invention author, Charles Robertson. We look forward to celebrating our 30th Anniversary with all of you in March!

– Chris Kitchens, Acting PTDL Manager
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program

Akron, Ohio

Akron-Summit County Public Library

With attendance at our patent-searching classes decreasing every month, we decided we needed a change. We found that a number of people who signed up for the class really didn’t need a patent at all, but some other type of intellectual property. So in the Fall of 2006, we implemented a new programming idea. We created a PowerPoint presentation: Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks – What’s the difference? An Introduction to Intellectual Property. We also decided to take this program “on the road”. To gain the attention of the suburb users who never venture downtown to Main library, we offered our IP program at 4 of our branches. Our Introduction to Online Patent Searching classes were offered as a follow up to those who really wanted to pursue a patent. With 7 programs scheduled in 8 weeks, we were very busy to say the least – but it paid off! We averaged about 10 people per session who were very enthusiastic and interested in future programming. For the Spring of 2007, we are once again offering our general IP classes at branches and are in the development of a more in depth Trademark searching class. Many of us also had the privilege to travel to fellow PTDL Cincinnati to attend their Inventor Fest and gain wonderful ideas to hopefully use at our location in the future.

– Curtis Bower, Francie Labriola, Cheryl Luck

Albany, New York

New York State Library,

2006 was relatively quiet at New York State Library – no renovations or relocating or new equipment to deal with this year. Onsite assistance ebbed and flowed throughout the year, ending up at about the same level as in recent years. We did notice an increase in telephone assistance to people who, no matter how much I sang the praises of PubWEST, had no plans to come onsite. Many of those people reported being directed to us by the USPTO web site or by talking to someone at the USPTO.

Rothschild Petersen Patent Model Museum

In December we had a visit from Ann and Alan Rothschild of the Rothschild Petersen Patent Model Museum in Cazenovia, NY near Syracuse (http://www.patentmodel.org). They were visiting the New York State Museum, which is in the same building we are, and one of the curators brought them up to see us. They wanted to search for some old patents. This was a day or so after Google Patents went live. We ended up spending the better part of an afternoon talking about their patent model collection and exploring Google Patents together.

The Rothschild’s museum has loaned models for exhibits to other institutions. They told me they have a traveling exhibit in the planning stages. I told them that many PTDLs would likely be interested in hosting a traveling exhibit. I ended up talking with Leena Lalwani and Chris Kitchens about the Rothschilds presenting at the training seminar. It was too late to arrange that for this year but Chris recommended we consider it for next year’s seminar, perhaps on PTDLA day.
Business XPO

Our library has been concentrating on improving PR and outreach recently. One of the groups we have targeted for this effort is the business community. This past year our local chamber of commerce hosted an event they called a “Business XPO.” Numerous businesses and services had booths displaying their wares and about 800 chamber members attended. We decided to pay for a booth. Our being a PTDL was one of things about the library we promoted in the nice display we brought. The XPO turned out to be a great opportunity to talk one-to-one with many members of the local business community. We found the booth and display to be a much more effective atmosphere than mingling at the Chamber’s regular networking events (that I tend to feel uncomfortable at).

One of the services we promoted was the offer to present a customized training session for a business either at the library or at the business’ workplace. So far a few companies have expressed interest. Most want training on using databases we provide remote access to, but one company has requested a session on patent searching. This is an avenue of outreach we are planning to build on in the future.

– Bill Schilling

Albuquerque, New Mexico

University of New Mexico

I think I can honestly say that this was a remarkably unproductive year at UNM’s PTDL. In mid October Jackie Shane, the PTDL librarian was mauled by a dog while riding her bicycle. She missed seven weeks of work due to two surgeries and a month on a “wound vac” while trying to reconstruct a hole in her leg.

Thanks to the Internet, she was able to handle some of the more complicated IP queries from her house, but only after the first month of her accident, and with her leg elevated on one side of her computer.

Otherwise, business as usual.

– Jackie Shane
Amherst, Massachusetts
W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

2006 was a quiet year for patents and trademarks at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I was able to accomplish two more outreach presentations on patent searching for public librarians. My colleague and I developed a neat step by step basic guide to searching patents for our Patents and Trademarks web guide. The URL for the search guide is: http://www.library.umass.edu/subject/patents/patentsearch.html

Of the 35 patent consultations and 167 patent and trademark reference queries I handled, every one with the exception of perhaps 10 has been with persons outside the University community. Because Connecticut does not have a patent depository, about one third of my contacts come from Connecticut. We have tried to induce someone to join us, but so far we have had no takers. Perhaps in 2007 a library from Connecticut will come on board.

– Leonard Adams

Anchorage, Alaska
Z.J. Loussac Library, Anchorage Municipal Libraries

2006 was a busy year for Z.J. Loussac Library as we hired a new director (Karen Keller) and embarked on a number of projects to re-vitalize our library. Our library celebrated its' 20th anniversary in our new building and location. For my part, I presented 2 programs highlighting the use of patents, and patent searching and its usefulness to genealogist. We have a very active local genealogy society that supports our genealogy dept. with volunteers and donations, and they were excited to learn about the different kinds of information that could be gleaned from patent applications and grants.

On a more personal note, many thanks were given to former Patent and Trademark Librarian Bob Williams for stepping in to assist when I suffered a heart attack in August. The heart attack, and subsequent bypass surgery left me “down for the count” for 6 weeks in which time Bob graciously came out of retirement.

– Doug McAllister

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

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

-My name is Leena Lalwani and I am the PTDL representative since 2000. Other reference staff that help out PTDL users with patents and trademarks are David Carter, Rebecca Price, Bob T folliver, Paul Grochowski, Annette Haines, Jacob Glenn, Elizabeth Pickard and Julie Piacentine.

This year I made contacts with our Technology Transfer Department. We help the students that do initial searching for this department. They also refer faculty and staff who do initial searching on their own to the library. As in the previous year’s I have been working with Engineering students on design class assignments and with Business school students. I also made some connections with Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Ann Arbor Spark.

– Leena Lalwani
The Atlanta, Georgia PTDL is located in the Georgia Tech Library & Information Center on the Georgia Tech campus in Midtown Atlanta. For the convenience of our patrons we have two patent workstations located near our front door. One station houses CASSIS II and the other allows access to the USPTO website and to Pub West. Joanne Tobin and We recently installed a new computer and monitor for our patent workstation.

Joanne has been the PTDL representative since 2000. Georgia Tech has been a Patent Depository library since 1946, and one of the original 22 PTDLs. We are the only PTDL in Georgia, so people often travel a long distance to get here.

Our PTDL is part of our Information Services Department. At the end of November, Cathe Cannon, the Library Assistant who provided patent assistance to patrons for over 15 years, retired. Her position has not yet been filled. We miss you Cathe. Brian Franklin provides invaluable computer support making sure all of the CASSIS updates are installed and running.

All department Information Consultants are scheduled at our Information Services Desk. At one of our monthly department meetings this year Joanne presented a training session on searching and comparing PubWest, Espacenet and the USPTO website. Staff working our Reference Desk provides patent and trademark assistance to any walk-in patrons. For more in-depth help, students, faculty and staff schedule appointments.

Georgia Tech supports our PTDL outreach efforts. This year Joanne visited 3rd graders and introduced them to patents in conjunction with their simple machines study unit. She also returned to provide patent instruction to 4th graders in another school. She was again asked to do an interactive long-distance patent presentation to a Capstone Design mechanical engineering class meeting at our Savannah, Ga campus.

Joanne responded to an article in Georgia Tech’s Office of Licensing Technology Newsletter regarding an article concerning patent research to remind them of the patent services our library provides via the USPTDL program. This lead to an invitation to speak at their staff meeting, which lead to an invitation to speak at a staff meeting for Georgia Tech’s Venture Lab EII (Enterprise Innovation Institute). She was also invited by Georgia Tech’s Office of Sponsored Programs to be a presenter in their Brown Bag Lunch series. After speaking to these groups, many PHD candidates with potential patentable inventions arising from their research made appointments for help in conducting prior art searches.

It has been a busy, but rewarding year.

– Joanne Tobin
Auburn, Alabama
Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

Auburn University Libraries Patent and Trademark Depository Library Report

This report finds the AU PTDL on the cusp of some big changes. After I learned how to do online tutorials last summer, the AU PTDL now has an online tutorial demonstrating proper patent searching of the uspto.gov database. It is intended that this online tutorial will both serve as a technology demonstration for other tutorials for the library, and will save the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Representative’s time by allowing what is now called asynchronous learning where independent inventors will learn about patent searching on their own time. In creating the tutorial I was aided by an assistant in the library’s training program, Cayce Van Horn and it is her voice providing the excellent audio commentary. Please listen to the tutorial and let me know what you think. The URL for the tutorial is: http://diglib.auburn.edu/tutorials/uspto6.htm

Also, the biannual Alabama Inventor’s Conference will be held February 21, 2007 in Jacksonville Alabama, and it is traditional that the AU PTDL representative delivers a talk on proper patent searching for the audience of inventors and others interested in the invention process.

Finally, I look forward to meeting with you all at the Training Seminar where I will talk about how we devised and implemented the tutorial.

— Andrew Wohrley

Baltimore, Maryland
University of Baltimore Law Library

The University of Baltimore Law Library was designated a Patent and Trademark Depository Library in July 2006, and we officially opened our doors on February 1, 2007. Thanks to great training by Chris Black, our PTDL fairy godmother, the reference staff at UB are well-versed in patent and trademark searching and eager to try out our new skills.

We are planning a big splash in August, when we have our “grand opening.” A couple of our professors have a particular interest in biotech and pharmaceuticals, so we hope to get speakers from that area. We’ll also offer training sessions for people who want to learn about the resources we offer.

I look forward to working with everyone in the PTDL community!

