Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association

Tom Melvin, President 2003/2004

In 2003 the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association marked a milestone, the organization's 20th anniversary.

In the words of our mission statement, the PTDLA exists 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 (PTO) in these matters for the benefit of the PTDLs and their users, and to assist the USPTO in planning and implementing appropriate services.”

I can safely say that for the past 20 years our association has met those goals admirably. The PTDLA has been, and continues to be, an important vehicle for expressing the needs and concerns of those of us who are the field workers of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program. To mark this occasion the Association put together a number of events and activities at both the 2003 and 2004

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annual conferences. Before we talk about the present, however, we should take a look at the accomplishments of our association over the past 20 years.

The use of outside libraries by the PTO dates back to 1871, when patents were first offered in printed format to depository libraries. These libraries operated independently from the PTO for decades, offering access to the patent collection but little in the way of training or services as we think of them today. In 1977 the PTO invited the depository libraries throughout the country to the first annual meeting of the USPTO. Two years later the depository libraries submitted a report titled “PDLs Report on Funding for Patent Depository Libraries,” which presented a plan for how the PDL system should be organized and included suggestions for improvement in the operations of the program. By offering direct feedback to the PTO from the participating librarians in the program, this could be seen as the genesis of the association as we know it today.

In September 1983 that genesis produced the Patent Depository Library Advisory Council (PDLAC), the forerunner of the present day PTDLA. By this time it was becoming obvious that the PDLs needed a vehicle to express their concerns to the PTO, as technological changes quickly changed the way in which the PDLs offered their services. The most notable of these changes was the introduction in 1982 of the CASSIS online search system, which allowed, for the first time, quick access to up-to-date information that heretofore wasn't easily available.

Other changes at this time were the introduction of microfilm to replace the hard-copy patents, allowing a significant savings in storage space that made it possible for many more libraries to make available a large range of patents, and a greater recognition by the PTO itself of the importance of the PDLs. This recognition was exemplified by the comments of Commissioner Gerald J. Mossinghoff in his April 1983 testimony to Congress, when he stated that “The impact of these libraries is enormous. Through these technology centers, millions of U.S. residents now have access to needed patent information that was previously difficult to obtain.” Truly, PDLs had arrived.

Throughout the 1980s the PDLAC continued to expand, as more libraries joined the depository program and the council set guidelines and standards for PDL services. In 1988 the PDLAC became the Patent Depository Library Association (PDLA) and produced its first newsletter. By 1989 the first CASSIS CD-ROM systems were being distributed to the depository libraries, replacing the online system that had been used for years, opening up a new world of capabilities for patent searchers. In 1990 the name of the association was changed to the Patent and Trademark Depository Association (PTDLA), to reflect the increasing emphasis on trademark services in the depository system.

Throughout the '90s the Association experienced rapid change that reflected the new technologies becoming available to us. Advances in computer technology made
systems such as the Automated Patent System (APS) available, and with the development of the World Wide Web, patent information was finally available to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection. The first PTDL Partnership Library was opened in Sunnyvale, Calif., offering a wider range of services than was previously available at any depository library in the country. Digital disc sets such as USA/Pat and USA/Mark became part of the collection, and in 2000 the entire run of patents from 1790 to the present was finally available online.

The PTDL was involved in each of these advances, providing input and advice to the PTO and acting as the feet on the ground that brought all of this knowledge to the public at large. As we proceed into the 21st century we will continue to work with the PTO in its efforts to disseminate patent and trademark knowledge to the public and to ensure that this information is available to all who need it.

To celebrate these accomplishments the Association planned a number of events over the course of the 2003/2004 year. During the business meeting at the 2003 conference there was an informal presentation by many of the past presidents, who shared their remembrances of the early days of the association. The first few meetings, starting in 1977, consisted of little more than the participants sitting around a table discussing the issues that were important at that time. These informal get-togethers gradually grew into the larger, formal meetings that we think of today. As the association took shape, there was a need to formalize the structure, and by 1983 we elected the first president of the association, Charles Wilt of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Many of the people who have served as president over the past 22 years are still active in the association, a testament to their dedication and professionalism.

On March 17, 2004, we held our 20th anniversary luncheon in the Crystal Club at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel. As the current president I had the privilege of acting as master of ceremonies for this event, where we had more than 75 in attendance, some who had made the trip just for this event. Martha Crockett Sneed gave a moving tribute in which she shared her memories of the association and what it had contributed to the mission of the depository program over the years. Jim Miller, Dave Morrison and I provided some musical entertainment, and Ted Cebula gave a wonderful talk about the history of the association and provided some great stories from the past. The event was a great success, and I want to personally thank everyone who helped make it so.

It was an honor to serve as president of the association for the 20th anniversary year. When I came to my first conference in 1990 it never entered my mind that one day I would be the person up there running the meetings, organizing the round tables, or being involved in any serious way. After 20 years in this profession I can honestly say that some of the best people that I have met in my working experience are those who come to the conference every year and share their knowledge and experience with everyone. We still have many challenges to face, and I am confident that the next 20 years will be as fruitful and productive as the first 20 years.
The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association is pleased to present the Association Honors celebrating the 20th Anniversary at the 2004 Annual Seminar. It is with great respect that we salute current and past members with these awards:

- “Best Sport Award” to Robin Gray (Cleveland, Ohio) for participating in every pilot project ever known to the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP).
- “Will This Term Ever End Award” to Claudine Jenda (Auburn, Ala.) for serving two terms as President of PTDLA. This was beyond the call of duty!
- “Almost Perfect Attendance Award” to Ted Cebula (Milwaukee, Wis.) for attending the most seminars! He is our association memory as well as a mover and shaker in the association.
- “Scholarly Leadership Award” to Kevin Harwell (University Park, Pa.) for serving as an early association leader. Intellectual property is his game. We especially acknowledge his work as an organizer of visits to members of Congress and his work as a prolific author and visionary who encouraged the establishment of the *IP Journal*. We also continue to appreciate your work as listserv manager.
- “Hospitality Award” to Mary Leckie (Little Rock, Ark.) for your openness to conversation and networking. Your welcoming outlook is appreciated.
- “Quiet Conscience Award” to Jim Arshem (Program Staff) for being the quiet standard bearer and conscience who reminds everyone about the important role that PTDLs play in a democracy.
- “Robert’s Rules of Order Award” to Donna Hanson (Retired, Moscow, Idaho) for keeping any association meeting on track, even those with lots of people who have lots to say.
- “Town Crier Award” to Christina Bryne (Seattle, Wash.) for significant contribution to newsletter production. Your gift for calling for news, encouraging contributions, and editing is greatly appreciated.
- “Best Notes Award” to Diane Richmond (retired, Chicago, Ill.) for taking copious notes at every meeting and sharing them with the staff at Chicago Public Library.
- “Happy Camper Award” to Brian Carpenter (College Station, Texas) for his unfailingly cheerful and positive outlook and his numerous contributions to the association.
- “Exemplary PTDLP Representative” to Erich Mayer (Buffalo, N.Y., Died in 1999) for his commitment to working with clients, staff, and PTDLA members. His enthusiasm, service, humor, and creativity will always be remembered.
- “We Miss You, When Are You Coming Back Award” to Jeanne Oliver (Former Program Staff, now at the Transportation Security Administration). Your smiling face and wonderful laugh are sorely missed.
- “Can’t Say No Award” to Jean Porter (retired, Raleigh, N.C.) for being the “Gal Who Can’t Say No.” This is how she got things done in PTDLA. She could never say no to the things that needed to be done. No one can ever say no to her.

We also recognize the current attendees of the seminar for your enthusiasm and hard work. We recognize the First Timers, the In-Betweeners, and the Veterans for accepting the challenge of making intellectual property information available to the public!

We recognize the staff of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, especially the Program Office and all the offices that provide speakers and trainers for our seminar. For all the staff, past and current, that support the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, we salute you!

Thank you for your attendance.

*Charlotte A. Erdmann*  
Vice President/President-Elect PTDLA

*Jan Comfort, Clemson University*  
2004 Anniversary Celebration Committee
Lifetime PTDLA Membership Award

Presented to

Wesley H. Gewehr

In Recognition of Your Outstanding Leadership and Commitment to
Making Patent and Trademark Information Available to the Public
and
Your Many Contributions to the
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program and the
United States Patent and Trademark Office

July 13, 2004

Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association

Executive Board—President Charlotte Erdmann, Vice President Nan Myers, Secretary Leena Lalwani, Treasurer Karen Hertel, and Past President Tom Melvin
The 2005 Big Events

Nothing ever stays the same, does it? This is good news!

The 2004 Training Seminar was definitely a learning and celebration seminar. President Tom Melvin and the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office organized a well-run “learn a lot” event with opportunities to acquire more skills in using patents and trademarks and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association. We were especially pleased to hear many informative and inspiring speakers.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office moved most of its operations to the Alexandria facility in 2004-2005. This move is a positive event for the office because it gives them up-to-date space and computing facilities. It also puts personnel in close proximity to each other. This move affected the planning and implementation of the 2005 seminar. The Program office notified me of possible changes to the timing and schedule due to training needs within the USPTO. The executive committee shared the news with you before a final decision was made. I thank you for your cooperation and flexibility in agreeing to move the seminar to April and holding the event from Thursday to Monday. This will make it possible for us to use computer facilities on Saturday and Sunday that are normally used by USPTO personnel during the week. I visited the facility on a December research trip, and the new facility is a tremendous improvement!

During 2004-2005, the Program Office sent updated equipment to each Patent and Trademark Depository Library. It also provided access to WEST for each library. With good training, most PTDLs will be able to provide similar database services regardless of location. This is a big improvement and the best news of the year!

I am pleased that the association sponsored a session on “International Patents: Local to Global” at the American Library Association in June 2004. Please take time to review the presentations: [http://www.ptdla.org/conf/ptdlaconf2004.html](http://www.ptdla.org/conf/ptdlaconf2004.html). The planning committee, moderator, and speakers are commended for their excellent work. The PTDLA at ALA Program Committee hopes to work with other ALA divisions in the future.

The association was pleased to honor Wesley Gewehr, long-time advocate of the PTDL program, at his retirement in July. Jeanne Oliver, former president of PTDLA, repre-sented the association. She presented him with the Lifetime PTDL Membership Award and the Executive Committee Resolution. See award and proclamation on page 5.

I am proud of the nomination that PTDLA prepared for a position on the Patent Advisory Committee of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Nan Myer, vice president/president-elect, and I did a considerable amount of research about the committee and prepared a credible nomination. I am sorry that it was not successful.

The PTDLA Executive Board asked for your feedback to the journal article published in the *Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society* that was critical of the PTDL program. Information has been gathered and a response is forthcoming. I hope to have it ready before the training seminar!

The Election Committee prepared an excellent slate of candidates. We thank you for accepting the nomination. This year we are using a new voting technique — a blind electronic ballot. As in all new ventures, there were a few false starts. I thank Amy Van Epps, instruction coordinator from the Engineering Library at Purdue University, for her expertise in programming the ballot using ColdFusion. This made it possible. Thank you for your patience as we completed this new venture!

Another big plus for the libraries is your creative participation on the listservs from ptdla-l@psulias.psu.edu and ALLPTDLS@uspto.gov. This gives us opportunities to ask questions and exchange resources and ideas. Please keep these vital channels of information open so that we can all help each other.

The 2005 training seminar is coming soon! I look forward to seeing you at a new time and a new place! May we acquire knowledge and skills that will better prepare us to meet the challenges before us and to provide valuable information to our clients!

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte A. Erdmann, President
Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association
Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report - February 2005

Karen Hertel, PTDLA Treasurer

Balance as of January 31, 2004  $5,743.23
2004-05 Deposits  $7,765.00
Total balance before withdrawals  $13,508.23
2004-05 Withdrawals  $8,778.76
Balance as of February 21, 2005  $4,729.47

Detailed deposits
3/3/2004 Registration & lunch  $1,370.00
3/3/2004 Registration & lunch  $1,460.00
3/12/2004 Registration & lunch  $2,050.00
3/15/2004 Registration & lunch  $840.00
3/12/2004 Registration & lunch  $230.00
3/22/2004 Registration & lunch  $215.00
4/8/2004 Registration & lunch  $120.00
11/30/2004 Registration & lunch  $100.00
12/10/2004  $25.00
2/18/2005 Registration & dues  $805.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS  $7,765.00

Detailed withdrawals
3/22/2004 Crystal City Marriott  $2,406.30
3/22/2004 Crystal City Marriott  $4,200.00
3/22/2004 Tom Melvin  $408.26
4/1/2004 Refund for registration overpay  $40.00
4/5/2004 Donald Grant Kelly  $400.00
4/7/2004 Magister Limited  $625.34
4/9/2004 Service Charge  $6.00
8/27/2004 ALA  $60.00
10/24/2004 ALA  $492.90
12/16/2004 Harland Checks  $40.06
1/20/2005 Network Solutions  $99.90
TOTAL WITHDRAWALS  $8,778.76

PTDLA Executive Meeting Minutes (2003)

Saturday, March 15, 2003
Attendees: Claudine Jenda, Tom Melvin, Karen Hertel, Natalie Rutledge, Esther Crawford, Deb Leary, Christina Byrne, Nan Myers, Brian Carpenter, Valerie Sherman, Dave Morrison, Charlotte Erdmann

The meeting was called to order by President Claudine Jenda at 7:15 pm.

1. Minutes of previous meeting. A correction for attendees, Jean Porter rather than Jean Oliver.
2. President’s Report. Claudine said that serving as President has been a wonderful experience and it has been a pleasure working the executive committee. She indicated that communication could have been better. Key issues/items are moving:
   a. Journal is at a stalemate. Claudine and Brian Carpenter have worked on it in fits and starts.
   b. ALA/PTDLA program is planned.
   c. Program planning committee could have started planning the logistics of the reception earlier.
   d. Newsletter contains snippets of news from PTDLs.
   e. The PTDL Program Office and PTDLA were able to have representatives at SLA (Michael White), PIUG (Jim Miller), and PATLIB (Amanda Putnam, Claudine, and Cathy Holland). PATLIB is the European training conference that is similar to the PTDL Training Seminar. There are many attendees from smaller countries. Many languages are spoken by attendees. The conference covers theory and practice for its network libraries.
3. Secretary’s Report. Tom Melvin reported that the minutes were late and may need some corrections.
4. Treasurer’s Report. Brian Carpenter reported

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that the current balance is $6,815.32. Registration income will be added and Marriott bills will be paid. The current membership and seminar registration fees are as follows:

a. Membership fee is $25 and is paid annually.

b. Seminar registration is $40 for members and $75 for nonmembers.

The question of raising seminar registration (or membership fees?) was discussed. It was decided that the fees were ok for this year. Tom Melvin as incoming President will keep in touch with the program office and PTDLA reserves the right to raise fees if needed. Tom will communicate with the executive committee and representatives if we need to raise fees.

5. Archives. Dave Morrison has received the archives from Jean Bishop. Jean had put the materials in archive boxes and given the items accession numbers. Dave is learning the system and plans to add new materials to the system. He plans to scan selected portions for the website. He may put the materials on Utah’s website and link to the association website. It may be best to leave the materials on the Utah website for the long term since it would be easier for the Archivist to add new materials and work with them.

6. Publications.

a. Christine Byrne reported that she could not get the newsletter completed since family members were in a car accident. She plans to finish it after the seminar. Copies have been made for the Minutes of the Executive Committee, Business Meeting, and Open Forum as well as the Treasurer’s Report. Chris would also like to scan older newsletters into PDF format for the website. Esther Crawford recommended that Chris and Dave use similar branding for materials added to the association website.

b. Web Site. Esther Crawford, webmaster, reported that the domain name: www.ptdla.org has been established and the domain fees have been paid for the next year. Two resource pages have been done and three more are ready. She is preparing the pages in html coding using word pad. This is simple and is working well. She could use some guidance on side bars.