— Joanne Dugan
Birmingham, AL
Birmingham Public Library

The Government Documents Department has had a busy year working on various database projects. We are maintaining databases that will help our patrons in both the government documents area and patents and trademarks. Our Alabama Inventors Database is a top priority. We have indexed, as of February 2007, patents from 1821-1972. We welcome you to take a look at http://bpldb.bplonline.org/db/inventors. Our department also maintains a web page updated weekly on recent patents granted to Alabama inventors, and a separate Alabama Inventors database is now included in the Library’s Digital Collections, added last year as part of a wider digitization project. Other activities during the year included mounting a display for National Inventors month in August, and Becky Scarborough spoke at a local inventors group meeting in the fall. We will continue to work on the Inventors Database in 2007, and we hope to increase public awareness of this resource.

– Michelle Andrews

Buffalo, New York
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System

Hello from Buffalo N.Y.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System (BECPL) has been providing patent and trademark information to inventors and businesses since the 1890s when we became a government depository and our Central Library can proudly say it has been a PTDL since the program began. Our current Patent and Trademark Center is located at the Buffalo Central Library in the Business Science & Technology Department (BST) Our present Patent and Trademark Center was established in 2001 and is dedicated to the memory of Erich Mayer a PTDL Fellowship participant who passed away in 2000. The Buffalo PTDL also works closely with the local Small Business Administration and Small Business Development Center by adding to their workshops with insights on intellectual property and its importance in business. 2006 held many challenges for the Library System in Erie County. Due to County deficits our entire system (52 Libraries) almost closed. Thanks to a strong public outcry the libraries in Erie County stayed open but at a funding level equal to the 1997 budget. Nineteen libraries where closed and over quarter of the staff laid off throughout the system. All Public training was put on hold due to staff shortages and the Business Science & Technology Department (BST) dropped in staffing from ten full-time librarians to six. Dan Caufield, the PTDL rep, was made a regular part-time staff member working 30hrs/wk. Previous cross training of all Science Business & Technology staff in PTDL resources helped us to continue the high level of service our patrons expected. 2007’s library budget is much more positive. Permanent funding for the library system from the County Legislation has allowed Dan Caufield to be reinstated fulltime and more staff is expected to return to BST. We look forward to a more prosperous year.

– Dan Caufield
Butte, Montana
Montana Tech Library, University of Montana

Here on Montana Tech’s campus, the patent and trademark questions continue to come in from state employees, inventors, students and faculty.

Just last night, an independent inventor made a long drive for an appointment here. He was typical of our patent & trademark patrons: full of great ideas and determination, but full of uncertainty about how to negotiate the patent application process. The inventors we see need a detailed e-tour to the USPTO website, a full explanation of the prior art search, and a clear understanding of the legal protections provided by a patent or trademark. Their first visit to the library is often a half day or more. Most inventors come for 2 or 3 visits before they feel equipped to proceed on their own. Some keep in e-mail contact for a year or so; there are others we do not hear from again. Most inventors seem to feel grateful for our help.

We continue to explore collaborations with small-business promotion groups, local and federal. There is a great need, among independent inventors, for help getting their inventions to the market. With our geographically large state, it is also a challenge to get inventors together as sustainable groups. This last year, there have been a number of well attended inventor forums, both in urban and rural areas.

– Noni

Charlotte, North Carolina
J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina

The J. Murrey Atkins Library at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has been a U. S. Patent and Trademark Depository Library since July, 2003. The depository is housed in the Reference Department. Joanne S. Klein, Reference Librarian for Engineering and Information Technology is the primary contact and the PTDL representative.

We have assisted our professors, students, members of the community, and legal professionals in the use of the PTDL facility. We regularly use the USPTO web site, the CASSIS system and now the new Google Patent beta site to assist our patrons. Interest, especially in patents, is steadily growing with at least one patron, and sometime more, per week. The library has tentative plans for another seminar later this year. A group of local inventors has recently formed an Inventors Network of the Carolinas and our PTDL representative communicates with and directs patrons to this organization as well.

Although we did not offer a public instruction session this year, our College of Computing and Informatics initiated a new course offering in Intellectual Property Law and asked for the Library’s participation. We prepared several hands-on patent and trademark searching workshops for our computer software and systems students.

The library has a web site at http://library.uncc.edu/display/?dept=library&format=open&page=1610

– Joanne Klein
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Wyoming State Library

As like last year, the move of the State Library to a temporary location consumed most of this year. After many construction delays, we finally moved in August. Twenty-six librarians and staff unpacked, reordered, and shelved more than 5500 boxes of books in 16 days. The greatest amount of time was spent placing the books and documents back in classification order. If you must move sometime in the future, I highly recommend packers who understand that library books go on the shelf in a particular order and can not be stuffed in a box randomly. Near the end, the floor of what would become the staff area was a sea of ordered Department of Interior documents.

Shortly after moving in we got to experience our sewage disaster. Over a weekend a grease blockage in the main sewer line (we are now near an interstate exit with many fast food restaurants) caused flooding in our new location. We did lose some patent microfilm but the area which was formerly the sea of Interior documents was the worst hit. Overall it could have been much worse.

We also began work on the Wyoming state trademarks database. While waiting for the software contract to be approved, we began scanning the active state trademark applications. The database will eventually include all state trademarks, active and inactive, back to the 19th century. They will be accessible through field searchable metadata and OCR of the application forms.

– Dawn Rohan

Cincinnati, Ohio
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (PLCH) was among the first participants in the Patent Depository program, beginning in 1871. Over the years, the PTDL collection has been a vital part of the reference services offered at the Main Library in downtown Cincinnati, first in our Science & Technology Department, then the Public Documents & Patents Department, and then most recently, the Government & Business Department in 2005. Government & Business also manages the U.S. Federal Depository collection, as well as subject materials in computers, economics, politics, law, industry, commerce, business management, military studies, and government. Although there is one designated PTDL librarian, all of the 6 full-time reference librarians and the 5 full and part-time library service assistants can assist users with our two PTDL workstations – one with CASSIS, both with PubWEST access – and with general questions on patents, trademarks and copyrights. The PTDL librarian plans and conducts public programs on patent and trademark searching and on invention-related topics, as well as trains other reference staff.

There are three levels of patent searching programs offered at PLCH to the public. PatentQuest Basic, held six times a year, is a 2 ½ hour class covering the basics of IP, the resources available to inventors at our library and at other PTDLs, and preliminary patent searching on the USPTO website using U.S. Patent Classification and the Seven Steps. This class uses a PowerPoint presentation and two videos. PatentQuest Express is a shortened version of PatentQuest Basic offered before meetings of the Inventor’s Council of Cincinnati (ICC) and is a quick overview of Classification searches. PatentQuest Advanced is held twice annually and covers Boolean keyword searching techniques, an introduction to PubWEST, and international patent searches. This is held in a computer lab to allow hands-on training.

Although our PTDL program has established good relationships with several IP law firms in our area, it is predominantly geared to the needs of independent inventors, and our Library has developed a very strong outreach to this community in Cincinnati. The Inventor’s Council of Cincinnati is an exceptionally active and dedicated group of inventors whose monthly meetings at the Main Library feature speakers on business, marketing and product development and promotion. The Government & Business Department promotes the ICC to its library users who attend our patent searching programs,

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and the ICC provides a natural audience for the PatentQuest programs and our reference services. From Dreams To Dollars: How to Make Money with your Invention is an innovative collaborative library program between the Inventor’s Council and the PLCH which offers beginning inventors an overview of the business issues behind bringing an invention to market and promotes library and PTDLP information resources. As part of this program, successful inventors from the ICC share personal experiences in marketing their inventions. From Dreams To Dollars was held five times in 2006 and was well attended.

2006 was a year of significant achievements for the PTDL program at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. On October 14, we hosted the 3rd annual InventorFest at the Main Library downtown - a stunning success with 750 attendees. This event - held once before in Cincinnati and at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio - has been a flourishing exhibition event and trade show for independent inventors as well as a forum for information on inventing and patents. InventorFest 2006 was no exception; with patent attorney David Pressman as keynote speaker, 38 exhibitors, and an expert panel consisting of local patent attorneys, the ICC president, a representative of the FTC, and Marian Knodle of the USPTO. It also had a whole new segment geared for children, teens and families, “Inventing Is For Everyone” which featured hands-on science exhibits, computer gaming, a “toy lab,” and an expert on the electronic game industry. Planning for this event took over a year and involved librarians from several PLCH departments and numerous community organizations including the ICC and the local public television station, WCET. As a summer lead-up to InventorFest, members of the Government & Business staff also teamed up with branch children’s librarians in June and July to present a series of 15 creative workshops for children (k—5th) focused on patents and inventions called Invention @ Play.

The past few months have brought significant personnel changes to the PTDL program in Cincinnati. PTDL librarian John Schlipp, a remarkable leader and innovator in this field, left for a library academic position at Northern Kentucky University in August 2006. John has generously volunteered his time since then to help with the transition and with InventorFest. In January 2007, John Graham, the department manager of Government & Business, moved on to a position in the financial industry. John Graham had been the manager over the PTDL program since 1997 and was highly instrumental in developing and extending the program through his encouragement and empowerment of the PTDL librarians under him.

I, Jim Mainger, became the Patent & Trademark Librarian when John Schlipp left. I have over 20 years of experience in business and government reference at PLCH and feel very excited to now be involved with the PTDLP. I will be attending the PTDLP Seminar in March for the first time and look forward to meeting the staff of the PTDLP and the other members of the PTDLA.

– Jim Mainger
Clemson, South Carolina
R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

Greetings from Clemson, where it is chilly today, but will soon be wonderfully warm. We have had a very busy year at the R.M. Cooper Library. Our Dean of 28 years retired in May, and the new Dean started work in July. The Head of Reference retired after 38 years of service, and we are in the throes of choosing her successor. We have hired 2 new reference librarians, and will soon hire a third. Needless to say, with so many new people, there are many opportunities to remind people about services related to patents and trademarks. I am repeating a well-attended workshop for grad students called “Patents in the Research Process.” They are a really attentive bunch, and ask great questions. I always look forward to meeting with them. I am also planning a similar program for the campus and surrounding community to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day, which is April 26th. I even wrote an article for DTTP (Documents to the People – the official journal of ALA GODORT) with ideas to help celebrate. I have also spent a good bit of time working with Clemson University’s Intellectual Property Committee. This is the group on campus that hears inventors’ disclosures and makes recommendations about the whether or not to pursue patent protection. We have been refining our patent policy, and actually crafting a procedure to follow regarding trademark matters. It has been a valuable experience, and I have learned a lot. This year also marked the year that I finally completed a database of South Carolina Inventors from 1796 to 1896. You can find it here, http://sys.lib.clemson.edu/scinventors/search.asp, or from the ptsla.org website. I have served as president of the PTDLA this year, which also has proved to be very rewarding. I recommend it!

– Jan Comfort

College Park, Maryland
Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, University of Maryland

The College Park PTDL has been in the University of Maryland Engineering & Physical Sciences Library since its designation in 1984. Jim Miller (Rep) and Bob Kackley are the main patent and trademark librarians, but we try to indoctrinate any others who show even a little interest. Bob is especially active in coordinating library research classes that include patents. The big news this year is our new Head, Nevenka Zdravkovska, who joined us in October 2006 from Blommer Science Library at Georgetown University. We hope many of you will get to meet her at Seminar 30. Librarian Nedelina Tchangalova and graduate assistant Amanda Feigley have worked hard upgrading our website, which will include a blog for EPSL news and helpful reference hints. We hope to have especially good news on the patent history front this year. A patron showed us his copy of a June 9, 1818 patent for “Improvement in the Shoemaker’s Bench, for working, standing and executing the work more expeditiously,” granted to John Greenholt of Westminster, MD. Historical Manuscripts Curator Jennie Levine of our Maryland Room is now trying to get a state of the art scan of this missing X-patent. It was not listed in the PTDLP “Name and Date Patents” or the 3 volume “Subject Matter Index...1790-1873”. We found it in a photocopy of the “List of Patents for Inventions and Designs... 1790-1847” that Jim made while on PTDLP Fellowship in 2000 in Crystal City. College Park continues to have steady demand, though much more from telephone and email patrons. We take advantage of the all day “Technology Startup Boot Camp” in October, and lunch hour presentations such as writing business plans, presented by the Clark School of Engineering’s Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (www.mtech.umd.edu/)

– Jim Miller
College Station, Texas
Ted A&M University PTDL

The year started out with the relocation of the College Station PTDL from the Sterling C. Evans Library, where it had been since 1983, to its new home in the West Campus Business Library. The main reasons for the move were to offer more convenient accessibility for PTDL patrons, to develop new patrons from the Mays School of Business and the Center for New Ventures & Entrepreneurship, and support the research of students who participate in the annual MBA Tech Transfer Challenge and the campus-wide Ideas Challenge competition.

Business Reference Librarian, Karen MacDonald, returned from the PTO training seminar in April 2006 prepared to take on the additional challenges of serving as the Patent & Trademark Depository Librarian. The first priority was to deliver an orientation on Patent & Trademark information resources to the West Campus Library reference librarians and staff. This was followed by seminar on patent searching which was attended by both business and engineering librarians.

Karen MacDonald completely revised and updated the content on the Texas A&M University Libraries PTDL information page and included a link to a new Patent & Trademark Subject Guide. The Subject Guide is a useful educational resource and provides information on patent databases, electronic journals, & current literature, as well as links to basic information and tutorials on the web.

Finally, in February, the West Campus Business Library offered two sessions of a free seminar “Patent Searching 101.” The seminars were advertised to the local community and across campus; the first-time attendance was worth the effort. The seminars will be repeated in April.

- Karen MacDonald
Columbus, Ohio
Science and Engineering Library, Ohio State University

OSU is one of the original PTDLs. The PTDL collection and equipment was housed in the “Main Library” for decades and moved to the Science and Engineering Library @ 1998. All Reference staff assist users but primary contacts remain the PTDL liaison and SEL’s Reference Assistant.

The PTDL at Ohio State University is one of six in Ohio (OSU, Wright State University near Dayton, and the public libraries of Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo.) OSU continues to see an increase in use from the on-campus population but somewhat less from the public at large. On-site use is sporadic weeks with none, then a multi-day blitz. Our CASSIS station remains a stand-alone because OSUL web machines require OSU authentication and always have a queue of users.

WEST has received limited use but two or three people from the area have gone to the PTO for on-site training. Google’s introduction of Google - Patents adds another development to watch. G - P was only announced mid-December of 2006 and time will tell but it will likely siphon off users who might have come on-site. Other external resources, including Google - Books will further influence use. Recent years certainly have changed the tools of discovery and exposure, just think back a few years ....and try to think forward a few more!

In June of 2006, I participated in the PTO’s regional Conference on IP in the Global Marketplace which was held in Columbus and attracted attendees from as far away as Texas and Florida. I helped promote Cincinnati’ and Wright State’s October ‘06 InventorFest by posting flyers in the library, informing users who phoned or emailed, and sent flyers to the Columbus Inventors Group. The event was at the Cincinnati PTDL; Ran reported high attendance thus users recognized it as an excellent opportunity!

– Mary Jo Arnold

Dallas, Texas
Dallas Public Library

The Dallas Public Library has been a part of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program since 1977, and is housed within the Government Information Center of the Central Library. Cynthia Mayo accepted another position within the Dallas Library system and was replaced by Jared Saxon as patent librarian in late 2006. All members of the division are prepared to offer patrons assistance in getting started with either a patent or trademark search.

With the assistance of local attorneys and patent agents the library has hosted a number of workshops ranging from One-to-One Question and Answer sessions to larger classroom settings where as many as sixty people learn the basics of intellectual property and how to bring a product to market. The Government Information Center co-sponsored a Texas Inventor’s Association workshop, “Effective Product Development: The Concept, the Process, the Pitch” in May. Sessions were presented by two successful local inventors, a former Patent Office examiner turned Patent Attorney, and a Fox News reporter who specializes in promoting access to free publicity. Additionally the Dallas PTDL maintains an Honorary Membership in the Texas Inventors Association, and utilizes their monthly meetings as a means for targeted community outreach.

With the opening of the Central Library’s 5th floor Hamon Video Conferencing Facility we’ve been able to enjoy the company of training assistance directly from PTDLP staff in Alexandria, and have hosted a PTO Trials and Appeal Board Judge who lives in the Dallas area and has telecommuted to participate in several Appeals Board hearings.

– Jared Saxon
Dayton, Ohio
Wright State University

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Library has been a PTDL since 2000. Our collection is stored in the reference area of the main library. The University will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. We are planning on showcasing the PTDL collection and creating displays of patents granted the faculty from the last forty years.

I continue to provide 10 patent and 2 trademark workshops a year. We had a total of 145 people participate in these workshops. The University Libraries also partnered with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in promoting last years InventorFest. The staff at PLC&HC should be proud of organizing such a fine event for the local region.

I completely updated our patent and trademark web pages. I have also included the 7-Step strategy for patent research on the page. With assistance from our student assistant Krischelle Panganiban, we have created a nine county area historical inventor database, 1790-1873. The database includes inventor name(s), assignments, witnesses, attorneys, and title. There are currently over 1000 patent records in the database. As of now, our library computing services is creating the front end search engine for this database and it should be up and running by summer.

We are in the initial planning stages on creating a “useless invention” (Chindogu) contest for area senior and junior high school students. Hopefully, we will be able to offer scholarship money for contest winners of the event.

— Ran Raider

Des Moines, Iowa
State Library of Iowa

In 2006 patrons used PubWEST more and have been experimenting with Google’s patent searching Web site — new in December. Patent attorneys are referring more patrons to our Library and we’re referring more patrons to the Iowa Inventor’s Group and the Small Business Development Centers.

This year included three patent and trademark workshops in Iowa. The University of Iowa hosted a one day workshop Nov. 13th and our Library gave a presentation on “Patent Dissection and Global Searching.” The Iowa Valley Community College presented a workshop Sept. 28th including presentations on “Advanced Trademark Searching” and “Inventor Dos and Don’ts” by the Des Moines PTDL.

Iowa’s PTDL was elated to have Tom Turner and Chris Black from the USPTO come May 4-5 for a two day Patent and Trademark Workshop. Our Library also gave a “Prior Art Search Primer for Patent Attorneys” May 26th and a presentation, “It’s All About Patents” to the one and only Iowa Inventors Group on May 8th.

The Iowa Inventors Database added the years 1976 through 2005, thanks to the brilliance of Jim Hirabayashi at the USPTO. Due to the purchase of new software for our Library Web site, the PTDL information was all updated in June.

I can’t help but mention the gift of being able to attend the annual Training Seminar, April 2-7th at the USPTO, without which, our staff would be uninformed, untrained in using the databases, and uninspired to pass enthusiasm for patents and trademarks on to the public.

— Karon King
Detroit, Michigan
Detroit Public Library

The Detroit Public Library has been a patent depository library since 1871 and participated in the PTDL ‘Partnership’ program with attorneys from 1995 to 2005.

This is an exciting period for the staff of both the Technology & Science and the Business & Finance Departments of the Detroit Public Library. Currently we are merging our collections to form the Business Science & Technology Department.

Our staff consists of Uzoma Onyemaechi (Manager), Mary Kordyban (Assistant Manager), Susan Taylor, Genevieve Oldani-Caruso, Ann Braid, Marian Rodgers and Joyce Middlebrooks with three clerks and seven clerical assistants. The staffs of both departments have worked together over the past several months cross training and serving customers while familiarizing themselves with the differing collections and reference materials.