7. Elections Committee. Robin Gray, Tom Melvin, and Natalie Rutledge counted 50 ballots from association members. Those elected include: Vice-President/PRESIDENT-ELECT, Charlotte Erdmann; Secretary, Jan Comfort; Regional Representatives: Region 1, Lois Nase; Region 3, Bob Kackley; Region 5, Andrew Wohrley; Region 7, Jill Clever; Region 9, Suzanne Holcombe; Region 11 – Dawn Rohan. Members of a region vote for their representative.

8. Bylaws. Deb Leary reported changes to the Bylaws that were voted and passed via email. These changes involved distinctions between regular members and affiliate members.

9. Mentoring. Robin Gray reported the goal of the mentoring committee is to help new attendees to feel part of the group. The executive committee would like to extend the mentoring committee’s charge to do more and share expertise after attendees leave the seminar. If so, the mentoring committee must be larger. It was suggested that this might be a role for the regional representatives. Expertise groups might include members who work in academic, business, government documents, science/technology, public, and special libraries.

10. Regional representatives. These positions are set down in the bylaws. Responsibilities and past activities were discussed. At one time the representatives created a regional newsletter. Representative also phoned region members for a discussion of issues. Representatives have also been a source of future officers. Useful functions for reps have been to encourage the sharing of ideas, inventor workshops, joint workshops, and important legislation follow-up. At this seminar, the outgoing and incoming reps are
getting together for lunch or happy hour.

11. Legislative Committee. Dave Morrison reported on fall 2002 activities. Claudine sent a letter to association members asking for issues for an upcoming meeting with the deputy director. Dave met with John Dudas and Kay Melvin last fall and briefly discussed the meeting. The legislative committee will scan information sources. Current members include Dave, Lois Nase, and Joanne Tobin. The committee would like to attract new people to be active members and would also like to ask one to be chair.

12. Promotion and Outreach Committee. More training and outreach activities are key to revitalizing the PTDLs. This can raise visibility, outreach, awareness, and publicize services for access to pre-1976 patent information, lawyers referring clients. Some presence at national inventor conferences and PTO co-sponsored events. We need to push our programs. Focus group discussions should also help us.

13. PTDLA-ALA Program. Five speakers will present at PTDLA program at American Library Association. Speakers include Don Kelly (Examiner viewpoint of United States & International Patents), Jan Comfort (7 step process for U.S. & International Patents), Barbara Kile (World patents), Jason Martin (Espacenet), and Jackie Shane (Chemical Patents).


15. Patent Information Users Group. Jim Miller will attend. A possible reciprocal arrangement of having a PIUG member attend the PTDL seminar was discussed. This might be help for legislative writing and lobbying.

16. PTDLA Representation at ALA Affiliates Meeting. This is a fabulous experience to meeting with other ALA affiliates. There is an opportunity at both spring and winter meetings of ALA. This gathering is a very good reason for PTDLA to cooperate.

17. Program Planning. The association is involved with the Friday program of roundtables and speaker from Inventors’ Digest. The editor is interested in possible cooperation and short articles on PTDLs. There is also a copyright speaker on Monday. Michael Blackman, editor of World Patent Information, is looking for articles for his journal. He is especially interested in PIUG and PATLIB papers.

18. IP Journal. PTDL seminar speakers are also encouraged to capture papers to the association journal. We should encourage early themes for next year’s meeting. The first issue of the journal is having its format redone. Most of the work is being done by Brian and Claudine. Kevin Harwell has dropped out. Volunteers are needed. Nan Meyers is interested in helping with the details of the journal. June and December issues are planned in HTML and PDF formats. The journal has a double blind review.

19. PTDLA Incorporation. Tom Melvin was involved with the incorporation in Delaware. It is complete and involved little work for a non-profit. A simple form was filed in Dover. Tom Melvin is the registered agent. The advantage to incorporation is that no individual is responsible. Without incorporation, the members are responsible. With incorporation, the association has financial responsibility for its funds and the Erich Mayer Scholarship. We must have a 503(c)3 (nonprofit income tax designation), have bylaws, give public disclosure, and audit its funds. Future leaders must set up an audit process.

20. PTDLA membership. There was no interest in promoting affiliate membership. Possible members are retired officers or members like Jean Porter. It is more important to promote membership from first time attendees and active working staff in PTDLs.

21. Next year’s issues. Future discussion via email is encouraged for the following: Celebration of anniversary (We need to do something special.); Fund-raising for special events or raise money or dues.

22. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte A. Erdmann, Secretary PTDLA
PTDLA Business Meeting Minutes (2003)

Monday, March 17, 2003, Crystal City Marriott

The meeting was called to order by Claudia Jenda, who has served as president for two years. This year we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the association.

Tom Melvin, incoming president, is sending around signup sheets so that serving committee members and new members may sign up for committees. If you are not interested in serving, please draw a line through your name. Tom will contact people within the next three months.

Billie Connor-Dominguez and Ted Cebula, early members of the association, were introduced. They shared some background and history. Billie, of Los Angeles Public Library, started a gathering of a small group of librarians and served as PTDLA president in 1987-88. She said that the network of libraries was very important in rebuilding and recovery after a fire destroyed the patent collection at her library in 1986. Ted talked about an early training meeting around a table. Twenty librarians sat on one side and Patent and Trademark Office employees on the other side. This 1½ hour session was the first time classification training was done. He also reviewed the transitions from paper patents to microfilm to CD-ROM/DVD as well printed sources, dumb terminals, CD-ROM to APS. Ted feels that lobbying the PTO and Capitol Hill maintained and improved services.

Claudine thanked members who helped with the reception and the PTDLP staff for this year’s seminar. She welcomed Kay Melvin and Michael Moore.

Brian Carpenter, treasurer, reported the PTDLA balance was $6,815.32. Fees remain the same. If you have not paid your money to Brian, please do so as soon as possible.

Tom Melvin reported on the incorporation of the association in Delaware. Incorporation gives the association more visibility. Tom is a resident of Delaware and served as the registered agent. He went to the web site and got the forms for a non-profit organization. He received some advice from an attorney. The certificate has been filed. The association members are not liable for any legal matters. The officers now take that responsibility.

Committee Reports

Dave Morrison reported on the Archives Committee. He received two boxes of materials from Jean Bishop, the outgoing archivist. Dave is interested in scanning and displaying some archival materials on the association web site. Jill Clever and Dave Morrison have served on this committee. New members are needed.

Christina Byrne reported on the Publications Committee. The newsletter will be finished after seminar because a family car accident prevented Chris from finishing it. Chris will also try to get all older newsletters on the association web site. Next year’s issue will be a special anniversary “commemorative issue.” Esther Crawford, web wizard, reported that two new resources have been done and three more are ready. Pictures taken by Jan Comfort have been added. Esther thanked members for suggesting corrections. The domain name, www.ptdla.org has been registered to the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association.

Tom Melvin reported that the Elections Committee consisting of Tom, Robin Gray, and Natalie Rutledge is familiar with the process. Tom encouraged regional representatives to communicate with the region’s libraries. The officers elected are:

- Charlotte Erdmann, Vice President/President-Elect
- Jan Comfort, Secretary
- Regional Representatives:
  - Region 1. Lois Nase
  - Region 3. Bob Kackley
  - Region 5. Andrew Wohrley
  - Region 7. Jill Clever
  - Region 9. Suzanne Holcombe
  - Region 11. Dawn Rohan

Deb Leary reported on the activities of the Bylaws Committee. An email ballot was sent to make changes to the bylaws related to affiliate and regular members. The bylaws changes were approved by the membership.

Robin Gray reported on activities of the Mentoring Committee. The targeting group has been first-time attendees. The goal is to make them feel a part of the group. The committee plans to improve and implement more networking opportunities. It plans to identify experts in particular areas.

Dave Morrison reported on the Legislative Committee. Two actions are planned: add voice to supporting the 21st Strategic Plan and lobby for full funding for the Patent and Trademark Office. The committee will create a template for letters to members of Congress. Dave has met with John

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W. Dudas, deputy director, and Kay Melvin. The report of that meeting was sent out via email in November. The talking points from the meeting are being addressed by the Program Office and Customer Service Department. It should be noted that a non-profit organization cannot lobby. A short discussion followed:

1. Nan Myers: Information and dialogue can be done as a private citizen.
2. Joanne Tobin: Expression of opinions can be done by librarians. At her library, an associate dean approves letters. It is possible to follow the ALA mode and visit members of Congress.
3. Deb Leary: Libraries can not lobby because they receive federal funds. It is OK as professional individuals.

Claudine discussed the Outreach Committee. Activities in opening forum make ourselves known in the community. This is a committee that needs to be revitalized. One example is to set minimum standards for a PTDL – one inventor workshop per year.

PTDLA continues to be active with other professional organizations:

1. PTDLA is sponsoring a session, “Patents and Trademarks – Local to Global,” at the summer conference of the American Library Association. Speakers are Don Kelley, Jan Comfort, Barbara Kile, Jason Martin, and Jackie Shane. Tom Melvin commented on the value of PTDLA at ALA. It provides programs on patents and trademarks that might not be presented otherwise.
2. The ALA Affiliates Luncheon has been an opportunity to meet other affiliate organizations. Brian Carpenter attended the summer luncheon and Ester Crawford attended the midwinter. Nan Meyers mentioned that the Music Library Association might be another partner for a session.
3. Tom Turner of the Program Office was involved in the Biomedical Division of the Special Library Association last year. Tom, Kevin Harwell, and Michael White presented a continuing education course.
4. PIUG may be another organization to work with in the future.
5. PATLIB may be another partner. Claudine said that the next meeting will be in Sicily. It is attended by members of the European Union who speak a multitude of languages. It is valuable to know about intellectual property issues in a variety of countries (EU and others). If someone is interested in presenting, please give proposal to Amanda Putnam.

The Planning Committee for the seminar included Valerie Sherman, Esther Crawford, and Charlotte Erdmann. The Roundtables Session will be moderated by Charlotte.

The IP Journal Committee has included Brian Carpenter and Claudine. The committee needs new members to help with celebration issues, state inventors, refereed articles, and best practices.

New Business

Affiliate membership was discussed. Former PTDLA members leave the organization when they return or take new jobs. A brain drain happens if affiliate members are not active. It is possible for them to help with lobbying if one decides to differ with the PTDL Office.

Fund-raising was discussed. In order to fund celebration events, funds must be raised. Possibilities need to be created to fund celebration events.

Librarians discussed access to full-text patents before 1971. Indexes are also needed for this time period.

Old business:

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte A. Erdmann, Secretary
PTDLA Open Forum (March 16, 2004)

Special Guests:
Cheryl Brumm (USPTO Contact Center)
Martha Crockett-Sneed
Brookey Givens
Mike Harrigan
Jim Hirabayashi
Katherine Holland (Public Search facilities)
Mande Putnam
Pamela Rhinehart (webmaster),
Harold Smith,
Tom Tiedeman (CASSIS)
Ed Vocke

**Tom Melvin:** We are dying to have a searchable pre-1976 patent index. What is the status? Is this in the foreseeable future?

**Martha Crockett-Sneed:** About 30 PTDLs have access to WEST. PubWEST 2.2 gives access to dirty OCR data back to 1920. There is a project to try to get remaining secure id cards. It is available through the Internet, complete with manuals. This will roll out to the other libraries in 6–8 weeks.

**Mike Harrigan:** Libraries will get a CD and a secure id card. Installation is easy. Each library will get five passwords that can be used on any machine.

**Eileen Fischlschweiger:** We do not have control over what gets loaded on our library machines. It needs to have IE 6.0 and have proxy definition.

**Martha:** You need to work with your IT people. We will work with you.

**Leena Lalwani:** Some people have not had WEST Training. Can we sign up for tomorrow?

**Mande Putnam:** The sessions are full, but they may be able to open up some spaces. (Martha – You might go to the partnership in Detroit for training.)

**Dave Morrison:** What about patent data before 1920? We have lots of people coming in for earlier data. It is becoming inaccessible due to deterioration of print sources. We are in danger of putting it in compact shelving (under lock and key now.) We may loose print serial set volumes.

**Mande:** We have spent the last year in meetings with the USPTO person doing electronic projects. GPO is taking a different approach to this, so there is nothing they can do. Although this is not a hugely popular item commercially, it is enormously needed and wanted by this group. PTDLA and ARL will be working on this. (Esther Crawford: There is a survey going around to ARL libraries to prioritize digital projects. We need to put it high on the priority list.)

**Martha:** We are approaching this from several tactics. We are still going through with a request for information with CBD even if GPO/ARL goes forward. It says that we (USPTO) are serious.

**Gregg Carter:** We recently received WEST, and despite a few hiccups are very pleased with its capabilities. That being said, and knowing the value of CASSIS to commercial entities, CASSIS is outmoded in a PTDL setting. The public has neither the inclination nor the skill to deal with the arcane aspects of CASSIS. Can we have a show of hands to keep CASSIS?

**Ed Vocke:** He (Vocke) has been working with it for 6–7 years now, and he knows most of us. He also knows that CASSIS is at the end of its life cycle, but today (when the Internet went down for the whole USPTO) let us know that it is a good back-up when the Internet is down. Casis has several things that are not available on the Internet. It is still a useful product.

**Martha:** There is a certain beauty of disseminating everything to all. Many people still using CASSIS. Some have sent things back (including a CASSIS workstation). We are looking at functionalities of things that are not available on the web, to see if those applications can go to the web.

**Ed:** It is a function of the TIFF viewer to only do one page at a time. USA products make it easier to print more than one page at a time. (One reason to keep CASSIS workstation.) Use esp@cenet to get larger patents.

**Rob Martindale:** For historical patents, LexisNexis is going to make a full text version of the Serial Set, and will have an index of patents through 1873. It includes The American State Papers and through 1829 in 1836 serial set volume. The 19th Century Masterfile does have access to three-volume set. Can search by inventor.

**Jackie Shane:** Not a big fan of CASSIS. The workstation is not reliable. One of the problems in serving a rural population, can’t do training or interaction long distance.

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must use Internet so that it is available for them.

Dale Colston: Regarding withdrawing patents. When a patent on the Internet is withdrawn, it is taken down from the page. But if we have it on microfilm, it is still possible to find it. Should we have a policy of offering copies of withdrawn patents? The USPTO will not do it.

Jim Hirabayashi: It is the USPTO policy that a withdrawn patent is not a patent. They make every effort to pull those documents back. Do not make them available to the public if you have them.

Brookey Givens: There are several ways to handle this. He has a solution so that we can chunk the data and download to floppies. Also, can save to a CD-ROM (need administrator’s password to save to hard drive first, then onto CD-ROM.) We want USPTO to convert to XP. They are trying to figure out a way to export from CASSIS directly to CD-ROM. Looked at adding space to hard drives. Do not have the funds to hire a developer to add this to CASSIS.

Karen Hertel: On plus side of CASSIS, the Internet does not serve all of their needs.

Martha: We will try again to upgrade the equipment. We tried last year, but it didn’t fly. It is important right? (Show of hands 75% wanted new workstation.) Maureen will get you new workstations with XP and big hard drives so that we can do away with the towers (problems for them and for us.) It is a hard sell for them. We are working on it.

Eileen: I see the value of CASSIS and really like CASSIS. But the problem is that the workstation is down so much. Takes so much time to keep it going. We do not have the time to do this. Also, I am putting in a plug for older dead trademarks.

Mike: I answer this question once a month at least. If the mark was alive in 1984, it is in the database. If it was dead by then, can only get to it through registration number.

Andy Worhley: We have a CASSIS problem. Each time we get a new disk, we get the April 2001 problem. If that message would go away 90% of my problems would go away.

Brookey: In theory, if CASSIS is working, just load the disk and do not install it. Any of the CASSIS searchable disks will work if just loaded and not installed.

Ed: If you are still having a problem, ask Maureen, Brookey, Donna Cooper, etc. We will get back to you and work through the problem.

Samantha Hager: Are there any plans to update the PDF of General Information Concerning Patents?

Martha: We don’t know. Cheryl has the handle on prompting them. We are well aware of the dated nature of this brochure and the TM one. However, how updated products will be provided for us is a question. They are moving away from printing.

Cheryl: When the information is updated, the web site will be the first place it will be. The print version is not likely to be updated.