All of our librarians are being trained to provide IP reference to our patent researchers. Patent searchers will be able to use PTDL resources loaded on the additional patent and trademark computers in this newly renovated department.

Previously, patent and trademark materials were housed in the Technology & Science Department, and we are looking forward to assisting our customers in a department that combines the excitement of small business entrepreneurship with the creativity of invention. We are also in the process of creating new handouts and displays to make our renovated space more inviting and informative.

Mary Kordyban has conducted in house patent and trademark training classes that have been attended by all librarians who will be working in the newly merged department. We plan to become a ‘one-stop shopping place’ for business people who need both IP assistance and help with their business ventures.

For Black History Month, we developed a display of poster exhibit highlighting African American inventors from Michigan. Once we are merged, we plan on spending more time on public relations including having classes for the public and hosting an Inventors fest.

— Mary Kordyban, Jenny Caruso, Librarian II
Hi Readers!

My name is Eileen Fischlschweiger. I’ve been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL Representative for ten years, and have worked at the PTDL in the capacity of Patent and Trademark Librarian for twelve. I have worked for the Broward County Library System for over 18 years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in both Chemistry and Physics, a Master’s degree in Communications and a second Master’s degree in Library Science.

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

Barcoding, barcoding, barcoding: The mantra for 2006-7

This year there is a great impetus for getting all our Depository Documents barcoded. This includes the Federal Depository items, the PTDL Depository items as well as the State of Florida Depository items. Barcoding will mean improved access to the materials, as they will be searchable in our catalog. It is a tremendous task with which everyone in our section is involved.

2006-2007 Highlights

The big highlight of the year was the PTDL Program staff visit. Eileen Fischlschweiger was hard at work for several months coordinating an Inventor Show and staff training. The Inventor Show on Saturday August 5 included a morning workshop and an afternoon Inventor Exhibit. The staff training, which was offered to librarians from 300+ Southeast Florida libraries in Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties via SEFLIN’s (Southeast Florida Library Information Network) Community of Learning Program (CLP), took place August 3 at the Broward County Main Library, and August 4 in one of the southern locations of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. Although Eileen was not involved in the selection of the location for the Miami-Dade class, coordinating the training and the Inventor show events and the PTDL staff visit proved to be a rather complex bit of juggling, as it was necessary to coordinate with Broward County Library’s Programming section, Broward County Library’s Outreach section which was planning another major event within that time period, Miami-Dade Public Library’s PTDL, SEFLIN, and the PTDL. Tom Turner, Chris Black and Cynthia Banicki provided the staff training as well as the public training and they staffed a table at the Inventor Exhibit to answer questions from inventors and other attendees. In all, it was a highly successful series of events.

At the Broward County Main Library we had our annual book display during National Inventors’ Month in August, using free materials downloaded from the Inventors Digest web site to enhance the display.

On October 7, 2006, Eileen and Tom Fischlschweiger represented the Broward County Library and promoted the PTDL, FDLP, and the Library’s Bank of America/ Broward County Library Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) at the It’s in You speakers Network event held in Lauderhill, FL. The event was a workshop for the Inventor titled “Awake! An Inventors Expo.” We had a table/booth and Tom and Eileen both answered many, many questions from many people in attendance throughout the day, including during break times. Many library handouts, including flyers for our section’s programs, were handed out to attendees. Eileen also spoke before the group on the Main Library and PTDL services, and participated in a panel question and answer session with the other nine speakers which included a patent attorney, a business attorney, a financial advisor, and several inventors. Kudos to the PTDL staff for their comprehensive training sessions at the PTDL Training Seminars. Eileen responded to several of the questions asked by the audience by referring back to training learned in April 2006. The level of training provided to us was such that, although the legal-based questions were deferred to the attorney on the panel, Eileen had enough knowledge that she knew the correct answers! It was also surprising that even the experienced independent inventors on the panel had general misconceptions on some topics, and so Eileen made an effort to set things straight on key items in a tactful way. At one point during the event, the mayor of the City of Lauderhill made an appearance as well, and addressed the group informally. There were a total of about 150 people, about 100 in the general audience and about 50 exhibitors. This very successful event was a great opportunity
to do outreach to both inventors and the general public alike, discussing the variety of services offered at the library, and many people left having learned about the Library as a valuable resource.

On October 12, 2006, Eileen Fischlschweiger presented a program titled Intellectual Property and Patents for a Science and Engineering Magnet school class from Stranahan High School in Fort Lauderdale. There were 13 people in attendance, two teachers and 11 students. The workshop was tailored to their specific needs which the teacher explained. Eileen also included a list of careers related to inventing and patents, and discussed the important role of the PTDLs. During the conversation with the instructor a few days prior to the visit, Eileen recommended that they visit the USPTO website and read through several of the informational pages to get a good background and improve their chances of getting more out of their visit. The students were well prepared and attentive, and all in attendance had a great learning experience.

During September Eileen assisted a customer who is a student of an antiques class offered by the local Adult Education program. Students who take this class regularly come to the library to use our patent materials to find information on a variety of antiques, usually related to advertising clocks. This particular one was for a rare advertising barber shop clock that is backwards running. This one was very difficult. The item was bought at auction on eBay with a winning bid of $1,035.00. The class instructor initially thought that the clock was patented by Kramer Service Company between 1900 and 1930. A fellow PTDL librarian, Jim Miller from College Park PTDL, was kind enough to assist with this question, and both he and Eileen have tried several ways to search for this, each with the electronic resources available to us, including expanding the dates of the search and searching on other companies that were linked to the clock, with no success. The instructor later narrowed the years down to 1915 – 1930 and provided full name and other information on the individual whom he believed may have applied for a patent or trademark on the item, Louis John Kramer, from Elkader, Iowa. Both PTDL librarians attempted the search with this information, without success. Eileen was able to find genealogical information on the individual in Ancestry plus, which the instructor also wanted, and later showed the student how to do this. In the meantime, the student also searched the Index of Patents, also without success on both the patent and trademark fronts. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that a patent or trademark was ever issued. The legend on the clock merely says patent applied for, with no indication as to what may have been the subject or date of the application. The instructor had the student go back into earlier years of the Index of Patents, but again, the search was fruitless.

A successful and exciting Invent Broward 2007: Again, hundreds of invention models from Broward County area elementary schools were exhibited on the sixth floor of the Main Library. The current coordinator is Claire Wander, a Youth Services librarian, who has done a great job coordinating the event this year. This program, introduced in 1992, includes a showcase of the inventions and a reception for participating students, their parents and their teachers. Again, Eileen Fischlschweiger provided the two PowerPoint presentations she had produced in the past to be run as kiosk continuous loops during the reception. One is titled Historical Patent Models: An Educational Slide Presentation and the other is titled Patents, Trademarks, And Copyrights: They’re Everywhere, which is based on a glass case display, by the same title, of fun everyday items appealing to children covered by various forms of intellectual property. Both presentations are designed so that attendees can start and stop watching at any point, any time during the event. This year Claire has extended the display time from two to four weeks, and is running the patent model slide presentation continuously adjacent to the display, both great ideas!

– Eileen Fischlschweiger
Honolulu, Hawaii
Hawaii State Library

Aloha Patentites,

Mahalo for taking care of Carole Suzui during her first training seminar last year. She gave a great report to our administration and we are hopeful that we can find the funding to send another person to this year’s training seminar. Our other librarian, Cynthia Yen, recently transferred to our Electronic Services Support Section as an ESSS Trainer. We wish her well in her new occupation and will miss her.

The position vacancy was quickly filled by Arlene Nagamine. She will be attending this year’s training seminar, if the stars are aligned right. I am very hopeful that with Carole Suzui and Arlene Nagamine, I now have a team in place that will be able eager to stay with the section (no more revolving door) and will help spread the word about our patent and trademark resources.

I taught my first government documents class at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. They were appreciative of my description of what patent and trademark librarians do for a living. From the lesson plan that I developed from that class, I produced a PowerPoint presentation that “borrowed” many of the ideas from previously shared presentations that were created from other generous contributors in our group. I presented “A Cautionary Tale Of Searching For New Technology” seminar at the 2006 Hawaii Library Association to an enthusiastic audience of 5 people. Well, I guess we all have to start somewhere.

I wish I could be with you all. With the recent spat of snowy weather in Washington D.C., I will be with you in spirit. One of these days, I will be able to come up there and see my first snowfall. Take care and have fun.

– Stewart Chun

Houston, Texas
Rice University

It’s been a busy and exciting first year in the newly renovated Fondren Library PTDL! First, the big news – we received a new name in December. Our department, which includes the PTDL, federal and state depositories, the GIS/Data Center, and Fondren’s microform and map collections is now called the Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms in honor of the family whose generous gift made renovation of our department possible.

Linda Spiro, Siu Min Yu and I continue to offer patent searching classes to area inventors and to work with the Houston Inventors Association. This year we are incorporating more hands-on training as part of the classes and have developed a new patent searching guide to help inventors both during the class and after they leave. With so many new tools available online and so much information to pass on, we are thinking of expanding our class offerings in the coming year.

With so much available online, we find ourselves looking for new and improved ways to reach the community. We recently started a weblog (http://ricepatinfo.blogspot.com/) for patent and trademark information and developed a new patent and trademark website that will go live when Fondren’s website moves to a content management system – we’re hoping for early March. The new website includes patent and trademark searching guides based heavily on the great information Linda brought back from last year’s PTDL Seminar.