Dave Morrison: Back to the older and dead trademarks, maybe we should also look at searchable trademark file that goes back, too. Our users have need of the historical information. A lot of our students want to do analysis of patents slicing and dicing things in different ways. If anything like that could be added to the web software that would be exceptionally useful. Congressional Universe can be a model.

Nan Myers: There are those (non-PTDLs) who have selected CASSIS disks. Can they still have access to CDs (those that we superseded) and load them with two indexes? How to access older disks?

Ed: They can call me directly.

A couple of questions we did not get to will go to Mande, who will provide the questions and their answers to the group.

-Respectfully submitted,
Jan Comfort, PTDLA Secretary
PTDLA Business Meeting Minutes (2004)

Tuesday, March 16, 2004, Crystal City Marriott

Tom Melvin made a few brief comments: Not much to report, a pretty quiet year. Highlights were the cancellation of the ALA Program, and letter writing on HR 1451. We are lucky to have more time at conference this year. Historically we once had a full day at the conference, so it is nice to be given more. It has been a pleasure to be president. I encourage you to think about serving. PTDLA can only function if people volunteer and serve. An hour will be set aside in the morning for committees to have some face time and see what they will do. Once we leave here we go across the country. I’m hoping that committee members will come by and get to know each other, and select a chair. I hope that committees will be more effective this year. Tom thanked everyone on executive board. Especially Claudine. Thanks to everyone who served and helped out.

Deb Leary moved that minutes be approved as amended. Seconded by many (including Dave Morrison).

Treasurer’s Report: Brian Carpenter presented a report, complete with a pie chart giving approximate breakdown of our seminar fees.

Archives: Dave Morrison reported that the Archives are sitting in his office. He has 18 years of conference packets. He encourages anyone who has been a committee chair or officer and had not sent to things to Jean Bishop, please send to Dave. As part of his duties in government documents, he is learning a lot about digitization. He is hoping that some of our archives will be converted and live on a web page at ptdla.org or at his institution.

Election committee: Robin Gray reported that they were not able to get a region 8 rep to run. Anyone from those areas willing, speak to one of us. She then gave the results of the elections:

President: Charlotte Erdmann
Vice President/President-Elect: Nan Myers
Secretary: Leena Lalwani
Treasurer: Karen Hertel

Electronic voting: Esther Crawford reported on the possibility of moving toward electronic voting. She is able to create an online e-mail-based form, whereby votes would automatically be sent to designated person to be tabulated. This process would be easier and more private. There was a question about how these would be secret, but this would be the same as receiving paper ballots. Several suggestions were made. Tom and Esther will work on this.

Mentoring committee: Robin Gray reported that they tried something different with the buddy plan. Speaking with first-time attendees, they were appreciative of the efforts that were made. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to Mary Jo Arnold, Leslie Brown, Carol Giles-Straight, Walt Johnson, Caron King, Leena Lalwani, Deb Leary, Jason Martin, Jim Miller, Nan Myers, Patrick Ragins, Tom Rohrig, and Andrew Worley. Robin also was a mentor. Tom thanked Robin and all of the other volunteers for their hard work.

ALA program: Tom reported on the SARS epidemic scare in Toronto. Lots of Universities did not send anyone to ALA; lots of others canceled. The main speaker canceled, so Tom made the call and postponed the program. He apologized to anyone who was upset. Esther reported on this year’s program. It is still the same theme. Jackie Shane and Barbara Kile will not be able to be there, but Jan Comfort, Don Kelly, and Jason Martin will. It will be held Saturday, from 2-4. There is no location yet. The committee will meet tomorrow. There will be some fees associated with space and equipment this year, but they are not sure how much. Tom asked that anyone who has ideas for next year’s theme get to Tom or Esther. Esther thanked the committee members.

PTDLA IP Journal: Claudine Jenda reported. The idea began a couple of years ago with Claudine, Brian, and Kevin. She is pleased to say that the planning went extremely well. Then real life took over. Kevin’s duties will be changing, so he had to resign from the project. Brian became manager of a partnership library. So the work has been set aside. Claudine sent out a call and was responsible for receiving papers and refereeing them. Brian had a mockup ready to go, even before there were any papers. They have received papers and have gone through the referee process. The hangup is getting them up on the web. We now need someone with skill that can get them onto the web site. (Esther is ready.) Andrew Worley has stepped up and begun the process. We are now ready to issue the 2001 volume, then the 2002 and 2003. We need more help from you. If you have skills for developing web pages, and any interest in this project, please get in touch with Claudine or Andrew. Frequency is June and December. They have combined most of these issues, and would like to get more papers. A question was raised about advertisements. They would have some issues to resolve, because of our nonprofit status, and the fact that the

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journal would be on an edu domain.

PTDLA Newsletter: Christina Byrne reported that she had family situations that made it impossible to get the last two issues out. She does not want to let these go, and asks for someone to take over as newsletter editor. Material submitted for 2002 seminar will be mounted on the web site (electronic only, no print). The 2004 information would be published as a post-conference issue, and the person who does this would then start as editor of the newsletter. We actually have a little more money in the treasury this year because we have not had to print the newsletter. We would like to move to an electronic-only newsletter. We will probably divide the publications committee into two subcommittees – or two separate committees – one for the newsletter and one for the web page. We will still need to send paper copies to the USPTO. And we will still need paper copies for the archives.

Samantha Hager: There will be a new section on the PTDLA web page to post a collection of handouts and guides to patent and trademark resources. This page would be similar to the Handout Exchange created by the Government Documents Roundtable of ALA. The new section will be called PTDLA Handout Central. She passed out a handout with her contact information.

Kevin will still be maintaining the PTDL-L list. He would like to be asked on a yearly basis. Contact Kevin with any problems.

Dawn Rohan reported on the PUIG Conference, held last May in Baltimore. Donna Hopkins, Jim Miller, and Mike White also attended. The theme was Back to Basics.

Tom reported on SLA. PTDLP had a booth but did not have a program. Only a few members attend. We would like to have a presence. The more places we have a program the better.

Eileen reported problems with the USPTO web site. PTDLA needs to be on their page, with links to PTDLs. Maybe just under the search link, at independent inventors office page. We will approach this again.

Carol Giles Straight: Their search page is vague. When doing a search with a patron on the 7-Steps, Firstgov came up. Don’t use it. When you go to the 7-Steps training, they will show you the best way to search.

If you are interested in submitting an article to Inventors’ Digest, contact Claudine Jenda. The project is on schedule, and is booked solid for the next two years. Editor Joanne spoke last year and is in touch with our patrons.

She has devoted a 1,200-word column to what is available in our PTDL. Two PTDLs will appear in each column.

Regional representative positions are kind of lying dormant. Jan will be writing up what a regional representative will do. The duties will not be spelled out in the bylaws, but the bylaws will point to where details are listed. Should regions be changed? More, less? Any comments now? (No one spoke up.)

Tom raised the possibility of increasing the membership dues from $25 to $35. We currently have 68 members. This would not affect the registration for the conference. Because of the uncertainty of the new facilities next year, they might need more funding. The PTDLP has not established relationships with new hotels, but that’s not to say that they won’t. Any strong objections speak now. We will need to vote on this later (since it is a bylaws change).

It was suggested that we consider raising the conference registration rather than the membership dues. Many members are reimbursed for conference registrations but not for professional memberships. With a raise in fees, could we also increase some services (such as more convenient Internet access)? It was also mentioned that Research Publications subsidized some things. We will want to look into this for the future, too.

-Respectfully submitted, Jan Comfort, PTDLA Secretary
Message from the PTDL Program Office

The 28th PTDL Training Seminar is just around the corner and we are especially excited about welcoming you here this year. As you know, the PTDL Program moved to the new United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) campus in Alexandria, Virginia, last December. Although we are just down the road a piece, lots of things are different!

As of March 1, 2005, 5,650 USPTO employees have been relocated to Alexandria from Crystal City. In Alexandria, four main campus buildings are fully occupied and the final one is filling up this month. PTDL is located in Madison West, one side of the large main building. The magnificent atrium that you may have seen in photographs of the campus connects us to Madison East. The USPTO training facility, the main branch of the Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC), and many other offices are all in Madison West. The new museum and gift shop are scheduled to open in our building in May. You will have to come back again next year to visit there. The stunning new consolidated Public Search Facility is in Madison East and offers a high-tech, online area that has 300 public workstations.

The Madison Building also features a large auditorium where we will conduct our seminar. It has been a fun puzzle to figure out how to use this new configuration of space most effectively. We will count on you and your suggestions to work out the kinks. The cafeteria and underground concourse connecting the buildings are adjacent to the auditorium. There are only a couple of retail businesses in the new concourse, so shopping opportunities during the seminar will be limited. The new training facility will provide us with much more adequate space for hands-on computer training than we have previously enjoyed.

If you are nostalgic for Crystal City, we are only a couple of Metro stops away. I think, though, that you will find Old Town Alexandria to be charming and a great source of restaurants, shops, and a beautiful waterfront area.

Looking out my window at the snow-covered trees, it’s hard to believe that cherry blossom time is so soon! We look forward to seeing you in April.

Amanda (Mande) Putnam, Manager, PTDL Program

From the Editor:

This year’s newsletter is a combined issue for 2004/2005. A number of circumstances prevented publication of the 2003 and 2004 issues, so we decided to include minutes and news from 2004 as well as 2005 to bring everything up to date.

As incoming editor for the newsletter this year I tried to stick with the original format. I welcome any comments or suggestions for improvement.

I am very grateful to Christina Byrne, former editor, for working with me to ensure a smooth transition into a new era of PTDLA publications.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who submitted content for the newsletter.

-Samantha Hager, Editor
News from the PTDLs

Akron, Ohio
Akron-Summit County Library

As part of our celebration we will be hosting Tom Turner and the PTDLP team in May. We are looking forward to their visit as it coincides with the National Inventors Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. As we continue to build our relationship with the Hall of Fame, they have graciously agreed to loan us some actual patent models to be displayed throughout our library during our Invention week celebration. We are so excited!

Since our new library features a computer training lab, we are now offering “Introduction to Online Patent Searching” classes once a month. This hands-on approach allows us to teach 15 people simultaneously how to use the wonderful PTO website.

Another project we have undertaken is developing a Summit County Inventors database. By using the Subject-Matter Index of Patents for Inventions 1790-1873, we are identifying patents issued to Summit County residents. This has proved to be a little tricky since Summit County wasn’t officially organized until 1840. We are hoping to have this information accessible online this year so that our genealogy patrons, historians, and the Summit County Historical Society may take advantage of it.

As we become settled in our new home, we look forward to providing more outreach programming – maybe even offering WEST training to University of Akron students and faculty. Our requests for patent information continue to increase as the community embraces our new facility and realizes what wonderful resources are available at a PTDL.

--Cheryl Luck

Albany, New York
New York State Library

X-Patents

You might remember a story in the New York Times back in August of 2004 about a patent attorney from New Hampshire, Scott Asmus, discovering some missing x-patent documents in Dartmouth College’s collection (the story might have been picked up by other news sources around the country). Shortly after the story appeared, Mr. Asmus contacted the New York State Library to tell us that he searched our catalog online and saw what he thought might be some other x-patent documents. I told him that I’d look into it, and I ended up finding three documents in our Manuscripts and Special Collections unit that related to four missing x-patents.

They were not, unfortunately, original letters patents. Two were broadsides, apparently used for marketing the product, that appear to have reproduced the letters patent. They contain the title, name of the inventor, date of issue and the inventor’s claims—no drawings—for Benjamin F. Berry’s improvement in the making of bedsteads, x-8775, April 22, 1835 and Reuben and Amos Mosher’s apple pairing machine, x-5764, December 28, 1829.

The third document was less straightforward but more interesting. It is a 112 page pamphlet that contains information about two different
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x-patents held by Edmond Charles Genet (the “Citizen Genet” from your grade school American history classes—he lived in the Albany area). An appendix in the pamphlet contains what, again, appears to be a reproduction of the letters patent for a boat fender, x-4185, September 9, 1825. This has the claims and the drawings. The connection of the pamphlet to a second patent is a little confusing. The title of the pamphlet is *The Upward Forces of Fluids*. It has five patent-like drawings throughout the text. Toward the end there is letters patent-type information about x-4231, issued October 31, 1825, for “Hydrostatics”. It’s unclear whether the entire 112 page pamphlet constitutes Genet’s claims and drawings for x-4231. It seems to be more about ideas than a device or process.

Digital images of the first two were sent to Mande Putnam. She passed them on to a unit in USPTO that will consider them. As of this writing we haven’t heard back. We are holding off on sending the Citizen Genet pamphlet until we hear back whether the first two are useful or not.

**Other News**

- A renovations project in 2004 forced our patent area to relocate. We had been in a nice little corner location that I liked because it clearly defined a separate space for the workstation and collection, but now we are in a central part of the main reference area with nothing that sets us apart from our surroundings.

- Our customers seem to like using PubWEST. The speed of the connection and the side-by-side feature that lets them flip through the drawings quickly are a hit.

- A near miss: in early February, 2005 the PBS-TV show “History Detectives” called and asked if they could come to the Library and film a segment on searching for a patent. We were really pumped up for it. They wanted to find a 1926 patent for an “animal toy”. I was all set to use PubWEST. We communicated back and forth on whether I was going to be able to find it (they already knew the one they wanted—D70840 for a toy mouse that some people claim was what Walt Disney based Mickey Mouse on). USPTO’s Mande, Tom and Cynthia answered a few questions for me so I’d sound like I knew what I was talking about. We were helping them arrange a hotel, etc., and then they called a few days before and said they were canceling the trip. They are based in Oregon. Said financial reasons led them to cut back on travel. I told them there is a PTDL in Salem, Ore.

—Bill Schilling

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**D070840**

*Design for an Animal Toy*

Rene D. Grove (Middletown, PA)

Issued August 17, 1926

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RENE D.GROVE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Middletown, in the county of Dauphin and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new, original, and ornamental Design for an Animal Toy, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part thereof. The figure is a perspective view of my animal toy.

I claim:

The ornamental design for an animal toy, as shown.

RENE D. GROVE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Centennial Science & Engineering Library, University of New Mexico

Bad news / good news

Bad first: CSEL was severely flooded when a chill water pipe burst in a bad combination of freezing temperatures, a power outage, and the Christmas Eve holiday. We were lucky that the rushing water was detected quickly, leaving only three inches of water in our lower level. Damage was extensive to both levels of our underground libraries, necessitating the removal of all flooring, and most shelves and drywall. The recovery will take 3–4 months before all the books have been dried and returned. Only 319 books were lost beyond repair. The patent workstation was unscathed, but my office has been encased in a giant zip-lock bag for weeks while the remediation continues. Local news coverage was extensive.

Good news is that for the last two years a freshman “living and learning communities” engineering course has incorporated the Smithsonian bicycle video and patent instruction into the information literacy component of the students’ curriculum. In addition, patents continue to be a component of chemistry and engineering library instruction.

Brian Carpenter came out from Texas A & M to give us an introduction to PubWEST. Thanks Brian!

--Jackie Shane

Amherst, Massachusetts

W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst

My name is Leonard Adams, Patents and Trademarks Librarian at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst. I am the only librarian who works with patents and trademarks. Terry Billiel, the other staff member in Government Documents, has been trained in patents and basic patent searching. I’m often not in the office so Terry is able to assist a walk-in patron to get started on a patent search. I have been a PTDL representative for a little over a year. 2005 is especially exciting for us because we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as a patent and trademark depository.

Before 2004 the patent depository was located in the Science Library. When the previous patent librarian retired, however, and the library was undergoing reorganization, it was decided that the patent and trademark depository should be transferred to Government Documents. Early in 2004 all of the patent and trademark CDs, reference tools, and the CASSIS machine were moved from the Science Library to the Government Documents Collection in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library. All of the Official Gazettes were transferred to remote storage.

Since assuming responsibility for patents and trademarks I have completely redesigned our patents webpage: (http://www.library.umass.edu/subject/patents/).