– Esther Crawford
Indianapolis, Indiana
Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library has been a PTDL for about 20 years. We “run” the PTDL out of a little room on the floor that has the patent and trademark book collection. There is an Inventors Association here to whom we refer patrons who would like to talk to real inventors, but we give lots of one-on-one help with searching. We had some quite serious aspiring inventors in the past year who drove in from the surrounding area or who live here locally. We usually have them talk either to myself, the rep, or to another quite knowledgeable Reference Librarian. I think they are very appreciative of the level of help that they get with their search, and I feel they find it quite worth the drive and effort to obtain our help. We haven’t had programs, but rather give the aid individually and at length when needed.

– Phyllis Karrh

Little Rock, Arkansas
Arkansas State Library

The Arkansas State Library was designated as a PDL January 18, 1985. The PTDL is part of State Library Services, the public services section of the library. Three reference librarians—Elizabeth Danley, Ola Flucas, and Michael Strickland, work with the PTDL, in addition to other reference duties. Each one has attended the annual seminar, which has given them a good foundation of knowledge and contacts to assist our patrons.

In December the Arkansas Department of Economic Development, with assistance from the Arkansas PTDL, SBDC and ASTA, sponsored an evening forum for inventors and entrepreneurs. More than 70 enthusiastic people attended the meeting.

Each agency made a brief presentation about services available to Arkansans. The stars of the evening were a local patent attorney and an inventor. Since we had worked with both of them, we were not surprised that they received more questions than the other panelist. We were pleasantly surprised to have each of the speakers praise the services of the PTDL.

Our local inventor, Joe Taylor, was very informative about going from an idea to a patent and then to marketing his product via website. He emphasized the vast resources of the library, telling inventors they should utilize the PTDL. After the meeting, he stayed and talked to several attendees. He has since introduced two people to the PTDL. He meets them at the library and gives them lots of encouragement and assistance.

Throughout the month of January, our display cases have contained information about patents and trademarks. We used some of the commemorative mugs we received at seminars, in addition to, some Arkansas items.

We have a new Associate Director, Dwain Gordon. Dwain came to the state library this summer from the local public library. Arkansas also has a new Governor and several other new constitutional officers.

– Mary Leckie
Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles Public Library

Los Angeles PTDL, located at the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), has been a patent depository for well over 100 years, having been so designated in the 1870’s as one of the “Original 22”.

LAPL’s PTDL is part of the Science, Technology and Patents Department at the Central Library. Maryjean Carroll is Senior Librarian and first-line supervisor of the Department. Billie Connor-Dominguez is the PTDL Representative and Manager of the Business and Economics and Science/Technology and Patents Departments. Staff members who work directly with the intellectual property collection are: Helen Haskell, Librarian III (Subject Specialist); Rita Cotton, Library Assistant II (who supervises the Patents Desk); Richard Acero; Debra Galindo; Ailana Gray; and Randall Hinson. Our reference librarians also have basic training and are available to assist our clientele as needed.

This past year has been a very busy one with continuing public demand for information at the Library and many attendees at outreach programs which are presented once or twice each month in the Library’s auditorium. These events feature speakers from inventors’ organizations, the U.S. Small Business Department Center, several outstanding authors, and other professionals. They are listed on the Library’s website as the Saturday Afternoon Lecture Series at (http://www.lapl.org/events/seminars.html). A personal membership in the L.A. Intellectual Property Law Association is maintained to keep contact with the legal community. In some previous years we have co-sponsored their “Washington and the West” January seminar and held it on site at the Library. Helen Haskell, Librarian III (Subject Specialist), wrote an article for the Summer 2006 issue of The Food Journal, published by the Culinary Historians of Southern California, entitled “Intellectual Property, Culinary Arts, and the Central Library,” which met with a great deal of interest.

The Los Angeles PTDL has been very fortunate to have been represented at every PTDL Training Seminar by one or more staff members. The City has been very supportive by funding one person to attend every year. On a few occasions our community support group, BEST Friends (Business Economics Science Technology Friends), has funded attendance by a second person. These seminars are essential in order to stay up to date and to be able to offer the best possible public service. The person (or persons) attending share knowledge with the rest of the staff after returning from the Seminar.

– Billie Connor-Dominguez
Lubbock, Texas
University Library, Texas Tech University

The Texas Tech University Library PTDL is housed in the Information Services Department of the University Library. Tom Rohrig is the PTDL Librarian. All other librarians in Information Services--currently eleven--also provide patent and trademark information services.

Our outreach to the community is primarily through word of mouth from other libraries in the area, referrals from previous customers, and our webpage (http://library.ttu.edu/ul/docs/PatentsTrademarks.php).

In addition to serving our walk-in patrons, the staff continues to provide information through email, telephone, and our online Ask a Librarian live reference service (http://library.ttu.edu/ul/help/ask/). I have seen more inclusion of patent research into engineering classes this year. Information about the depository is also included in all our tours and online demos.

— Tom Rohrig

Madison, Wisconsin
Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Kurt F. Wendt Library serves the departments of Engineering, Computer Science, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, and Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Patents staff are Sarah Calcese, Head of Collections and Technical Services, and Patents/Reports Librarian Nancy Spitzer, who serves as our PTDL representative. This year Nancy will attend the patent seminar in Alexandria.

During each fall and spring semester, Nancy and Sarah teach the patents component for around 15 sessions of advanced undergraduate courses in engineering professional development. Students are given an overview of the patent literature (what is a patent and why would you want to use patents in your research?), and a demo searching several patent databases. We then work with the students one-on-one doing patent searches on their research topics. Each semester, Nancy coordinates the patents module for a librarian team-taught online course called Technical Information Resources for Engineering. She also gave patents sessions for engineering senior design classes and some other interdisciplinary courses, such as biotechnology.

Nancy gave a presentation on patents in engineering education as part of a panel chaired by Mike White at the May 2006 PIUG (Patents Information User Group) conference in Minneapolis. In September, she gave a joint presentation at a quarterly meeting of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin. Nancy covered patent basics and Wendt’s services as a patent depository library and colleague Carolyn Tweten introduced the group to the outreach services of Wisconsin TechSearch.

Google Patents has arrived and we have already introduced it into our patents sessions for engineering students, along with some cautions on accurate retrieval.

We also show it to patrons when historical questions come up. Everybody likes it!

Interestingly, our reference database records 61 questions and appointments related to patent and trademark searching in 2006 – this is far fewer than the 150 we handled the year before. Our statistics include email and phone reference.

The big news for us this year has been the agreement between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Google to send all our government documents and other collections for digitizing in the Google Books Search Project. This means we can finally get our Index to Patents and Official Gazettes digitized. Although shipments to Google will start in April, we found out recently that the documents (including patents) will not be sent for at least another 6-9 months.

— Nancy Spitzer
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
General Library, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez

Highlights about the XIV Reunión Interamericana de Bibliotecarios, Documentalistas y Especialistas en Información Agrícola [Inter-American Meeting of Librarians, Documentalists and Specialists on Agricultural Information] (RIBDA)

The XIV RIBDA was held November 6 – 10 2006 at the Veterinary Medicine Faculty of Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) [National Autonomous University of Mexico]; Mexico City, F. D. The conference slogan was: Hacia una Nueva Cultura en Información: Cambio y Desarrollo [Towards a New Information Culture: Change and Development].

Workshops, conferences, research papers, round tables and a General Assembly were some of the forums to disseminate such valuable information. Professor Ronaldo Martínez Nazario had the opportunity to present an outstanding presentation. The title of his paper was: Patentes de Plantas: Principios Fundamentales. Función de la Biblioteca de Patentes, Marcas Registradas y Propiedad Intelectual del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez de la Universidad de Puerto Rico. [Plant Patents: Fundamental Principles. Role of the Patent, Trademark and Intellectual Property Library of the University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez]. It had great impact and sparked very much interest among participants. (please see letter by Mr. Rubén Urbizagastegui, Mr. Hugo Gallo and Mr. Federico Sanch). Also during RIBDA some recognitions took place: 1) to our academic institution (UPR-Mayagüez) for being the only founding member still affiliated with AIBDA [Association of Librarians, Documentalists and Specialists on Agricultural Information] for forty (40) years now; 2) to professor Martínez Nazario for a long and successful relationship as member of AIBDA (15 years) (please see attachments and pics).

You may get the digital Meeting Proceedings at: http://www.14ribda.org/ribda/memorias/academico.htm

– Ronaldo Martinez-Nazario

Miami, Florida
Miami-Dade Public Library

Established on July 25, 1984, the Miami-Dade Public Library’s PTDL has been housed in the Business & Science Department of Main Library since its inception. Robert Klein, the Department’s assistant manager, has been our Representative since 1990. The other librarians in our department include Sue Cvejanovich (our department manager and 2005 attendee), Charles Roig (our 2007 attendee), Murray Wilcox, Julio Granda Jr., and the most two most recent additions to our professional staff Patricia Murray and C. J. Ivory. Our Library Assistants are Liza Acosta, Guerda Francois, and Juan Figueroa.

We have installed PubWEST on a computer at our reference desk and hope to have it installed on a laptop.

Our “Introduction to Patent Research” class continues to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, alternating between the computer labs of the North and South Dade Regional Libraries and the Training Room at Main Library. The class, taught by Robert Klein and Charles Roig, emphasizes the use of the USPTO website and the recommended steps for performing a patent search.

The highlight of 2006 was a program presented to library staff members at our South Dade Regional Library by Chris Black, Cynthia Banicki, and Tom Turner. Their program included a session on the basics of intellectual property reference in which the different types of intellectual property were explained, the provision and limits of Intellectual property reference service were discussed, and attendees were given tips on navigating the USPTO website. The second session of the day emphasized the ins and outs of patent and trademark searching for librarians, including the steps of performing a search and hands-on practice in the PatFt, AppFT and TESS databases.

– Bob Klein
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Milwaukee Public Library

Ted Cebula retired in May, 2006, and I became Coordinator of the Business, Science and Technology Department in mid-July. Ted is enjoying his retirement, but he did come back in August to talk to the library’s docents about patents.