I instruct a number of engineering classes in patent searching. As part of our 20th anniversary as a patent depository I set up an exhibit on patents, gave a presentation on patents and trademarks. The University’s campus paper, The Collegian, did an article about our patent collection and 20th anniversary celebration. In December 2004 I was interviewed by a reporter from the Springfield Republican and the article appeared on December 29, 2004. I was also interviewed for an article on patents by a reporter from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette for an annual business supplement that is issued at the end of February.

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We have an expert patent researcher, James Ricci, who uses our collection heavily and is writing a book on lawnmowers. Jim knows more about patent searching than I do. He has actually discovered missing patents and other errors in our reference patent materials. Unfortunately, because I am also the Government Documents Librarian and a general Reference Librarian I don’t have a much time as I would like to spend on patents and trademarks. This is frustrating because I really enjoy working with patents, trademarks, and the people who search for them. I plan to do more presentations in the community in the coming year.

--Leonard Adams

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The Anchorage PTDL has continued to experience a decline in the use of our patent and trademark depository. The availability of patent and trademark information on the Internet coupled with problems with the workstation caused many potential users to seek information somewhere other than our depository. We experienced an incredible number of equipment and software problems in both 2003 and 2004. Brookey Givens, Maureen Daly, Michael White, Tom Turner, and Walt Johnson all spent a lot of time providing assistance with everything from patent and trademark searching to suggesting workarounds to equipment or software problems. I personally re-imaged the old workstation and changed disk and hard drives so many times that I honestly think that I could have performed the tasks in my sleep. Brookey Givens somehow managed to stay cool and calm and eventually sent me replacements for every CD-ROM drive in the tower, and the CD-ROM and DVD-ROM drives in the CPU at least twice. Brookey also shipped me the tower and CPU that he was using in his office. Things would work for a few days or weeks and then more problems would develop. Our workstation was inoperable for most of 2004. We were very happy to receive the new equipment.

Staff and public training is again possible now that we have the new workstation. I was very fortunate to be able to visit the PTO last June and receive some advance training on WEST at the same time Chris Kitchens, Walt Johnson, and Tom Turner received training. Chris Kitchens did her usual great job and made all the arrangements for my training and other activities. Tom and Walt also got me caught up on some of the new features of the CASSIS products. I was also very fortunate to be there during Wes Gewehr’s last day. The good folks at the OPTDLP invited me to attend the farewell luncheon in his honor. I have been unable to attend the past two training seminars so this event was even more special than it normally would have been. Mande Putnam and Dave Pachter hosted me for cocktails in their lovely home before we met Jim Arshem, Tom Turner, and Walt Johnson for dinner. Jim Arshem once again was my host and provided me with a place to stay and a visit to the Smithsonian during a Caribbean Culture Celebration. I have always said that the OPTDLP staff and the PTO was the best group with whom I have ever worked during my professional career. They are all “class acts” which all organizations would do well to emulate.

My library administration has not yet been able to give approval for my travel to the training seminar this year but I have some hope that I will be able to attend at least a part of the training. If I am unable to attend, I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all my friends and fellow PTDLA members and wish you a most successful conference in the new surroundings in Alexandria.

--Robert Williams

Anchorage, Alaska

Z.J.Loussac Public Library, Anchorage Municipal Libraries
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Art, Architecture and Engineering Library, University of Michigan

The Ann Arbor, Mich. 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.

Leena Lalwani has been the PTDL representative since January of 2000. Leena is also the Coordinator for Engineering Collections and Acting Head of Reference and Information. Other reference staff that help out PTDL users with patents and trademarks are David Carter, Rebecca Price, Bob Tolliver, Paul Grochowski, Annette Haines, Suzanne Chapman, Lana Krolikowski, and Josh Wilson.

We have been a PTDL since 1983. We have relocated two times during this period. In 1992, we relocated all the way across campus to what is known as the North Campus in the Dow Building and in 1996 diagonally across into a new building called the Media Union now the Duderstadt Center.

In the past year we have changed our name from Media Union Library to the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library. Last year we implemented WEST on our computers. We have had larger increase on historical questions and having WEST for searching 1920-1976 collection is very helpful.

—Leena Lalwani

Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Institute of Technology

I have been the Georgia Tech PTDL representative since 2000. Although the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center has been a Patent Depository Library since 1946, and one of the original twenty-two PTDLs, it is still the only one in Georgia. Since 1977, when Barbara Walker and Richard Leacy attended the first PTDL Conference, there have been only two other librarians representing Georgia Tech, Jean Kirkland and Mary-Frances Panettiere.

Our PTDL is part of our Information Services Department. Our patent workstation is located behind the reference desk right near the front door. We have two computer stations. One station has Internet access, and the other station has access to CASSIS.

Library assistant Cathe Cannon has been providing patent assistance to patrons for thirteen years. Brian Franklin provides invaluable computer help, especially keeping the old CASSIS computer and DVD tower functioning.

As a PTDL representative I get to do a variety of things so that I am never bored.

All the librarians who are scheduled to work our information services desk have received training in patent searching and provide assistance to any walk-in public patrons. For more in-depth searching assistance, they refer patrons to me. I then schedule patrons for an appointment where additional instruction is provided in how to do a preliminary search for prior art.

IAG, Inc. (Inventors’ Associates of Georgia) meets on the third Saturday of every month. I enjoy going to their meetings. They often have interesting speakers and provide a good network for aspiring inventors. They meet in a restaurant so staying for lunch is a good option.

Many Georgia Tech professors include a patent component to their classes. I provide patent instruction to engineering classes, management classes, and history classes. I provide follow-up patent research assistance to students working on assignments.

I also do outreach activities involving patent instruction to elementary and high school students. I enjoyed going to a 6th grade class at Sarah Smith School in Atlanta to provide instruction in patent and trademark research. I was then invited back to their “Invention Convention” to see their inventions and inventive trademarks. Of course, inventive refreshments were provided as well.

I was also invited to Wheeler High School and enjoyed providing patent information to several classes of gifted seniors.

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The thank you letters and drawings I receive from students, teachers, and principals make my job that much more rewarding.

Because our Campus is in the city of Atlanta, many independent aspiring inventors from Atlanta seek our assistance. Last year our librarians handled a total of 633 patent and trademark questions spending a total of 7,216 hours. As you can see, patents and trademarks are an important part of our reference business here at Georgia Tech.

--Joanne Tobin

Auburn, Alabama

Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

This has been a quiet year for Auburn University Patent and Trademark Depository Library. The new CASSIS workstation was a welcome addition to our hardware and I enjoy using and maintaining it much more than the old workstation and associated CD tower. On March 3, I will attend the Alabama Conference for Inventors hosted by Jacksonville State University. The conference is a biennial event and constitutes a major part of our outreach program. After last year’s training seminar, I revised how we teach patent searching by creating a worksheet that lays out the steps a searcher should take from keywords to the invention, to the index of the manual of classification to the manual itself to a result list of patent numbers. This worksheet includes the URL’s for the associated uspto.gov pages and is designed for inventors with little previous experience with patent searching. Most people seem to appreciate having the steps of the patent search laid out, and grasp the iterative nature of patent searching—how one result becomes the seed for the next search—better with this worksheet.

--Andrew Wohrley

Austin, Texas

McKinney Engineering Library, The University of Texas at Austin

McKinney Engineering Library has been a PTDL since 1982 and Susan Ardis has been the representative from the beginning. This library, as befits its name, provides services for the College of Engineering and any others needing engineering type information.

UTOPIA, which is slated to be the university’s gateway to information and resources at the university, now includes a patent and trademark game. This project was very difficult for us because the designers selected by the university were more interested in how something looked. Accurate information was secondary. Sadly patents and trademark documents are just not very attractive to graphic designers. They wanted to “pretty up” the trademarks by colorizing the mark and they wanted to inflate the value of some patents and trademarks held by Texans. However, this was a good opportunity to explain patents and trademarks to university web designers. You can see the compromise at: http://utopia.utexas.edu/project/patents/index.html

Staff is currently working on a new patent and trademark tutorial with the working title of “using patents and trademarks to find business informa-

(Continued on page 23)
The PTDL of the Birmingham Public Library is working on a number of projects.

The Alabama Inventors Database, begun in 2003, now covers the years 1821–1929. This online searchable database includes Alabama residents who received United States patents. A “work in progress,” it will undergo a facelift with new, improved software and eventually will extend coverage to all years up to 1976.

As part of the library’s digitization project, newspaper clippings about Alabama inventors are being placed on its web site. Individual articles are linked to the Alabama Inventors Database, where users can view the inventors’ patents.

In addition, PTDL staff maintain a web page that includes an annotated list of patents recently issued to Alabamians. This page, which links to the geographic listing of inventors on the USPTO web page, is updated weekly.

All web pages are available from the Birmingham Public Library’s web site, http://www.bplonline.org/.

A highlight of our year was a visit in November 2004 from the great-nephew of Mary Anderson, Birmingham native and inventor of the first windshield wiper (11/10/1903, #743,801). Mr. Armistead Nelson allowed us to photocopy some material from his personal collection of photographs and newspaper clippings, and we provided him with some photocopies of items from our collection.

--Michelle Andrews and Becky Scarborough

743,801 Window Cleaning Device
Mary Anderson (Birmingham, Alabama); Issued November 10, 1903
Buffalo, New York
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System

Hello from Buffalo N.Y.
My name is Dan Caufield and I have been the PTDL representative for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System for three years. Our Central Library has been providing patent information to inventors since the 1890s when we became a government depository and our library can proudly say it has been a PTDL since the program began. Due to this long history we still have paper patents and indexes going back to 1790 and many of the original publications issued from the Patent Office.

Our current Patent and Trademark Center is located in our Central Library in the Science Business & Technology Department. We have 10 librarians working in this department all of them cross-trained in the most current patent and trademark resources. Our present Patent and Trademark Center was established in 2001 and dedicated in memory of Erich Mayer, a PTDL Fellowship participant who passed away in 2000. His influence and dedication to the PTDL program still resonates with his colleagues here at the B&ECPL, he is dearly remembered.

Over the past two years I have created classes with many of the materials provided by the PTDL training seminars to bring all our librarians up to date on searching the USPTO website and our own CASSIS system. I conduct these refresher sessions once a year in spring for all the librarians in our system. Last June the Western New York Library Resource Council asked me to present this class to any interested information specialists in our county. Twenty-seven professionals from different types of libraries (public, research, corporate) attended this class and were truly impressed with the access the USPTO provides. I received many compliments on the class and my response to this was always the same “it’s easy to stand on the shoulders of giants.” All the input from the PTDL and the training seminars I’ve attended made it all possible. It never would have come together without the great trainers in Washington and the input from other PTDL reps. Thanks.

On a public service level the B&ECPL has offered two-hour classes in patent and trademark database use. I also work closely with our local Small Business Administration and Small Business Development Center and add to their workshops with insights on intellectual property and its importance in business. We also work with teachers to prepare curriculums covering inventing, creativity, and the history of invention. Presently, due to major remodeling at the Central Library we are using the USPTO website and a stand-alone CASSIS system to provide information for the public. Within the year when these renovations are completed we look forward to making WEST available to our public users.

--Dan Caufield

Burlington, Vermont
Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont

My name is Scott Schaffer and I have been the PTDL Representative for the last six years. Four other staff members who work with me in the Bailey/Howe Library Documents & Maps area at the University of Vermont capably assist me. Our library has been in the program for a little over eight years.

Over the last few years we have been noticing a few trends. With the vast amount of information on the Web coupled with Vermont’s rural landscape we are increasingly working with people over the phone. This seems to be working for us fairly well and folks do come in to the library when necessary.

We are starting to see some pretty sophisticated patrons. I was shocked when a patron came in and told me that she had already done a search by class and just wanted to view and print the patents. One of our Historic Preservation faculty members is very enthusiastic about the 19th century patents that he can access using USAPat.

I did a program for the local inventor’s group about two years ago and I continue stay in contact with them. A lot of the time they seem to be interested in patent statistics for their grant applications. That’s about it for now.

--Scott Schaffer
Butte, Montana
Montana Tech Library, University of Montana


Betsy also developed an outline of general patent information for the group of librarians that includes librarian ethics. This can be found at: http://www.mtech.edu/library/resources/Patent%20Searching%20for%20Librarians_files/frame.htm.

Ann St. Clair and Jean Bishop presented a workshop for the 4th Annual SBIR Conference, March 29–30, 2005 at Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana. Their topic was titled “Increase Your Chances of Securing SBIR Funding: Online and Patent Search Skills Essential to a Competitive Proposal.”

In September 2004, Jean Bishop taught an Internet resource class to NxLevel students, who are aspiring new businessmen in the Butte community. Patent and trademark searching was emphasized. The Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. sponsored this class for the Small Business Development Corporation. Jean also taught a research class for the Campus Environmental Design Team. New innovations and patent research is an important component in developing their ideas. Three student teams from Montana Tech won awards at the 14th annual Environmental Design Contest at New Mexico State University at Las Cruces. They competed among nearly 300 students.

Many inventors throughout the state come to the Montana Tech Library for individualized training on patent research. The reference department also answers many patent and trademark questions over the phone and through e-mail.

—Jean Bishop

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

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. Anne Osterman, Reference and Research Data Services Librarian provides backup.

The library hosted a free seminar for inventors and entrepreneurs on April 20, 2004. Approximately 60 participants from the University and the community attended. After opening remarks by the Chancellor, Dr. James H. Woodward, and University Librarian, Amy Dykeman, Mande Putnam, Michael White and Walt Johnson presented informative sessions. The day ended with a brief discussion of services offered by the library and a tour of the PTDL facility in the J. Murrey Atkins Library.

Since our initial program, we have assisted our professors, members of the community, and legal professionals in the use of the PTDL facility. We regularly use the USPTO web site and the CASSIS system to assist our patrons. We are currently preparing to implement the WEST system. 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 plans to work closely with this organization.

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

After the completion of the Wyoming Inventors Database (http://cowgirl.state.wy.us/inventors) we began promotion in a variety of ways. We created the publication “Patents in Wyoming” which compiled statistics and facts we extracted from the database. The publication was sent out to libraries, small business development centers, chambers of commerce, state economic development officials, and the governor.

Using the information we discovered during the creation of the Wyoming Inventors Database (WID), we also created an exhibit at the Wyoming State Museum. The “Celebrating Wyoming Enterprise” exhibit was designed to show the difference between the four main types of intellectual property using Wyoming examples of creativity and innovation.

At the opening reception, Wyoming’s Secretary of State spoke about our trademark, the Bucking Horse and Rider. Later during the museum’s lecture series we had the University of Wyoming’s manager of trademark licensing discuss in more detail the importance of the Bucking Horse and Rider to Wyoming and what it is like to administer the only federally registered trademark a state protects on behalf of its residents.

The highlight of the exhibit was the horse bit Buffalo Bill Cody patented in 1916 (D49,949). The Buffalo Bill Historical Center was happy to lend the item to us after the PTDL discovered Cody’s patent during the creation of the WID.

As a result of the success of the WID, the Cheyenne PTDL has decided its next project will be a much bigger database of all Wyoming’s state trademarks. Back to the first. Including images. And the images will be searchable.

—Dawn Rohan

To all whom it may concern:
Be it known that I, William F. Cody, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cody, in the county of Park and State of Wyoming, have invented a new, original and ornamental Design for Bits, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of the present specification.

Referring to said drawings: Figures 1 and 2 are opposite side views of a bit showing my new design.

I claim:
The ornamental design for a bit as shown.

WILLIAM F. CODY

D49,949, Design for a Bit
William F. Cody, Issued Nov.28, 1916.
As the Patent and Trademark Librarian for two years at the Public Library of Cincinnati, I was pleased to introduce two new Library Programs, “InventorFest 2004” & “From Dreams to Dollars.” As far as inventor highlights, an invention by one of our library patrons is now highly profiled on retail store shelves worldwide: U.S. Patent 6,263,732 for the OXO angled measuring cup. We continued our close relationship with the local Inventors Council of Cincinnati that greatly assisted with and promoted our many patent programs provided by the Library’s Public Documents & Patents Department.

A unique trade show, co-sponsored by the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County and Wright State University Libraries, gathered together would-be inventors for the first annual InventorFest 2004. Held at the Cincinnati Library, hundreds of independent inventors showed up to market their products, learn how to avoid scams, and network with other inventors. The collaboration between the two depository libraries is ideal, since both are located approximately 50 miles from each other. The two libraries shared mailing lists and designated staff to promote the event. News about InventorFest spread among email discussion lists, appeared in Inventors’ Digest and local newspapers, aired on local broadcasts including an interview on a television morning show, and was promoted via the regional Inventors’ Councils. The turnout of more than 250 tinkerers came from all over the Midwest region and as far away as Florida. There were nearly 40 exhibitor organizations, including many inventors, marketers, patent attorneys, local small business services, and the press. Guest speakers included a Federal Trade Commission investigator, a former toy company executive/current patent attorney, and an experienced independent inventor. The real benefits of the event were the opportunity for attendees to network with and learn from other inventors. The next InventorFest 2005 will be held in Dayton at Wright State University Libraries.

The idea for InventorFest originated from our patent patrons attending the Cincinnati Library’s other patent programs, including the new inventor/marketing forum titled “From Dreams to Dollars.” This program provides independent inventors guidance on how to use the library’s many resources on business contacts, licensing forms, and marketing. A patent department colleague utilizes a PowerPoint presentation and an extensive bibliography to familiarize the patrons with the related library resources. During the second half of this program, an experienced inventor (such as the inventor of the angled measuring cup) offers firsthand advice on marketing and selling an invention, and how to profit from it. The Dreams program also reminds inventors how to avoid business scams. Inventors from as far as Lexington, Indianapolis, and Columbus attended during the 2004 run of this program. All of this nearly doubled our patent program attendance and greatly increased our patent reference activity at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County.

--John Schlipp
Clemson, South Carolina
R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

Clemson became a PTDL in 1992, and we’ve seen a number of changes throughout the years. Several highlights include receiving a grant to study our users’ needs in 1994, receiving the new equipment in 1999, and hosting Wes Gewehr in 2000.

I recently met with a local inventor’s group, which has renewed my commitment to increasing services to them. I will be working with the Business Librarian and several groups on campus to put together a list of resource people who can help with their information needs above and beyond basic patent searching.

We’re plugging along the same as always. Like many of you, I was challenged to get the new equipment up and running, but it seems to be working smoothly now. I’ve played around a bit with WEST, and it has made some of my searches much simpler. Thanks to the PTDLP for providing this wonderful resource!

April has become the month that we celebrate research at Clemson with a number of events, such as poster sessions, luncheons, and workshops. I will be presenting a workshop for faculty and students on how to do a basic patent search, and the role of patents in the research process. Later on in the month, we’re planning a workshop with the PTDL designed to assist our public patrons with their patent needs. It is timed to celebrate Intellectual Property Day, which this year will be celebrated on April 26th.

I will not be able to attend the training seminar this year, but two of my colleagues will be attending in my place. Many of you have met our Physical Sciences Librarian Ken Murr in previous years, and with him will be Chris Colthorpe, who is the Librarian for Nursing, Public Health, Food Science and Packaging Science. Make sure to introduce yourselves to them. I will really miss seeing everyone, and I am really sorry that I will not get to see the new campus.

--Jan Comfort

Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland Public Library

The PTDL at Cleveland Public Library is part of the Government Documents Department. Our staff includes: Robin Gray, head of the department, Jim Bettinger, librarian, a library assistant, Mona Brown, and two clerical staff, Valerie Benson and David Furyes. We also have two part-time pages assigned to the department.

Cleveland Public Library has been a PTDL since the program’s inception and have only been absent at a training seminar a few times. The librarians and library assistant have all attended at least one training seminar.

Monthly classes on searching patents through the Internet are being taught in our computer learning center. Patrons receive hands-on instruction in the proper procedure of doing a patent search and are able to ask questions in a classroom setting that they may be reluctant to ask otherwise.

On September 7, 2004, the Government Documents Department began providing KnowItNow24x7 (KIN) service as part of the statewide live web-based reference service. Monitoring the Federal Government Information queue staff answered more than five hundred government related inquiries by years end, a great deal of which were patent and trademark related. Using LSSI technology, we are able to push a PDF page to a client immediately, or take them through the ESCORT service which allows a patron to follow along as we demonstrate a sample search.

Patent research was provided to the staff of “History Detectives,” a PBS program devoted to solving historical mysteries, searching out the true facts (and falsehoods) behind local folklore, family legends and interesting objects. The second episode of 2004 investigated the history of the Monopoly® board game. Staff provided patent detail to an old board game that bears a remarkable similarity to the Monopoly® game, but was made 20 years before Parker Brothers patented their creation. The producer of the show called to personally thank the Government Documents staff for its assistance. During the call the producer asked for help locating a patent for another episode of “History Detectives.” Staff was able to provide a faxed copy of the 1926 animal toy patent before the call was ended.

The patent collection was featured as one of the library’s Special Collections during the Friends’ “Treasures” event in November. The public was treated

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to beautiful color photographs of plant patents, the patent for the “slinky” toy, and a replica of the first traffic signal invented by Garrett A. Morgan, designed from the specifications outlined in his 1923 patent. Other patents of interest were showcased in the “Treasures” exhibit in the main building.

--Robin Gray

College Park, Maryland

Engineering & Physical Sciences Library, University of Maryland

College Park PTDL is in the Engineering & Physical Sciences Library: http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/engin.html. We became a “PDL” in 1984, before trademarks got equal rights. EPSL Manager Neal Kaske is an enthusiastic supporter of patent and trademark service, and his engineering background and teaching skills are a major asset to staff as well as patrons. Jim Miller has been the Representative since Judy Erickson’s retirement in 1998, and is the “go to” person for baffling questions. Bob Kackley is very active with patent and trademark instruction, and has organized more than a dozen presentations in the past 2 years. These have included staff workshops at public libraries in the greater Washington DC area, peer training to University of Maryland staff, and classes for graduate students and beginning engineering students.

Getting WEST running took 4 months, because our IT folks were swamped with work on a new integrated library system, but it is doing just fine now. One long-term goal with WEST will be to compare its OCR with that in Lexis Academic. It appears to be a bit “dirtier”, but being able to click on that image and get results in 2 or 3 seconds is far better than having to cut and paste the number into the PTO web site - and then wait 30 or 40 seconds for the patent to download. The fast image also makes going down a long list of patents a sensible choice. The new CASSIS machine is a most welcome improvement. Its very fast search and display can help us fine-tune searches without having to wait on the slower web machines.

Happy customers include: a faculty member who was able to take old ASSIST discs to make a large database of attorneys, to study trends in patent law firms over a period of 10 years; and a steam locomotive historian who I have been able to help with old and rare journal articles and books - one of them at the Smithsonian’s Dibner Archives that required using a digital camera because it was too big to photocopy. Every once in a while, we help customers at the National Archives who don’t have WEST, or even easy access to the web databases.

--Jim Miller
Greetings from Tip2 the College Station PTDL

We have been very busy since our last annual report. Since last year the Texas Intellectual Property Partnership [Tip2] has made eight site visits to libraries either affiliated with the Texas A&M System or PTDL program as well as several independent inventors’ groups.

In late February of last year, Tip2 visited the Austin PTDL to tell them about our services and resources, and later in the year we worked with a University of Texas student who needed reports on patents for computer and IT related companies. Also in February Kathy Taylor, Ron Hambric and Brian Carpenter did a presentation for the Houston Inventors Association.

At the beginning of March, Tip2 traveled to Amarillo and gave a seminar on intellectual property basics, as well as a presentation on how to research patents using the U.S. classification system. The Amarillo Inventor’s Organization advertised this program heavily and, despite the foul weather that evening, was able to bring 89 people to the event, with some independent inventors coming from western Oklahoma and New Mexico! Also in March Tip2 was visited by the Japanese Export and Trade Organization and played host to 18 very eager business people who wanted to learn all about the Examiner’s Search Tool [EAST] and The Trademark Examiner’s database [X-Search].

In April Kathy Taylor, Ron Hambric and Brian Carpenter, along with Samantha Hager from Rice University (Houston PTDL), did an encore presentation for the Houston Inventors Association on our resources and services that we have available for independent inventors. We had approximately 40 people show up for that presentation.

Kathy Taylor and Brian Carpenter visited Texas A&M Commerce in May, and gave a presentation for the staff and faculty of the campus and library. Approximately 20 people showed up for the presentation on Tip2 resources and services.

Tip2 visited transportation engineering and architecture classes on the A&M College Station campus in June, talking to them about how to research patents and trademarks.

In July, Tod Walters and Brian Carpenter visited the Texas A&M Prairie View campus and gave a presentation for the staff and faculty of the library and campus. Approximately 15 people attended. Brian Carpenter also visited the Galveston campus and gave a presentation to the 10 people from the staff and faculty of the library and campus that attended.

Tip2 did a presentation for the A&M College Station Faculty Senate in September about Tip2 services and resources. Also in September, Tip2 participated in a campus program to increase copyright awareness. We were able to have University of Texas Legal Counsel and Copyright Specialist Georgia Harper come and speak to approximately 100 interested faculty and staff about copyright concerns for academics.

In October, Tip2 was invited to Albuquerque, NM, to provide WEST training and an overview of Tip2 resources and services. We gave our presentation to approximately 15 University of New Mexico Centennial Library staff. Also in October we said goodbye to Kathy Taylor who retired from the University Libraries after more than 25 years of service to the College Station campus. Kathy is still active in the community doing research for businesses and is continuing to work with school classes and science fairs letting them know about intellectual property.

We got a referral in December from the Austin PTDL that lead to a multi-week research report for a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. Tip2 was able to produce several Excel spreadsheets that provided the student with the information he needed for his graduate project.

In December and January, Ron and Brian began work on specialized user guides for patent and trademark research and intellectual property basics. In January we also had a research question from one of our History professors that lead to in-depth research on the origin of several patent classifications and research into the classification schedules of the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s. This History professor is working on a book relating to the inventor Harriet W. R. Strong. Tip2 also presented at the 2005 Agriculture Conference held in

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The PTDL at the Ohio State University moved from the Main Library to the Science and Engineering Library in the spring of 1999. As one of six PTDL’s in Ohio (the others are located at Wright State University and the public libraries of Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo), we see only a portion of Ohioans interested in patents and trademarks. The industrial nature of Columbus is different from that of the other Ohio PTDL locales; Columbus has mainly banking, insurance, state government, information industries, and higher education.

In the last two years SEL has noticed an increase in users from the campus population, and a decrease in visitors from off-campus. Off-campus users prefer to use the USPTO web site at a location more convenient to their homes thus we “phone-walk” more users through the web site than in the past, and coach them to read the small print, use the “7-Steps”, and explore commercially published “how to” books. Nevertheless, we advise and encourage users to visit SEL for initial instruction, as well as to use CASSIS and the ancillary print collection kept by the CASSIS station.

In addition to prior art and historical searching, our university population increasingly uses patents in class and research work, having been alerted to patents of interest by commercial databases such as METADEX and SciFinder Scholar.

---Mary Jo Arnold

Thank you, USPTO and the PDTLP, for the new CASSIS equipment; it has improved our service and is especially appreciated by users who’ve traveled some time/distance to use CASSIS. The speed and reliability is especially important since our library PC’s require user log-in by university ID & password) thus, non-university visitors require staff assistance to access the web on-site. We’ve installed WEST and will learn by trial and error how to best use it in this location. The login procedure is challenging given the dispersal of staff and machines throughout our building.

---Brian Carpenter

Columbus, Ohio
Science and Engineering Library, The Ohio State University

Tip2 made a visit to the Kingsville and Corpus Christi A&M campuses in February. Both A&M libraries have asked that Tip2 make an encore presentation to the faculty and staff in April. Tip2 also served as one of the judges in the Texas A&M’s Center for Entrepreneurship’s MBA Tech Transfer Challenge which pitted 5 teams of MBA students against each other using patent pending technology to present a viable market analysis for the invention and present a strategy for creating a business around the technology.

In the meantime, Tod Walters, Ron Hambric and Brian Carpenter continue to work:
- Presentations for the A&M System’s Technology Commercialization Center; presentations for chemical engineering, architecture and English classes on the College Station campus; and a presentation at this year’s Texas Library Association on Tip2 resources and the USPTO web patent and trademark databases
- Judging the Brazos Valley Science and Engineering Fair
- The Center for Entrepreneurship’s Tech Challenge 2005
- Visits to the other A&M campuses around the state.

---Brian Carpenter
Dallas, Texas
Dallas Public Library

News from the Dallas Public Library PTDL:

We have continued our relationship with local resources to provide legal access and product development advice for local independent inventors.

On a bi-monthly basis Dallas Patent Attorney Bob Wise offered free “One-On-One: Question & Answer Sessions” to over 50 local independent inventors regarding the patent process. Mr. Wise is a former U.S. Patent Office examiner with over 25 years of experience in the intellectual property field, is a member of many legal organizations and is also an active member of the Texas Inventors’ Association, donating additional time to help independent inventors begin and understand the patent process.

The Dallas PTDL maintains “Honorary Member” status in the Texas Inventors’ Association, which meets locally on a monthly basis. The organization’s leaders did their initial patent research at our library, viewing many patents on microfilm before the days of access to the USPTO’s Internet database. They graciously assist us by using their email lists to publicize our intellectual property-related events.

Working with the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Technology Assistance Center’s Technology Coordinator, Larry Hamilton, our Unit Manager Johanna Johnson (former Patent Librarian) organized a free Intellectual Property workshop, attended by 24 individual inventors on Aug. 14. Mr. Hamilton presented guidelines for deciding the best way to protect intellectual property rights via patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyright. An overview of Technology Assistance Center services (including market research and assistance with locating manufacturers or licensees) was included.

On October 2, we hosted a free inventor workshop, “Patents and the Marketing Process: Staying Protected While Launching Your New Product.” Taught by Patent Agent Robert Frantz, the class received high marks from its 32 attendees. The program included a segment with an inventor sharing actual marketing experiences (what worked and what didn’t). Attendee evaluations stated things like, “Information like this…usually commands a fee. Thank you for the privilege of attending.” and “Excellent presentation…thank you for offering this and other fine programs to the public.” Mr. Frantz has partnered with Dallas Public Library to provide free programs on the patent process to local inventors since 1998.

This is my first year as Patent Librarian in the Government Information Center, returning to this division after 6 years in our Business & Technology Division. Former Patent Librarian Rob Martindale accepted a position in June as a Research Assistant with the law firm of Bikel and Brewer in their downtown Dallas location. He says he has been charged with becoming an “expert” in searching foreign patents.

--Cynthia Mayo

Dayton, Ohio

Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University

I am Ran Raider, Patent and Trademark Reference Specialist at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University. I have been working with the PTDL collection for 5 years now. Besides me, our Engineering and Chemistry Librarians also use the collection in their outreach programs. We became a PTDL in July of 2000. The PTDL collection is located in the main library in our reference area.

The past two years have been very busy. We have helped over 700 patrons use the PTDL collection, including those who have attended the patent and trademark workshops. In October 2004 Dayton was a co-sponsor of the first Tristate InventorFest held at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. We are now planning InventorFest 2005 to be held at Wright State. In March 2003, the PTDLP office put on a seminar attended by 85 participants. On campus, we are participating in Chemistry and Bio-engineering courses using the PTDL collection.

I have attended several Dayton Inventors Council meetings, demonstrating databases and explaining PTDL resources. For National Inventors month, I created a display of famous local inventors, featuring John Janning the inventor of an approved LCD alignment technology. He kindly donated the first practical

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LCD display device and the first plasma display he created while working at NCR. In conjunction with the display, I gave a talk on famous Miami Valley inventors for the Inventors Council. It was a rather strange experience, because a few of the people I was talking about were in the audience or knew and worked with the famous inventor! I learned much by listening to their stories.