I have received kind and informative counsel from Chris Kitchens and Chris Black, as well as Nancy Spitzer from the Kurt Wendt Engineering Library at UW-Madison. There’s a lot to learn about patents!

I am excited about our “Inventor’s School” scheduled for this April.

Together with the local “Inventor’s and Entrepreneur’s Forum”, MPL is hosting an event featuring speakers (including me) on patenting an invention, developing prototypes, getting funding and marketing inventions and ideas. It should be an interesting group of attendees, and I am counting on learning a lot at the PTDLA conference.

Thanks!

Maybe I will meet you in March!

Christine Arkenberg

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Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minneapolis Public Library

2006 was a big year for the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL). For almost 4 years the staff was working in a temporary location while the new building was being constructed on the same site as the old, demolished library. Staff moved in during February and in May we had our grand opening. The new building, designed by Cesar Pelli, is great. (Now we just need more staff to keep it running. Beginning in January 2007 all MPL libraries are only open 5 days a week, Tuesday-Saturday due to bad budgets and cuts in funding. Don’t get me started...)

The same week we opened, the Patent Information Users Group (PIUG) held their annual conference in Minneapolis. Although I couldn’t attend, it was still fun to have dinner with some fellow PTDL reps and past & present PTDLP staff!

In September I attended a local seminar on Intellectual Property in the Global Marketplace. USPTO Director Jon Dudas was there to address the attendees and answer questions.

A couple weeks later MPL hosted a 2-day patent and trademark seminar for the public, other librarians and the local IP community. Not surprisingly, Cynthia Banicki, Chris Black and Tom Turner gave outstanding presentations. My colleagues Helen Burke and Carrie Brunsberg deserve special thanks and acknowledgement for all the hard work they did to put this event together.

We continue with our monthly patent talks. The number of attendees has dwindled over the years, but there’s always at least of handful of eager inventors ready to start their patent search!

Walt Johnson
Evansdale Library at West Virginia University has been a depository since 1991. The Evansdale Library serves Engineering, Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, Education, Creative Arts and Physical Education.

This year was highlighted by presentations, displays and the binding of plant patents. I also continue my contact with the WVU Office of Technology Transfer.

Along with presentations on campus, I was able to reach statewide audiences through various forums. In September I was able to participate in a statewide conference entitled: From Coal to Content: The Role of Intellectual Property and Technology at West Virginia University Law School, with “Effective Patent Searching: Key Resources.” In October I presented “Trading Up: U.S. Patent Searching @ Your Library.” at the West Virginia Library Association Annual Conference. Through contact from the “From Coal to Content” conference I received an invitation to address the West Virginia Animators, Videographers, Etc. (WAVE) Meeting in October with a talk entitled, “Copyright and Trademarks.”

This year I created several patent displays which I hope to share at the annual PTDL Seminar. Two displays I leave in the patent area and use during presentations: “Patented Plants” and “Design Patentee: Viktor Schreckengost Celebrates 100th Birthday.” Additionally, I created three different displays for the Evansdale Library: “Mine Safety and Mine Safety Patents,” “Coal Liquefaction,” and “Women in Medicine—Inventions.”

In September I attended a statewide conference about Intellectual Property entitled “From Coal to Content: The Role of Intellectual Property and Technology” held at West Virginia University Law School. This conference featured state leaders as well as Trademark lawyers from Wal-Mart and Microsoft, and Jerome Gilson (well-known trademark attorney). It was attended by people all over the state interested in Intellectual Property including Attorneys and inventors. I was able to participate by presenting “Effective Patent Searching: Key Resources.” This was a great time for networking, and I established statewide contacts.

– Marian Armour-Gemmen
Moscow, Idaho
University of Idaho Library

I’ve enjoyed working with prospective patentees and others who needed historical information on patents this past year in Idaho; there just haven’t been very many of them. All of our handouts and promotional literature, and practically every page on our web site at http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/reference/p_and_t/, had to be revised. Batches of that promotional literature, together with an introductory letter and copies of my business card, were dispatched to all of the Small Business Development Centers and other related offices in Idaho and even a couple in eastern Washington, from where we sometimes draw clients. Many patents from 1928 – 1976 have been added to the Historical Idaho Patents Database, with a majority of those identified and retrieved from the US OCR Full-Text Database on PubWest. I’ve decided to put the project in mothballs until such occasion that either better digital records for the patents from those years become available or that the indexes to the patents are digitized (come on, Google!). By far, the most enjoyable activity for the year was a presentation on patents to approximately 100 elementary school inventors at the biennial “Invention Convention” of the local school district. It was a challenge coming up with flourishes to the presentation to help hold the attention of such a young group, but it seems to have succeeded, or so I have heard from parents and a few of the budding inventors.

– Mike Pollastro

Newark, Delaware
University of Delaware Library

Our big project for the past year was relocating our collection of patent and trademark DVD’s up to the Reference Room where the CASSIS computer is located. We had always kept this collection on our Lower Level because that’s where the Media Collection was as well as the patent microfilm and plant patents. Space issues up in the Reference Room were also a problem in the past. The DVD collection had to be moved in order to make way for a very large Student Multi Media Design Center that the University decided to place in the lower level of the library. Necessity being the mother of invention this forced the issue and made us find an area in the Reference Room for both the plant patent file cabinets and the DVD cabinets. In the end this has turned out to be a blessing because patrons no longer have to go downstairs to get their discs to use in the CASSIS machine.

I was able to do some important outreach over the past year by doing a number of patent education sessions for a few local companies that decided they needed to be more informed about the importance of intellectual property to their operations. I covered the basics of performing a patent search as well as a good overview of the PTO web site and its functions. This was a welcome change and I look forward to doing some more sessions in the coming year.

– Tom Melvin
Newark, New Jersey
Newark Public Library

My name is Jim Capuano and I am the PTDL representative for the Newark Public Library (NJ). Our PTDL collection is located on the second and third floors of the Main Library in downtown Newark. Patron assistance is at the reference desk on the second floor of this building.

Our area of Newark has a new look: the completed Newark Light Rail moves passengers from Newark Penn Station to Newark Board Street Station through the Downtown Newark Business District. The Light Rail station stop “Washington Park” is right across from the Library. The continued development in Newark -- with more people living and working in the city -- should be a big plus in helping the Library grow and deliver services to the Newark community and patrons from around New Jersey.

One of our reference staff, Hannah Kwon, is this year’s representative to the conference. Our other reference staff includes Elaine Gold, Curt Idrogo, Leslie Kahn, Monica Malinowski, Deirdre Schmidel, Jane Seiden and Patricia Winship.

The library is also the Regional U. S. Documents Depository Library for New Jersey. As the Depository celebrated its 100th anniversary, the Documents Librarian, Laura Saurrs, presented an exhibit: “A Window to Your Government: An Exhibit Celebrating the Centennial of the Federal Documents Depository”. Part of the display was a section on patents with a New Jersey connection -- including one from submarine pioneer John P. Holland (Patent number 706,561 and many others). Holland lived in Newark and developed an early submarine in Paterson, NJ. Another patent in the exhibit was for the New Jersey shore landmark Lucy the Elephant (“Animal-Shaped Building” – James V. Lafferty – patent number 268,503). The Associated Press and the NY Times covered the exhibit.

Help was on its way via the PTDL Office in 2006. One patron wanted to know what protection he received from having his patents registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). We had to break the bad news to him that he still has to file with individual countries for protection.

Our staff gave Google Patents a try when it was announced during the year. We had good luck with a search for a “dishwasher made of wood,” patented by Joel Houghton in 1850. Rather than search the Index to the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents, we entered the inventor’s name in Google -- without luck. Next we tried an advanced search limiting by date and using the keywords “wood,” “machines” and “washing”. This located: “Improvement in Machines for Washing Table Furniture” (patent number 7,365). (Did you know that crockery was “table furniture”?) After our luck with this search, we now will give Google Patents a try for those difficult searches.

– James Capuano

[Image of New Jersey coat of arms]
Orono, Maine
Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine

The University of Maine Patent and Trademark Depository Library is housed in the Science & Engineering Center on the second floor of the Raymond H. Fogler Library. Fogler Library has been designated an official PTDL since 1993. There are three science & engineering librarians, each of whom is trained and qualified to help patrons with patents and trademarks research. There is also one full-time classified staff member who can assist with the collection and who can make referrals for patrons to speak with a librarian. There is one librarian designated as the official USPTO representative, subject specialist and liaison, charged with conducting training and performing outreach for the PTDL.

As of August 2006, Martin Wallace is the new USPTO representative at Fogler Library. Martin comes to us from the University of North Texas (UNT) where he worked as a classified staff member at their engineering library while he pursued his MLIS at the UNT School of Library and Information Sciences. Lois Nase, who left the library in October 2005, preceded Martin. Since his arrival, Martin has participated in several Patent & Trademarks and inventors’ forums both as trainee and trainer. Along with his PTDL responsibilities, he has also been slowly catching up on a ten-month backlog of collection development and other responsibilities in his subject areas, which include engineering & engineering technology, mathematics & statistics, and computer science.

In the fall of 2006, the University of Maine unveiled its new Innovation Engineering program aimed at fostering creation, innovation and entrepreneurship across the state of Maine and to exploit Maine’s unique economic development and technological opportunities. Martin has volunteered to serve as an unofficial library liaison to this program and has met with faculty and students to discuss the library’s role in this exciting new program. Martin also performs “roaming reference” service at the recently established Student Innovation Center, a modern, beautiful, and inspiring new center on campus established to provide services, training and work space for student entrepreneurs from any academic department to transform their ideas into new Maine businesses and products.

Additionally, the University of Maine PTDL continues to work closely with the Target Technology Incubator, the Maine Patent Program, and other inventors’ groups around Maine, providing assistance via telephone, email or in person.