I hold 6 patent workshops a year with regular attendance of 15-20 would be inventors. I have had people as far away as Cleveland, Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky attending the workshops. My workshops are announced on the University’s and Libraries’ web site and also the Inventors Council Yahoo! Group. Announcements about the workshops also appear in the local paper. Recently, I worked with Harry Bombardi who invented a method to supply conditioned air to passenger airplanes. He was awarded a contract with London’s Heathrow Airport for 16 of his devices. He was having trouble getting his patents issued by the USPTO but had patents issued in Great Britain. I reminded him that he could talk directly with the patent examiner about his application. He called me a few months later and told me that talking to the examiner had done the trick. His patent numbers: 6,776,705; 6,821,201; and, 6,834,668. I have also been working closely with our local Small Business Development Center. After I have spoken with someone about their patent research, I refer them to the SBDC for additional information.

We had initial trouble networking our new PTDL workstation and getting access to PubWEST. The problem was with our proxy and firewall servers. We eventually overcame these issues and PubWEST is up-n-running! I am looking forward to the training at this year’s seminar.

--Ran Raider
Des Moines, Iowa

State Library of Iowa

Look of the PTDL in Des Moines

At the State Library of Iowa there are two cubicles with computer workstations reserved for patent and trademark searching, each with shelves for free brochures. Outside the partitions, are displays of Iowa inventions and posters of upcoming conferences/events. Beyond the stations are two full-length study tables and shelves of patent and trademark reference books which can be checked out, as well as the DVDs for CASSIS. Staff members man a large reference desk nearby and offer one-on-one training to search patents and trademarks. The Ola Babcock Miller Building, where the State Library is located, was restored to its Elizabethan style woodwork, light fixtures, columns, stenciling, and stained glass windows during a renovation project that was completed in 2003.

Update to the Iowa Inventors’ Database, 1854-1974

The Iowa Inventors’ database is now searchable by county as well as by town. Before 1900, inventors often provided only a township or county for their address. Also, many of the towns that existed then have since been abandoned. This updated version of the database pulls up all these areas of domain within a county making query results more accurate and complete.

State Library of Iowa Sends a Fellow to PTO

For 2005, Karon King (who has worked in the PTDL program since 1993), is the lucky new Fellowship Librarian. She started January 3rd in the new Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia and reports that she is enjoying the staff, training, and sight seeing.

Meanwhile, the State Library is doing its best to get by without Karon’s knowledge and her excellent service to our patent and trademark patrons.

--Barbara Corson

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Broward County Main Library

Hi Readers!

My name is Eileen Fischlschweiger. I’ve been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL Representative for eight years, and have worked at the PTDL in the capacity of Patent and Trademark Librarian for ten. I have worked for the Broward County Library System for over 16 years, and received my 15th Anniversary Certificate in 2003. I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in 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.

Moving on up! Again!

Chris Marhenke, former Business, Law, and Government Services Section Supervisor, was promoted to Collection Development Manager at the Remote Operations Center after his temporary appointment as Acting Assistant Main Library Director of the Broward County Main Library. He enjoys this technical services position, as his focus in library school was cataloging. He no longer works at the Main Library, but when he’s here for meetings, he does stop by now and again to say “hi” and to treat us to his wonderful home made cookies.

2003-2005 Highlights

- At the request of our local inventors society, the Inventors Society of South Florida (ISSF), our PTDL hosted a National Inventors Day Show exhibit on August 9, 2003, in addition to our annual book display during National Inventors Month in August. Twenty-five exhibiting inventors and over 1000 patrons showed up for the event. Photographs taken by one of the ISSF members of the exhibitors and their inventions are posted on their web site at www.inventorssociety.net/expo.htm.

(Continued on page 35)
• Debby Bradford (formerly Auchter), who had been the Assistant Department Head supervising the Intellectual Property Unit, was promoted to the position of Main Library Assistant Director after serving as Assistant Supervisor of the Reference and Information Services Section, and later as Supervisor of the same section.

• After serving as Assistant Supervisor of the Business, Law, and Government Services Section, Helene Palmer became Section Supervisor of the same section.

• We, as many other PTDLs throughout the country, lost several positions. Chris Marhenke’s and Debby Auchter’s positions were not replaced. Two more reference positions were lost when Wayne Draper was transferred to the Reference and Information Services Section and David Jess was transferred to the Circulating Books floor into which Telephone Reference was later merged.

• Because of this substantial loss of staff, the Business Law, and Government Services Section has undergone a consolidation of its organizational chart. The Intellectual Property Unit was merged with the State Documents portion of the former State, Local, and International Documents Unit. Local and International Documents were merged with the Federal Documents Unit, which is headed by the former Local and International Documents librarian.

• Mary DeRolf, our part-time clerk, was promoted to a full-time clerical position in the Reference and Information Services Section. Her part-time position was assigned to the Intellectual Property and State Documents Unit.

• Eileen Fischlschweiger created a display titled “The Orville and Wilbur Wright Patent and Documents Exhibit” in celebration of the 100th anniversary of aviation. The display featured items currently it stands on top of one of our glass display cases devoted to patent models where it catches the attention of many of our customers.

• Eileen Fischlschweiger presented a workshop titled “Depository Libraries and Intellectual Property” for SEFLIN’s (Southeast Florida Library Information Network) continuing education program on January 15, 2004. Librarians from Broward County Library, Nova

• 908.929 Mechanism for Flexing the Rudder of a Flying Machine or the Like
Orville & Wilbur Wright (Dayton, Ohio), Issued Jan. 5, 1909

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• A successful and exciting Invent Broward 2003-2004. Again, hundreds of invention models from Broward County area elementary schools were exhibited on the sixth floor of the Main Library. As always, Diana Leitner, the programming coordinator at the Main Library, has done a great job

(Continued from page 34)
in putting together this program, which includes a showcase of the inventions and a reception for participating students, their parents and their teachers. For the event, Eileen Fischlschweiger created a PowerPoint presentation titled “Historical Patent Models: An Educational Slide Presentation” which ran as a 25 minute continuous loop, enabling attendees to start and stop watching at any point, any time during the event.

- Eileen Fischlschweiger provided a public workshop primarily attended by members of the Inventors Society of South Florida (ISSF). The workshop, which took place on August 7, 2004, was titled “Searching a New Invention at a Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL): The New Seven-Step Strategy.” We also had our annual book display during National Inventors’ Month in August, using free materials from Inventors Digest to enhance the display.

- On August 28, 2004 Eileen and Tom Fischlschweiger represented the PTDL at an Inventors Society of South Florida Inventor Show, which this year was held at the North Miami Beach Public Library.

- Rosemary Dowdle, a library clerk who has worked in Government Documents and BLG for a very long time took a well deserved retirement. Her position was filled by Irene Hinrichson, who joined our section originally as a part time clerk in the Intellectual Property and State Documents Unit, and was shortly afterward promoted to a full-time clerical position in the Federal, Local, and International Documents Unit. Her part-time position in the Intellectual Property and State Documents Unit was reclassified to a part time Student Library Page, which remained vacant for some time, but will be filled shortly.

- Joe Richie, formerly our reference librarian, and Dorothy Zunic, formerly our clerk typist, who worked with us in the Federal, Local, and International Documents Unit are both leaving us. Joe has joined the Cataloging staff at the Remote Operations Center, while Dorothy is just moving one floor down to join the Circulating Collection/Telephone Reference section as a Graduate Intern. Judy Li, our State Documents librarian, and part of the Intellectual Property and State Documents Unit will be leaving our system to join Nova University Library. She is also interested in pursuing an MBA.

- Eileen Fischlschweiger wrote an article originally slated for publication in the September/October 2004 issue of Inventors’ Digest, part of a series of articles on and by PTDLs that they had been publishing since the article on the PTDL that appeared in the January/February 2004 issue. Due to a change in frequency from six times per year to four times per year the article’s publication date was postponed, and has not yet appeared. The main point of the article is the importance of PTDLs even with the availability of patent information on the Internet.

- Eileen Fischlschweiger participated in a new Main Library program called “Datapalooza: Research Rocks!” which was a building wide project initiated by Debby Bradford and developed by a committee, including two of our staff: Ric Johnson and Carolyn Dixson. For the intellectual property portion Eileen put together a list of fun patents and trademarks to show people. Many of the patents came from the list provided to PTDLs by Michael White. This program was held on October 2, 2004 and again on January 22, 2005.

- A successful and exciting Invent Broward 2004-2005. As always, hundreds of invention models from Broward County area elementary schools were exhibited on the sixth floor of the Main Library. This year one of our new youth services librarians, Rita Lipof, coordinated the event. Eileen Fischlschweiger’s PowerPoint presentation titled “Historical Patent Models: An Educational Slide Presentation” was again presented.

--Eileen Fischlschweiger
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hawaii State Library

Greetings and aloha from the liquid sunshine state,

We have been getting a lot of rain lately. After many years of dry winters, we seem to finally have a chance to recharge our aquifers and Diamond Head has never looked greener. Between the active volcano on the Big Island and the lush foliage surrounding us, Mother Nature is providing a spectacular display. Our recent surge of activity was partially the result of a flash flood that nearly destroyed the entire collection of our regional depository library at the University of Hawaii on October 30, 2004. When I came to work on November 3rd, I suddenly found out that our collection was the de facto regional depository library. Unfortunately, I had just started an extensive weeding project to prepare for an in-house retrospective conversion of our holdings and was about a third of the way through the print sources when the flood came. We were extremely lucky in finding many generous donors in an attempt to help the regional rebuild their collection.

The turmoil continues because we decided in July 2003 to become a Passport Acceptance Agency. The funds generated from this activity, along with some generous book purchasing funds authorized by our state legislature, allowed us to purchase the microfiche collection of Prior to 1974 American Statistics Index. This undertaking has served to publicize the library in amazing ways. This source of funding will become very important in the near future if GPO decides to only print the essential titles list and give the selectives, like us, only $500 to purchase other materials. If this scenario occurs, I hope the PTDLP continues to provide us with their various publications, especially since the Official Gazettes would no longer be available from GPO and only the current 52 weeks will be maintained on the PTO webpage.

In the last two years, our section had a little over three months of being fully staffed with permanent employees. I currently have only one permanent librarian to help me. You may have seen her if you attended the last training seminar, her name is Cynthia Yen. I am currently looking for another permanent staff member. This long struggle should be coming to an end soon. I will be relieved and elated to not have to keep busy juggling the staffing of the section as well as trying to promote the relevance of the material.

Michael White hasn’t been gone very long and I miss him already. I’m sure the PTDLP will find it difficult to replace him. After all, what are the odds of finding someone else with his allergies to nuts?

-Stewart Chun

Houston, Texas

Fondren Library, Rice University

The PTDL at Rice University is a part of the Government Publications and Microforms Department. We became a Patent Depository Library in 1977. Since the last newsletter was published we added Samantha Hager, Government Information Librarian and Siu Min Yu, Government Publications Library Associate II, to our full-time staff. We also hired a temporary Government Information Librarian, Linda Spiro, who provides 15-20 hours of reference service each week. Esther Crawford and Samantha Hager offered approximately 57 preliminary patent searching classes to approximately 160 participants. We provided orientation classes to about 180 intellectual property students from area paralegal schools. This year we have been busy planning for a renovation project scheduled to commence this summer. Next fall we hope to move into our wonderful new space which will include a computer classroom for our patent searching classes and a new patent and trademark searching alcove that will be accessible whenever the library is open. We will continue to provide 80 hours of reference service each week during the school year but are happy to be providing increased access to our patent and trademark resources.

-Esther Crawford
Lincoln, Nebraska

Engineering Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Engineering Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln houses the PTDL for the state of Nebraska. It was established in January 1978 and has its own dedicated search room. The Engineering Librarian, Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin, is in her fifth year of service as a PTDL librarian. The UNL Engineering Library Web site has two prominent links for our PTDL, one that describes the library’s research resources and services, and a second that links directly to a printable version of our brochure (http://www.unl.edu/libr/libs/engr/ptdl2.pdf).

In December of 2003 we added a new user-friendly and handsome corner table and hutch that locates our CASSIS 2 computer within a 90-degree turn of a chair to our PC for Web access to the USPTO site. This addition came in time for our public seminar and silver anniversary celebration complete with library tours. Michael White, Amanda Putnam and Walt Johnson were the prominent expert speakers who afforded great insight and fielded questions from an audience of inventors, business people, attorneys, university faculty and students, and PTDL patrons who came from Nebraska and Iowa to participate.

One of our staff members, Julee Hector, has beautifully arrayed our library’s display case with a collection of patent images, books, opened book pages, pictures, and copy that tells a story of African-American inventors and their inventions. We plan to include displays that promote invention and patent aspects on a continuing basis. On a mission to make our library and patent search room more inviting to our patrons, we have added several carefully chosen artificial plants and are working with our library administration to find the resources to add beauty and enhance the appeal of our library setting.

Virginia has been promoting patent resource topics through library instruction sessions for engineering students. Sessions for the academic year 2004-2005 are enhanced with the addition of online instruction and computer graded assessment of learning that includes several questions that lead the student through patent classification and searching principles. Over 100 engineering students have completed the online assignment to date. Contact Virginia to learn how to add this kind of assessment to your library instruction.

--Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin

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we have seen him yet.)

Each semester Ola Flucas participates in an orientation session for the Arkansas Small Business Development Center’s Nx Level Class. The Nx Level Program is a comprehensive, fourteen-week course designed to teach new business owners fundamental business concepts. Ola provides information on patents and trademarks with the emphasis on trademarks and the importance of doing trademark research.

Last January Michael Strickland joined the library staff as our third Reference Librarian. We also have a new Associate Director, Carolyn Ashcraft. Carolyn attended the September workshop, along with our State Librarian, Jack Mulkey. We even have pictures of Jack taking notes and listening attentively. We are pleased that our administration has always been so supportive of the PTDL.

During the last six weeks, we have had visits from two of our original patrons. Yesterday our first patent patron came back to visit and to look for the patent on an old tire gauge. In addition to being our first patron, other than a patent attorney, Mark arranged for his Rotary club to provide a continental breakfast for the first Accessing Patent Information workshop. While Mark and I visited, Elizabeth searched for the tire gauge. Previously one of our early inventors brought his daughter in to research her idea. We were happy to see old friends again.

--Mary Leckie

Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles Public Library

2004 brought with it a new City Librarian, Fontayne Holmes, and a new Director of Central Library, Anne Connor. Both were promoted from within the city library system with many years of experience and expertise.

The Science, Technology and Patents Department continues to serve the intellectual property community on a daily basis at our Patents Desk and on a broader scale with presentations in our Mark Taper Auditorium. Last year, Alan Arthur Tratner of Inventors Workshop International Foundation (IWIEF), and Billie Connor-Dominguez, Department Manager, organized and presented a series of programs directed toward independent inventors. Some of the presentations had a strong business orientation and were attended by a variety of people including entrepreneurs, independent inventors, small business owners, students and the general public.

We now have seventy branch libraries, many of which have been renovated in the past several years. More than 40,000 books are transferred within the system each day, the majority being initiated by patron computer placed holds.

Billie Connor-Dominguez continues to recover from the aftereffects of an automobile accident and will return to work shortly.

--Helen Haskell
Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Free Public Library

At the moment, I’m the Patent and Trademark Librarian, the Business Reference Librarian, the Government Documents Librarian, and the acting Workforce Development Librarian. The good news is that the Library has just hired a new Workforce Development Librarian, so I hope to be able to breathe in the near future.

The last two years we have had wonderful referrals from the Greater Louisville Small Business Development Center and the Louisville Chapter of SCORE. The hook for these two groups was the promise to help with marketing research for all individuals who had intellectual property products and/or services. We are also enjoying good attendance for our once-a-month, two-hour lab class on patent and trademark research. We also offer a monthly lab class on business research, which covers a number of marketing issues of concern to inventors, entrepreneurs, and individuals seeking trademark protection.

In 2004 I was fortunate to do a bit of advertising for our PTDLP at the Kentucky Library Association’s Fall Conference. I was part of a mini-session program on federal depository collections in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our unique subject area specialties. As a member of Kentucky’s Government Information Access Workgroup, I was able to do two online pathfinders on government resources for both business and intellectual property research needs. Along with Claudia Fitch, another LFPL staff member, we were able to present our pathfinders at a workshop to a group of educators and librarians at the Council on Postsecondary Education in Frankfort, KY. Eventually these pathfinders will be offered on the Kentucky Virtual Library Website for all residents of the Commonwealth.

On a sad note, Louisville Free Public Library and the University of Louisville Engineering Department had to cancel a joint USPTO workshop to be held in Louisville. My mother passed away December 29th and the Engineering Librarian was in the midst of recovering from a triple bypass. We hope to be able to reschedule in the future and are looking forward to outreach opportunities with the academic community.

--Rae Shepherd-Shlechter

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 Resources and Patents/Reports Librarian Nancy Spitzer, who serves as our PTDL representative. Our third patent librarian, Anne Vandenburgh, retired in August 2003. We also collaborate on patent questions with Lenny Black, director of our outreach program for business and industry, Wisconsin TechSearch. This year Nancy will be attending the patent seminar in Alexandria.

During the fall and spring semesters, Nancy and Sarah are kept busy teaching the patents component for several advanced undergraduate courses in engineering professional development, technical communication and in electrical engineering. 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. Sarah has also given workshops for undergraduate and graduate courses in advanced topics in electrical engineering. Nancy taught a patents module for a librarian taught course called Technical Information Resources for Engineers. She also contributed an online patents module for this same course redesigned for distance learners.

Nancy participated once again in a patenting seminar for engineering students who enter an annual innovation competition for a $10,000 first prize. She plans to co-teach a graduate seminar on patenting and intellectual property in April.

We and our patrons are enjoying the new improved PTDL workstation equipment (no more failing CD drives). As part of a departmental reorganization, we’ve moved the entire computer and DVD cabinet configuration to a more convenient location near our patents reference area.

Patent exhibits over the past years included one on the history of kites and another commemorating the

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Wright Brothers’ first flight in December 2003. Interesting patent questions ran the gamut from searching for an elusive Einstein patent for a “Maschinchen” he supposedly patented with Paul Habicht around 1909 (not yet found), to a patent number on an old horse blanket pin (found).

--Nancy Spitzer

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Miami, Florida

Miami-Dade Public Library

The Miami-Dade Public Library PTDL, housed in the Business & Science Department of Main Library, has been a PTDL since July 25, 1984. Robert Klein has been our representative since 1990. The other librarians in our Department include Sue Cvejanovich (our department manager, who will be attending the 2005 Seminar), Ausra Echeverri, Deirdre Lewis-Gustafson, Murray Wilcox, Charles Roig and our Librarian Intern, Will Fowler.

We continue to provide an “Introduction to Patent Research” class once a month, alternating between the computer labs at the North and South Dade Regional Libraries and the training room at Main Library. We emphasize the use of the USPTO website and the steps in performing a patent search. Monthly attendance at the class averages 5 – 15. Robert Klein and John Shipley (a Florida Department librarian, formerly of the Business & Science Department) teach this class.

This year, the Miami-Dade PTDL completed our collection of hardcopy Official Gazettes, receiving almost all of the 1872-1954 gazettes from our sister PTDL in Anchorage, Alaska.

Two Miami-Dade County High Schools have been awarded $10,000 Lemelson-MIT-InvenTeam grants since our last seminar. Students in the biomedical magnet academy at North Miami Beach Senior High School won their award in April for their “Bath-o-lift” device, which is designed to assist the elderly and disabled in entering and leaving the tub or shower. The team at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School was awarded their grant in November for an invention which allows “human kinetic energy cells” to run a micro-generator which may be placed inside the battery container to enable AA-sized batteries to produce power without additional recharging. The North Miami Beach students joined other InvenTeam grant winners in June 2004 to showcase their inventions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Dr. Michael Krop students are scheduled to travel to MIT in June 2005.

--Robert Klein

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realize patents could be so interesting. (I’ve discovered that using Chris Kitchens’ examples with real chocolate is always a crowd pleaser!) I also participated in a couple of our “Getting Down to Business” classes where the GOBEST librarians talk about what resources we offer to small businesses.

A story in the local paper (the Star Tribune) about local inventors gave me the opportunity to get a letter published, encouraging inventors to visit the library for patent assistance. The Rake, another local publication, did a story on the hardships libraries are facing. They had a sidebar highlighting some of the MPL staff. Since I was on the ref desk when the photographer came by I got my weird photograph in there and was able to make another plug for our PTDL.

For the record, MPL was designated a PTDL in 1980. While I was in Arlington my colleagues Cathy Camper, Jeff Radford, and Carrie Brunsberg took over the PTDL tasks and kept things running. They seemed relieved to turn those duties back to me upon my return!

--Walt Johnson

Morgantown, West Virginia
Evansdale Library, West Virginia University

Hello, my name is Marian Armour-Gemmen. I have been a PTDL Representative since October 2003. I previously worked for five years in Government Documents. Our collection is housed in the Evansdale Library which serves Engineering, Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, Education, Creative Arts, and Physical Education. WVU Libraries is also a FDLPL but that collection is housed primarily in a different library.

Our library has been a PTDL since 1991.


We have had WEST for a while at our library, but it was not until after attending last year’s seminar, that I was able to get WEST to run properly on a staff computer. I’ve used it for specialized searches.

I have been working with West Virginia University’s Technology Transfer Office and through them have had increased contacts with inventors throughout the university. I held training in Patent searching workshops for employees of the Technology Transfer Office. In August 2004 I presented at the West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference. In November I held a Patent training session for librarians and staff in the Evansdale library. I’ve developed several handouts for different audiences.

When an inventor comes in I usually sit down with them and go over a PowerPoint presentation I’ve developed and go through the “7-Steps” as well as other information. We toggle between the presentation and the Internet.

--Marian Armour-Gemmen

Moscow, Idaho
University of Idaho Library, University of Idaho

It’s been a busy and energizing year for patents at the UI PTDL. The highlight was a series of workshops in October put on by Michael White (we’ll miss you!) and Tom Turner of the PTDL Office. I met Tom and Mike in Boise, 300 hundred miles south of Moscow. Our first workshop was coordinated with the SBDC. We had a nice crowd of 26 for a full day of lectures and hands-on patent and trademark searching. Day #2 was another full day of intellectual property with a different audience—librarians. The IP workshop was one of the pre-conferences for the Idaho Library Association annual conference. Day #3 was a road trip (gorgeous weather!) almost 400 miles north with a brief site visit to the Moscow PTDL. The last workshop, again in coordination with the SBDC, was held in a wonderful facility used for workforce training in Post Falls.

The workshops were a lot of work but have paid off by establishing contacts around the state, both with librarians, SBDC folks, and inventors.

Another exciting event was the completion of a new Patent & Trademark page (http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/reference/p_and_t/) and the launch of the Historical Idaho Patents Database (http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/patents/)

--Karen Hertel
Newark, Delaware
University of Delaware Library

The past year has been a relatively quiet one here in Newark, Delaware. We have experienced a lot of use with the USAPat disc set, which remains the most popular of all the products we provide. Patrons really like the ability to print out high quality copies of the patents at no cost and as long as the TIFF files on the web site continue to allow only one page at a time printing we will continue to have a high demand for this product. It will be interesting to see how many people discover the freepatentsonline site (http://www.freepatentsonline.com) as a way around this problem. I continue to teach searching techniques on a regular basis although the requests for this service have dropped off dramatically in the past few years.

The new CASSIS station arrived and was set up in no time at all. I really enjoy the improved searching speed that this machine offers and appreciate not having to deal with the DVD tower any longer. I’ll admit that I was among those that weren’t convinced that we needed a new terminal but I’m very happy with the new machine, as are my patrons.

The big news is that we will be doing a large scale renovation project in our Reference Room over the next 8 months that will include a redesigned area for the Patent and Trademark materials. I have been working with the committee in charge of the project on selecting furniture, bookcases, and workstations for this area and I’m confident that the new area will be a great addition to our service. I hope to be able to network the new CASSIS station but I’m sure at this time that I can talk our head of computer services into letting this happen due to concerns he has about network security, etc. The new Reference Room will incorporate an up-to-date teaching room and a number of consultation rooms that I will be able to use with my patrons for teaching and privacy. Our current room hasn’t been updated since 1985 so we’re very excited about these renovations and look forward to using the new equipment.

--Tom Melvin

Newark, New Jersey
Newark Public Library

Hello, my name is Jim Capuano and I am the representative for the Newark Public Library. Our PTDL collection is held at the Business, Science and Technology Division in our Main Library in downtown Newark. My colleagues in the Division are Curt Idrogo, Nancy McConville, Maureen Ritter, Deirdre Schmidel and Wilbert Stevens.

The library’s home on Washington Street was completed in 1901 – a four story Italian Renaissance-style building with a marble-clad entrance hall. This building is presently undergoing a major renovation project, involving the lobby and media room on the first floor and the restoration of the original windows. Another part of the renovation is to change service areas throughout the building, and in connection with this change, the PTDL collection and reference desk will be re-located to the second floor.

After we face all of the construction within our building, we step outside to the sound of jackhammers and see the excavation of the local streets. This is part of a multi-million dollar project to extend Newark’s subway/light rail line to our neighborhood. The rail line is designed to link Newark Penn Station with Broad Street Station, which is located approximately two blocks from our door.

Another major project that will soon transform the face of downtown Newark was recently finalized. The City of Newark signed an agreement with the New Jersey Devils hockey team to build a $310 million, 18,000-seat multipurpose arena and entertainment facility. The facility will open for the 2007-2008 NHL season. (Hopefully, the strike will be over by then.)

The success of local inventors is always good to hear, and one Newark man who started research-
We continue to lead the simple life here at Rutgers, and not much has changed since we became a patent depository in 1989. We were thankful to receive the new patent workstation equipment, as the old PC kept seizing up. Pam Johnson, our unit-computing specialist, is working with our Library Systems Dept. on making this new PC Internet ready, but progress is slow. We intend to restrict Internet access on this PC to the USPTO web site, and PubWEST. Still not quite sure this can be done. Of course, patrons can browse the Internet without restriction on any of the twenty-six public search computers in LSM. These are all connected to a networked printer that requires a copi-card for print retrieval. Printing at the patent workstation printer, however, is free.

Connie Wu is as energetic as ever, and
continues to teach the engineering students in particular about the wealth of information available through the patent literature. She recently informed me that one of our engineering undergraduate students obtained a patent. In fact, all of our science reference librarians include patent searching in their bibliographic instruction, not just for Rutgers classes, but also for programs held for high school students each summer.

Those who attended the patent training seminar in 2003 may remember the research roundtable that Connie presented, on “International Patent Classification System, A Powerful Tool to Conduct Research”. Attending guest, Mr. Michael Blackman, Editor-in-Chief of *World Patent Information*, asked Connie to submit her paper to his journal. And, as she says, “I consider this paper is a fruit of our patent training seminar!”

Here is the citation in case you missed her presentation and would like to read the article. “Use of the IPC and various retrieval systems to research patent activities of US organizations in the People’s Republic of China” *World Patent Information*, 26 (2004) 225-233 (With Yanhui Liu)

And, I am happy to report, that this article was number 13 in the ScienceDirect TOP25 list this quarter. The ScienceDirect TOP25 Hottest Articles lists the ScienceDirect users’ 25 most frequently downloaded journal articles, from any selected journal among more than 1,600 titles in Elsevier’s ScienceDirect database, or from any of 24 subject areas.

Ever the willing ambassador, Connie was invited once again to China, to give a lecture at the International Online Searching Workshop. The topic of her lecture was “Patent Databases on the Internet and Searching Techniques.” The workshop was organized by the State Intellectual Property Office of China and Changchun City Government, and held in Changchun, China, in August 2004.

—Ellen Calhoun

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**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**

Most of our news is about the library in general and how changes we’ve made will improve our ability to deliver PTDL services. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has been a PTDL library for 103 years. As with most public libraries the PTDL services have traditionally been housed in our Science and Technology Department. There would generally have been a Patent & Trademark Librarian who was responsible for the collection, and for training the other Sci.-Tech staff in using the relevant tools.

During the past 6 years the Carnegie Library has implemented considerable change as a result of its strategic planning process and the observations and findings that came out of that process. One of the most significant decisions we made, and it’s been done around the country many times, is to merge our “subject” departments into one Reference Services Department. Our goal is to ensure we keep, cultivate and hire librarians with subject expertise as needed without having to concern ourselves with how many people are needed just to secure the space or floor. Given the limited resources available to us, it’s imperative that our services be customer driven and not a result of the building’s configuration.

As of the beginning of 2005 the Science & Technology Department moved from the 3rd floor of our building (an 1895 Andrew Carnegie original) to the 2nd floor and joined with the staffs of the former Humanities and Social Sciences Departments who’d already merged in late 2003. The experience has of course been a challenge to everyone involved, but has been largely successful and fairly smooth. As problems get solved, more questions are generated about what kinds of collections we should have, where are the weaknesses, and are there areas where the collections are no longer in demand? These are evolutionary questions that many of you have faced or are also confronting now.

Where does the PTDL fit into all this? One of the things we decided to do with our one Reference Services Department was to merge the role(s) of the PTDL Librarian and the traditional Government Documents Librarian. We have hired Gwendolyn Hawk as a Senior Librarian to assume the responsibilities for both PTDL and FDLP commitments. She brings extensive experience from both the science and general reference desks at this and other libraries. We see the joining of the roles as a natural...
Writing a report for the newsletter is a great opportunity to introduce myself to the PTDLP community. My name is Renée Bosman, and I am the Government Information Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University. I have been our PTDL representative since September 2004, when I started in this position. This is my first experience working with patents, and while the learning curve has been steep, it has been equally interesting. I am amazed by the number of patent queries we get, especially those of a historical nature, and I have had several opportunities to get my hands dirty with the old annual reports.

Our library has been a PTDL since 1985. Depository services are housed in the Research & Reference Department. All Research & Reference staff provide basic patent and trademark assistance at our service desk, but we have one other person who works closely with the PTDL Collection. John Jovanovic, our Government Information Specialist, takes care of operational issues and shares his wealth of knowledge with both me and our patrons.

While I do not have much news to report, I will share a preview of some of the projects I hope to complete in the coming year. First, I will be working on updating our website. Second, John and I will be preparing a short training session for other Research & Reference staff. My hope is that one will complement the other, with training materials and how-to resources to be available on the website not only for patrons, but for staff as well. Feel free to email me at rbosman@vcu.edu with any training program suggestion or great website resources!

--Renee Bosman
Rochester, New York
Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County

The Chester F. Carlson Patent and Trademark Center has had a good year! We continue to draw new library users from our area’s rich community of innovators. A newspaper advertising campaign in the spring brought phone calls every day that the ad ran. The Center’s new web site can be found at www.libraryweb.org/Carlson.

Our grant from the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust was renewed, with an additional amount earmarked to start an endowment for the Center. We are very grateful for their generous support.

Deb Leary continues to attend the monthly meetings of the Inventor’s Society of Western New York as a resource person. They will begin holding their meetings at the library this month, establishing a partnership with the Carlson Center that should be beneficial to both parties.

Deb has revised our handouts on the patent and trademark search strategies, and developed a new brochure promoting the Center’s services. We also have a new “Roadmap for Inventors” designed for a program that we held in October. The event was cosponsored by the Carlson Center, the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Brockport and Basch and Nickerson LLP, local intellectual property attorneys. Most of the inventors that we see have no concept of what to do after having the “big idea”, so we showed them the path that an inventor might take from that point all the way to the bank.

We continue to offer regular classes on the basics of intellectual property, and patent searching on the USPTO web site. These are great fun, with bright participants who are passionate about their inventions, and are full of wonderful questions!

Our Central Library will be hosting Camp Invention next summer, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. It is a day camp for 2nd through 6th graders that allows participants “…to let their imaginations run wild through teamwork, creative problem solving and inventive thinking.” Sounds like fun!