— Martin Wallace
As usual, a very quiet place for the patent researchers to enjoy – no waiting lines here! We did lose 8 of our metered parking spaces, but there are still twenty available for people without Rutgers parking permits. They just need to remember to bring quarters, as we have no change machines in the library anymore. All the copy machines and networked printers use copicards these days. Except of course at the CASSIS2 workstation, where printing is still free. We do have our repeat customers, and I was pleased to talk with one, doing research this year for a company, who had first used our resources back in 1989 as a Rutgers student. He claimed to remember me, and recounted his patent success story with obvious enthusiasm.

Connie Wu was busy during 2006, and went globe trotting once again. She was invited by the State Intellectual Property Office of China to give two talks in June in Beijing, China. One talk was titled Trends in the Patent System in United States, and the other talk was titled The Organizational Culture in Today’s Business World.

While in China, she also provided a round table discussion on the Current Situation in Information Resource Management in the United States. This was held at Zhejiang University, the largest university in China, on June 15, 2006.

It seemed like she had just returned to the States when she was off once again to China in November. Supported by a Lecture and Research Travel Grant, awarded by the Beijing Foreign Expert Bureau of China, Connie was invited as a lecturer to the “International Conference of Effective Utilization of Patent Information and Enterprise IP Strategy Making.” Her lecture notes were published in the conference proceedings. In addition to this lecture, she also gave the following four presentations:


After she came back from the conference, Connie was invited by the Exxon-Mobil Corporate Strategic Research unit in Annandale, NJ, to give a lecture to their patent searchers. Her lecture on the US Patent Classification System was held on Nov. 29, 2006.

How she found the time to teach more than a dozen BI classes this past fall for the engineering and scientific technical writing program is beyond me. Each one of these classes includes a patent information research component. I hope to hear success stories from many of these students too!

— Ellen Calhoun
Reno, Nevada
Reno Libraries, University of Nevada

Since 1983 the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries has served inventors, business people, entrepreneurs and others in Nevada and nearby communities as a Patent & Trademark Depository Library (PTDL). The PTDL collection and services are situated in the Business & Government Information Center (BGIC) and include the following:

High-resolution images of all U.S. patents from 1790 to the present on a set DVDs. The image files may be exported or printed.

Scanned images of all US-registered trademarks on DVD, including expired registrations.

Search capability for U.S., European & Japanese patents in the PubWEST database - PubWEST is available only in Patent & Trademark Depository Libraries (there are only 2 such libraries in NV and slightly over 80 in the U.S.)

Staff assistance on principles and techniques of searching for prior art.

A collection of current self-help literature on a variety of intellectual property-related topics, including patents, trademarks and copyright.

The Business & Government Information Center has also produced the Nevada Inventors Database, which provides free, easy access to patents issued to Nevada inventors from the 1860s through 1926. The database will eventually cover patents issued through 1975. Links in the database lead to scanned images of U.S. patents hosted on the Web site of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Nevada Inventors Database is of interest to historians, genealogists & other researchers.

Contact the Business & Government Information Center at (775) 813-6496

Hours of service: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For further information see:


Nevada Inventors Database:

http://www.library.unr.edu/depts/bgic/nv-inventors.html

– Patrick Ragains
Richmond, Virginia
James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

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

Our activities in 2006 were concentrated on outreach and training. In August, we were fortunate to host Tom Turner and Chris Black, who presented a half-day training session, “An Introduction to Patent Searching for Librarians,” sponsored by the Virginia Library Association Public Documents Forum. Librarians from across the state participated in this workshop, and the reviews were excellent. After the program, Tom and Chris provided additional training for VCU Libraries’ staff regarding some of the service obstacles common to PTDLs, and how to successfully meet these challenges.

Armed with some of their great ideas, giveaways, and my own training materials, I was able to present a similar program as a concurrent session at the Virginia Library Association Annual Conference in November. Feedback was positive, and everyone particularly enjoyed the bookmarks that illustrated common objects and their convoluted patent titles – an example of the dangers of keyword searching! I was glad to have not one but two opportunities to provide outreach and training to other librarians across Virginia, and hope to be able to continue with similar developments in the coming year.

– Renée Bosman
Rochester, New York
Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County

Hello again, everyone. I’ve worked with our PTDL collection for 2 ½ years now, taking over after Deb Leary went on to become Director of another library. Our collection is housed in the Science and History Division of the library, and we’ve been a PTDL since May of 1999. Though each staff member is armed with basic information regarding patents and trademarks, I’m the manager. The link to our website is:
www2.libraryweb.org/index.asp?orgid=499&storyTypeID=&sid=&

Or, if you don’t know about tinyurl.com (which condenses an absurdly long url into a tiny one) you can use:
www.tinyurl.com/lnsgv

A few weeks after last year’s conference, we had the program Roadmap for Inventors in which we had speakers like the President of Patent Technologies, LLC, and Patent Innovations, LLC, the Division Head from our Business and Social Sciences department, the Interim President of Inventor’s Society of Western New York, and the Director of the SUNY Brockport Small Business Development Center. The purpose of the program was to provide independent inventors with a wealth of resources they may not have known existed. It was well attended, and I am thinking of another one in the near future!

We did a big display for National Inventor’s month in August, complete with a large poster advertising our facility. One of my colleagues has old cameras we put on display along with film, etc. Our Local History department keeps old business catalogs from local companies like Kodak. So the cameras coupled with business catalogs were a great display. We made brochures listing 100 inventions invented by independent people (as opposed to businesses), and posters of inventors with their inventions.

I have tried something new this year. Instead of holding classes to teach people how to do a patent or trademark search (there wasn’t as much demand for classes in the fall), I decided to conduct one on one lessons. They are very well received,

and people like the personal atmosphere. Their experiences are enlightening.

I’ve conducted a few tours of our patent and trademark center recently to a local congressman, the Board of our Friends Society, and Directors from area libraries. I am doing my best to spread the word about our PTDL. I’ve learned how to advertise with our local newspaper, as well as newspapers online. The center is also promoted on bright boards in the library.

In April, we’ll have the chance to share resources the Central Library has to offer, to other libraries within our system. Topics would include the Patent and Trademark center and we’re looking forward to the opportunity to promote our expertise in the area.

Other than that, Jay Osborne and I are looking forward to attending this year’s conference! See you soon.

– Kate Meddaugh
Salt Lake City, Utah
Marriott Library, University of Utah

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

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

The Marriott Library is now about one year and nine months into a three-year renovation project, and the internal preparations for compact storage; retrospective cataloging of our documents collection; and on-going need for reference services have taken their toll on any new PTDL development this past year, but I have continuing opportunities to lecture and present to our campus Entrepreneurial Program, campus administrative staff, and library colleagues.

Congratulations to PTDLA – our professional association – and the PTDL Program Office of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on our Thirtieth Annual Training Program! I am grateful that my library has funded me to attend every annual program since 1987, and that I have been given many opportunities to be of service to our students and faculty at the University of Utah, and to the many independent inventors, researchers and businesses throughout the State of Utah and the intermountain west.

Happy Anniversary!

– Dave Morrison

San Diego, California
San Diego Public Library

San Diego Public Library has been a PTDL since 1984. The PTDL is part of the Science/Government Publications Section at SDPL’s Central Library in downtown San Diego. All section staff – librarians Gary Klockenga, Sara King, Pat Mundy, library assistants Neci Imigo and Pete Miesner, and library clerk Frances Padilla work with inventors and businesspeople who use the SDPL PTDL to do patent and trademark searches.

PTDL activities are a seamless part of the section’s other public service responsibilities, which include providing reference assistance and developing the section’s print and electronic collections, in addition to the back-room activity of cataloging California and San Diego government publications. The section has a small collection of intellectual property reference materials for those users who need or want to educate themselves with information beyond what the PTDL staff can provide.

A lot of our patent and trademark reference work takes place over the phone with patrons who live at a distance from SDPL and who would prefer to try their patent or trademark search at www.uspto.gov before driving 60 or 75 miles to SDPL – we are very happy to welcome U.C. Riverside as a PTDL for Orange County users!

– Nora Brooks
San Francisco, California
San Francisco Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library PTDL is located in the Brooks Walker Patent and Trademark Center, which is housed near the Government Information Center (GIC) on the fifth floor of the Main Library. The Center, which opened in 1996, includes materials on patents, copyright and the marketing and licensing of intellectual property.

I have been the Patent and Trademark Librarian since April of 2005. Along with my above responsibilities, I work at the GIC Reference Desk. Our department provides free access to United States, California, San Francisco, and Bay Area regional agency government documents, and to materials on public policy, political science, public administration, and the law.

This past year has been a busy one for us.

In June 2006, we had a visit from a group of over 25 librarians from different Middle Eastern countries that were on a USPTO coordinated trip. In addition to questions on intellectual property and legal sources, we discussed the San Francisco Public Library’s many activities for the public, which impressed many of our guests.

Also in June 2006, the San Francisco Public Library and the Sunnyvale Public Library hosted training sessions on the USPTO’s Electronic Filing System, the new web-based patent application and document submission solution. This program was open to all; but was geared towards professionals in the legal community.

In February 2007 we were visited by the “China Shaanxi Intellectual Property Delegation.” The delegation included a number of government officials, members of the Intellectual Property Office in Shaanxi, members of Shaanxi business delegations and the Science & Technology Bureau. The delegation had visited the U.S. Patent Office and other cities: New York and Los Angeles. I spent about an hour discussing our patent and trademark system and answering fairly detailed questions about intellectual property.

We have an exhibit near the Patent and Trademark Center on “The World of Plant Patents” - An overview of what makes up a plant patent and some of the beautiful new varieties of patented plants. The exhibit features photographs and actual plant patents.

We are starting up our speakers program and have lined up a number of speakers to teach basic patent and trademark searching & filing skills. Marjory Cameron from the Sunnyvale Public Library, a PTDL, and the well-known author, David Pressman, have graciously volunteered their expertise and time.

I look forward to meeting many of my colleagues at the forthcoming Annual PTDL Training Seminar in April.

Please visit our Patent and Trademark Center at http://sfpl.org/librarylocations/main/patent/patent.htm

– Cella Mitchell
Seattle, Washington
Engineering Library, University of Washington

Shelving installation has dominated the past several months at the University of Washington Engineering Library. Some of you may remember the Nisqually Earthquake of 2001: funding was finally found for replacement of our stacks, so the new shelving complies with current seismic standards. Planning began early last year, and the project began in October 2006. We have been a construction zone, with noise, delays and all that fun stuff. The first, second and fourth floors are complete, and the work crews are currently putting up the shelves on the third floor. We were able to put compact shelving on our second floor, the floor housing our journal collection. Access to materials was interrupted as we closed each floor for construction, but only one floor at a time. When a floor was closed, we retrieved materials at night, when the installation crew was gone. Staff and patrons are looking forward to the ultimate completion of the project! We are pleased with the new look, but now we need new carpeting and furniture...another time perhaps!

In other news: Mel DeSart, Head of the Engineering Library, is currently serving a temporary half-time appointment as Head of the Science Libraries here at the University of Washington. Betsy Wilson, Dean of the UW Libraries, was named the 2007 Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year.

Finally, 2007 marks the the Engineering Library’s 30th year as a PTDL! Wow, I’ll have to think of something to mark the occasion.

-Christina A. Byrne

Springfield, Illinois
Illinois State Library

The Illinois State Library PTDL provided patrons in four communities with comprehensive seminars on patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyrights. The seminars were held in Decatur, Peoria, Urbana and Edwardsville. In several instances we partnered successfully with the local Small Business Development Center to present information. The events were well attended in part because they were held in the evening.

Visitors to the Illinois State Library were treated to monthly exhibits, including: Taming the waist: an exhibit on corsets; Illinois Trademark; TriALert patent; Halloween patents; copyrighted “thank-you’s”; African American dolls; etc.

We added a Lincoln related patent web page to the PTDL website and started work on an African American Inventors list by state of residence.

An article on early Illinois patents was published in the Summer 2006 issue of Illinois Libraries, our electronic journal that is also distributed in hard copy format to public and academic libraries.

– Margaret J. Collins
This past year, I gave presentations to the Illinois Innovators and Inventors Association at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (April) and the Inventors Association of St. Louis (January and December). The topic at each meeting was “Patent, Trademark and Business Information at the St. Louis Public Library.” The attendees are usually most focused on obtaining patents and trademarks. I like to discuss business information as well to encourage them to think of their patents and trademarks as business assets that must be protected.

I attended an excellent presentation in May titled, “Science Leadership: Patent and Trademark Law for a New Age.” Webster University (WU) sponsored the event. Their headquarters are in St. Louis. WU now offers a Master of Arts in Patent Agency through their College of Arts and Sciences. The audience included inventors and intellectual property attorneys. The three panelists were St. Louis area patent attorneys. Among other things, they suggested that attendees pay attention to Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rulings regarding intellectual property (IP) law and on pending IP legislation. They also noted that if the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) became totally “first to file,” that would represent a “sea change” in patent law and practice. A separate presentation, “Intellectual Property Protection – What is Right for You?” was given by John Calvert, a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the USPTO. He encouraged inventors to have an overall strategy for protecting their intellectual property, not to rely solely on getting a utility patent. His talk was also very worthwhile.

On several occasions I have joined Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) colleagues from the St. Louis area at their meetings. They are an enjoyable and conscientious group. It is helpful to stay current on issues that concern them since St. Louis Public Library is also a Federal Depository Library. I have spoken about patents and trademarks at previous St. Louis area FDLP Conferences and they know that I am always happy to do presentations for them.

On a lighter note, I received a question about the patent, “Method of Concealing Partial Baldness.” Elaine Viets is a mystery writer for Signet/NAL, a division of the Penguin Group in New York. Ms. Viets wanted to verify that there was such a patent. I was able to verify that it was patent number 4,022,227. She mentioned the patent in her article “The Poor Man’s Baldness Cure” that appeared in the Lipstick Chronicles. She graciously cited my name and title for finding the patent number for her. The article appeared at http://thelipstickchronicles.typepad.com, on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

All of the Lipstick Chronicle authors are mystery writers.

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

We have completed a database of patents issued to Oklahoma inventors from 1880 to 1907, covering Indian and Oklahoma Territory to statehood. We created a list of patents for each of these years using Thomson’s Micropatent database and then used the Official Gazettes to check each of these listings. Our state and PTDL are celebrating their 100th and 50th anniversaries this year, and this database will be a part of these commemorations. We acknowledge Dawn Rohan’s database at the Wyoming State Library upon which ours is based. We hope to continue our database to 1975 in the near future.

A large effort this year was to contact OSU faculty in the sciences to encourage them to consider patents as part of their research or literature review. I met with department heads and deans in Engineering, Agriculture, Microbiology, Chemistry, Physics, and the Vice President for Research this past summer. I have also surveyed faculty in the College of Engineering with a colleague to determine if their class needs in the area of intellectual property is being met. We plan to contribute an article as to our findings.

I continue to maintain 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.

Our Department continues to collaborate with the Inventors Assistance Service and Oklahoma Inventors Congress.

I am very pleased to be able to serve as the PTDL newsletter editor this year.

– Suzanne Holcombe
**Sunnyvale, California**

**Sunnyvale Public Library PTDL**

Sunnyvale Public Library has been a PTDL since 1965. From November, 1994 until May of 2006, the Sunnyvale PTDL was also a Partnership Library called Sc[i]3 Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention and Ideas. Sc[i]3 offered fee-based services that included training seminars, patent and trademark searching, USPTO document delivery, and videoconferencing. Because the program had never been self-supporting, the Sunnyvale City Council decided to end the Partnership and retain the PTDL status.

The PTDL resources are part of the Business and Patent Collections in the Adult Services Division of the library. There are two computers devoted specifically to patent and trademark research and there is a small print reference collection. Seven reference librarians provide basic patent and trademark assistance. A volunteer demonstrates U.S. patent classification searching and orients the public to the USPTO Web site. We have another long time volunteer, who logs and maintains the PTDL materials, including the plant patents, and updates CASSIS.

Partnering with the local bar association, Sunnyvale Public Library offered free EFS training with experts from the USPTO in June of 2006. An intellectual property component was developed as part of the library’s free class “Basic Business Research,” first presented in October of 2006 and repeated twice since then. “Tips for Searching the USPTO Web Site,” was presented in January, 2007. Two other intellectual property classes are planned for March, “Focus on Trademarks” and “I Have an Idea, Now What?”

— Marjory Cameron

**Wichita, Kansas**

Construction is over!! The Wichita PTDL is proud to announce the completion of a new office area for patrons of our PTDL. The large glassed-in office and training area is located on the main floor of the library adjacent to the reference desk and the information commons. Patrons now have privacy while being trained and conducting their searches. Training and reference materials are conveniently close by. And the main collection is just out the door as well. As the Wichita State University Libraries is also a federal depository library, this service point is for government documents as well as those with IP needs.

This year we formed relationships with the Executive MBA program in the College of Business and with the Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas (YEK) Program. The MBA program meets on Saturdays and I have been a guest lecturer on intellectual property issues in business. The YEK program provides high school students with business and entrepreneurial education and experiences. Founded in 1991, there are now classes in every traditional high school in Wichita, several surrounding high schools, and Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City, KS. I have presented “IP issues for your business future” to five classes so far. Check YEK out at http://www.yeks.org/

This year, Wichita State has a new Vice President for Academic Affairs and a new Director of the Office of Research Administration. I have been able to visit with both of them about the value of patents to a university and the need to provide more training and expertise to WSU students and faculty. The timing is really good for these issues. As a result of a sizeable foundation grant to the Business College’s Center for Entrepreneurship, this summer I will be participating with a team of six faculty members in a 12-week internship program which will provide real-world experience for graduate students in the dynamic nature of the entrepreneurial process with new-business concepts in development. Details are being worked out, but I am excited about this opportunity.

My assistant, Jo Gregg, and I also stayed very busy this past year with over 1,300 phone calls and questions, as well as one-on-one sessions with over 250 people for patent searching and trademark consultation. I provided seven Saturday patent workshop during the year which are 2.5 hour sessions covering the patent process and how to search patents. Other key relationships include the Inventor’s Association of South Central Kansas (IASCK) and the Small Business Development Center, which now has a Small Business Consortium meeting monthly.

— Nan Myers
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. PTDLA’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 anyone associated with the PTDL Program who is not eligible for regular membership. Dues for membership remain a bargain – just $25 a year.

Our membership fees make up the vast majority of PTDLA’s operating budget. They pay for Seminar expenses, printing and mailing of our newsletter, gifts, stationery, and other needs. In the recent past, many of these costs were borne by generous individuals and libraries, until the members voted for an annual membership fee to ease that financial burden. If you are proud of your Association and the services it provides to you as a patent and trademark information professional, please support us with your membership dues.

Dues cover membership from the current Seminar to the end 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 Dawn Rohan, PTDLA Treasurer. Dawn’s telephone number is (307) 777-7281 and her e-mail address is drohan@state.wy.us

Membership Form – Detach (or Photocopy) and Mail

Name: _____________________________________________

Institution: _____________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________

PTDLA MEMBERSHIP = $25.00

Please make checks payable to: PTDLA. Do not send cash. Do not make checks payable to any individual or the PTDL Program. Mail this form and your check to:

Dawn Rohan, PTDLA Treasurer
Wyoming State Library
516 S. Greeley Hwy.
Cheyenne, WY 82002