Kate Meddaugh, one of our part-time librarians and I will be in Alexandria for the seminar. We are looking forward to exploring the new headquarters, meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

--Deb Leary

Salt Lake City, Utah
Marriott Library, University of Utah

Hi, everyone! My name’s Dave Morrison, and I am the PTDL Representative at the University of Utah’s Marriott Library in Salt Lake City, Utah (we’re the secular, state-run school!). I have been the PTDL representative and one of the Marriott Library’s documents librarians since 1987. This has been my first professional position out of library school at Arizona except for eighteen months from 1996 to 1998, when I was the Thirteenth Patent Fellowship Librarian at the PTDL Program Office in Crystal City – a truly wonderful experience! I have been a member since my first conference in 1987, and have served the PTDLA as Finance Committee member and Chair; PTDLA Chair in 1999/2000; and currently as Archives Committee Chair.

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 through the efforts of then-Division Head Juli Hinz. Having just completed my MLS from Arizona in 1986, I was hired as PTDL Representative and one of four documents librarians in January 1987. In addition to our PTDL depository, the Marriott Library has been a GPO depository since 1893; a U.S. Department of Energy depository; United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization, and UNESCO depository; and State of Utah depository. We are currently staffed by four librarians including our current Documents/Microforms Head, Kate Holvoet, three support staff and student workers.

Our most significant public event

(Continued on page 48)
Our library has just received notice that our four-year effort to obtain state funding to earthquake-proof and renovate the central 1967 portion of our library has been passed by our state legislature. Preparation for this project will require extensive evaluation and weeding in all our Documents collections, along with retrospective cataloging, barcoding and labeling, and will be our primary focus for the next few years. Bring on the jackhammers!

Thanks to the PTDLA for all the opportunities you’ve given me for professional growth and development, and the many good friends I look forward to seeing and working with at our next seminar. May we have many more years together!

--Dave Morrison

San Francisco, California

San Francisco Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library features the Brooks Walker Patent and Trademark Center, named in honor of a prolific inventor who held scores of patents. Housed on the fifth floor of the Main Library near the Government Information Center (GIC) reference desk, the Center opened in 1996. The Center contains three computers including the PTDL Cassis computer. Reference books on topics such as inventions, trademarks, intellectual property, and product marketing are shelved in the Center as are the latest issues of periodicals for inventors. The Center retains documents on historical patents, trademarks, and copyrights, including the U.S. Commissioner of Patents Annual Report, the Official Gazette, the Index of Patents, the Index of Trademarks, and the U.S. Library of Congress Copyright Entries. We have a subscription to the State Trademarksscan CD-ROM from Dialog that allows patrons to search all fifty state trademarks simultaneously. U.S. Copyright Office forms are available at the GIC reference desk. The


The San Francisco Bay Area Documents Network (BADNET) holds quarterly meetings in the Center.

Unfortunately, we are currently bereft of a Patent and Trademark Librarian but hope to hire one soon. Patrick Shea, the Federal Documents Librarian, has been installing on the Cassis computer the DVD-ROMs that we receive from the USPTO.

I became a Program Manager in GIC on July 1, 2004, and supervise the Federal Depository Library Program, the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, and the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center at SFPL. Former Patent and Trademark Librarian Peter Warhit, who transferred to Information Services on the first floor, has been very helpful in advising us of PTDL practices.

--Elizabeth Thacker-Estrada
Seattle, Washington

Engineering Library, University of Washington

Patent and trademark services have continued at a steady pace over the last 2-3 years. In many ways, I am thankful for the regular and familiar!

Staffing levels have remained constant, and we continue to provide PTDL training to a new crop of Information School student reference assistants every few quarters. I also teach several “Introduction to Patent Searching” drop-in classes each quarter. I have also conducted several more specific sessions, tours and workshops. One of the most interesting groups involved graduate students from Osaka University in Japan. The students were attending a “summer camp” in August and September 2004 at the College of Engineering, and I spoke to them about United States patents. I also continue to regularly lecture on patents and trademarks for the UW Information School’s Government Publications class. For the current quarter, the Gov Pubs course is being offered as a distance education class, so I recorded my PowerPoint presentation and lecture for access by the students. It was my first stab at virtual lecturing, and I found it to be a positive and interesting experience. Recently, I also presented at a Saturday workshop on online information sponsored by the Reference Interest Group of the Washington Library Association.

Some older news: we were happy to host one of the “Trademark Office Goes eGovernment” in September 2002. The seminar was attended by local attorneys and other trademark professionals, who heard from Craig Morris and former Commissioner for Trademarks, Anne Chasser. These road-show presentations are welcomed by the local intellectual property community. In November 2002, I hosted a delegation from the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO).

During 2003 and 2004, PTDL services focused primarily on user education sessions and one-to-one interactions at our reference desk or via phone or e-mail or online chat. We also completed a substantial revision of the UW Libraries’ web presence and of the Engineering Library website. We will continue with a serious overhaul of the patents and trademarks section of our website during 2005. On a professional note, I have nearly completed a three-year leadership stint with the Pacific Northwest Chapter of SLA as President-elect, President and Past-President.

On the horizon for 2005: I am looking forward to increased usage of our PTDL collection via the new Cassis™ workstation. The library will also be impacted by the search for a new Dean of the UW College of Engineering. The UW has a new President, Mark Emmert, and is currently in search of a Provost.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to everyone in the PTDLA who worked with me on the Newsletter for all those years. Good luck to Samantha as PTDLA Newsletter Editor. I know the return of the Newsletter will be a resounding success!

-- Christina Byrne

Springfield, Illinois

Illinois State Library

For almost three years Cheryl Rowland and I have staffed the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. The PTDL is a division of the ISL Reference Department. The PTDL is housed on the first floor of our beautiful building, which was named for the late Illinois poet laureate Gwendolyn Brooks in 2003. Cheryl is the veteran — she is in her 11th year at PTDL, and I am one month shy of my 3rd year. Cheryl’s research capabilities have been acknowledged in Orlin C. Johnson’s Small Boat Propulsion Devices 1866-1950 and by other researchers.

To make citizens more aware of the important functions of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library, we have:

* Sent news releases about the PTDL and our activities to media outlets throughout the state.
* Submitted an article and had it published in the July/August 2004 edition of Inventors Digest.
* Worked with the USPTO and the St. Louis Public Library to offer two highly successful USPTO Training Seminars entitled, “Researching Patent and Trademark Information,” in Springfield on May 18-19, 2004. More than 120 participants attended the two sessions. We sent news releases statewide to publicize the seminars.
* Continued work on 4 web bibliogra-

(Continued on page 50)
(Continued from page 49)

phies, with thanks to the Dallas Public Library and John Schlipp at the Cincinnati Public Library.
* Offered monthly displays of patented, trademarked and/or copyrighted items. We send out news releases to publicize the displays, and the ensuing stories in various media outlets have brought many new visitors to the PTDL.
* Continued work on an article about early Illinois patents.
* Started a weekly “Illinois Inventor of the Week” feature in the State Library’s weekly electronic newsletter that goes to approximately 4,000 subscribers in the library community and elsewhere. The feature spotlights Illinoisans, living and dead, who have received patents.

We have also focused our attention on acquisitions, cataloging and weeding of the collection to maintain a current and historically relevant collection of intellectual property materials. Finally, the implementation and use of new equipment and software from the USPTO continues to be a major priority.

--Margaret Collins

St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis Public Library

St. Louis Public Library’s (SLPL) Mission is to “provide learning resources and information services that support and improve individual, family, and community life.” One of the goals to support that mission is, “Assist businesses with their development and growth.” Assisting inventors and entrepreneurs to use our patent and trademark resources supports that goal. Walk-in patrons and telephone callers are St. Louis Public Library’s most frequent patent and trademark patrons. They are most often concerned with patent or trademark searching as they start new businesses. There are also email users and letter writers searching for historical information on a family member’s patents or on patents held by old businesses.

Another of SLPL’s goals is to “Promote the use of the Library.” Outreach is one of the best ways to do that. In the last several years, my outreach has included: 1) colleagues at SLPL; 2) elementary and middle school students; 3) local inventors and entrepreneurs at the Inventors Association of St.Louis (IASL); 4) inventors and librarians at a program sponsored by the Illinois State Library (ISL); 5) the Midwest Inventors Conference; 6) the Missouri Library Association’s Conference; 7) the American Association for Paralegal Education Conference; and 8) the Federal Depository Library Program’s St.Louis Conference. The information provided may be similar in each presentation but is geared to the needs of the particular audience. The caveat at each presentation has always been “information not opinions,” for either patents or trademarks.

Children and young students are enjoyable. Children respond well to age appropriate books about invention. I am planning to bring a list of invention-related books to the Seminar. Young people sometimes find it easier to understand the patent classification system than adult inventors do. It is rewarding, however, when any inventor grasps the system well enough to find relevant class and subclass numbers and then begins the hard work of looking at each patent.

I became a PTDL Representative for SLPL in 1991. There was no wailing or gnashing of teeth, but I must admit to some trepidation about helping patrons to use patent and trademark information when I knew very little about either topic myself. I could not have done it without the PTDL Program Office toll free telephone number and later, the training seminars. Many thanks, as always to the PTDLP professionals for all of their very patient assistance. Thanks very much to my PTDLA colleagues for their help and friendship. Thanks also to Chris Byrne (Seattle PTDL) who did such excellent work on previous PTDLA Newsletters and to Samantha Hager (Houston PTDL) for her willingness to take on the added responsibility of the Newsletter.

--Carol Giles-Straight
Stillwater, Oklahoma
Oklahoma State University Library

The Oklahoma State University Library has been a Patent and Trademark Depository Library since 1956. We are housed in the University’s Edmon Low Library and share department space with the Government Documents collection; OSU is also a regional depository for federal government documents. John B. Phillips heads both of these departments; Suzanne L. Holcombe also works with both collections. Both librarians contribute to the services of the OSU PTDL, and we are training another librarian, Tanya Finchum, to work with the patent and trademark collection. The staff member who worked with the collection retired at the end of 2004, and we are in the process of advertising for this position. We work with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (Oklahoma City) and the Tulsa City County Library so that they are able to offer some basic patent and trademark assistance to patrons in their areas. The Inventor’s Assistance Service, a state-funded agency at OSU to promote entrepreneurship in Oklahoma hosts training workshops several times a year. We coordinate with them to provide preliminary patent searching seminars twice a year. We also present searching techniques to the Center of Business Development at the Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater as well as trademark information and preliminary trademark searching techniques to the monthly workshop at the OSU Food and Agricultural Products Research and Technology Center. We work with faculty and students on campus, mostly in the area of engineering and marketing.

This past year, articles were published about our facility in both the Inventor’s Digest and the Daily Oklahoman, the Oklahoma City newspaper. Ms. Holcombe maintains the Web site for the PTDL (http://www.library.okstate.edu/patents) which includes .pdf versions of the 20+ handouts that we maintain for patrons. We consistently use the excellent databases on the U.S. PTO Web site to assist our patrons with searches. We use WEST occasionally, mostly to refine searches or print patents greater than 20 pages in length. Our statistics continue to show that we have steady to increasing contact with patrons in need of our services.

-Suzanne Holcombe

Toledo, Ohio
Toledo Lucas County Public Library

My name is Julianne Claydon and I am the new Business Technology Specialist for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo, Ohio. I have only been in this position since September 20, 2004.

The Business Technology Department houses government documents. All business technology reference librarians work with the collection. The Toledo Lucas County Public Library also employs a government document specialist librarian who is also a member of the Business Technology Department.

As I am new to both the library and the department, I don’t have any information to offer as to what has happened over the past two years, training stories, amusing anecdotes or the like. However, I wanted to at least give you the basic information.

-Julianne Claydon
The Siegesmund Engineering Library is the site of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program at Purdue University which began in 1991. Our reference staff is the front line for the program and consists of librarians and reference assistants. The staff includes: Charlotte Erdmann, Patent and Trademark Representative; Megan Sapp, Reference Coordinator; Amy Van Epps, Instruction Coordinator; Michael Fosmire, Head, Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology Division; Gerald Dillon, Frances Christman, Dianna Deputy, Mary Sego, and Ralph Mickey, Reference Assistants. The circulation staff also help by retrieving DVDs for issued patents and published patent applications.

Charlotte has been the Patent and Trademark Representative since 1991. Instruction is a big part of the program at Purdue University. PowerPoint presentations are ready and waiting for patent basics, classification systems (U.S., International, and European), and search systems (U.S. and esp@cenet). Patent classification instruction is now available in the design classes in mechanical engineering and entrepreneur classes in management. New instruction opportunities have included entrepreneur competitions and the Engineering Projects in Community Services (EPICS). Charlotte continues to provide instruction for the staff of the university’s Office of Technology Commercialization and the libraries’ Staff Development Program.

The program also provides one-on-one training and email and phone reference for inventors, community members, students, faculty, and a few attorneys. Graduate students doing large analysis projects are the most challenging. WEST will be a big asset for these students. We are just beginning to use WEST.

Charlotte has written two published journal articles:


Clients from the legal community include a patent attorney who regularly uses CASSIS and is looking forward to using WEST. It was helpful to have written an article on trademark searching to review the search process with a trademark attorney. Recently graduated law students have also visited the library to see what resources are available.

Patents outlined in the calendar provided by the Program Office were the basis for a display. Space changes have included weeding the reference area and getting new shelving so that the reference area is more open and inviting. A project to re-carpet the library has begun and will continue this summer. It is a big improvement.

**--Charlotte Erdmann**
Brian Carpenter, College Station, Texas

With all that’s going on, it’s sometimes tough to keep up with all the news coming out relating to Intellectual Property, but here are some noteworthy items you might want to keep in mind:

“Patently Ridiculous”

My co-worker, Hal Hall, gave me this article from the Austin American Statesman which asks the question, ‘are we patenting things that really deserve a patent?’

It’s a thought provoking question, one for which there is not an easy answer. “Patently Ridiculous” James E. McWilliams, Austin American Statesman, March 6, 2005, Books, p. K5+K7

Cybertechnology:
Copyright & Trademark Issues

From the world of the Internet and Intellectual Property, Genie Tyburski’s TVC Alert: The Virtual Chase is a treasure trove of information on copyright and trademark issues that the folks of high tech industries and cybertech face on a regular basis. Ms. Tyburski will be speaking to these issues at the Websearch University program being held in New York City on May 17-18, 2005. For more information on the Virtual Chase and the TVC Alert go to:
http://virtualchase.com/

For information on the Websearch University go to:
http://www.websearchu.com/

Intellectual Property Quiz:
Time to sharpen your skills!

1. What year did the term of patent protection increase from 14 to 17 years?

2. Jan E. Matzeliger patented the Lasting Device in 1883. What was the patent number and where was Matzeliger originally from?

3. What was the title of the invention granted to Thomas L. Jennings [first patent granted to an African American inventor]?

4. What unpublished play did Thornton Wilder register with the Copyright Office in 1938?

5. Woody Guthrie had a popular song that he registered with the Copyright Office in 1956. What is the name of that song?

6. W.M. Parker was granted patent #88,583 in 1869 for what fire fighting device?

7. The late Arthur Miller registered “The Crucible” in what year? How many acts did this play have?

8. This popular tune is the official anthem of the U.S. Navy. Who registered “Anchor’s Aweigh” originally as a march and two-step in 1907?

9. #581,213 was granted to Simon Lake for what invention in 1897? Where is he from?

10. Mattel registered what famous female doll in 1958? When did they register Ken?

11. Steven T. Kaneko and Aditha M. Adams were granted a patent in 1995 for what device? What company were the rights for that invention assigned to?

12. The last in the series of these space adventure movies is coming to theatres soon. The first one was granted copyright protection in what year?

Answers on page 54
Stay Informed!

Our other boss, Amanda Putnam, regularly posts news articles called “Daily News Clips.” If you are not already getting these, ask to be included in the list. They provide articles on patents and trademarks that can be used in talks with inventors, business professionals, and students. For those interested in getting these daily news reports, contact:
PTDL Program Manager, Amanda Putnam
Amanda.Putnam@uspto.gov

Answers:
1. 1861.
2. #274,207; Dutch Guyana.
3. Dry Scouring of Clothes.
4. “Our Town”.
5. “This Land is Your Land”.
6. “Fire Extinguisher”.
7. 1953; It had four acts.
9. New and Useful Improvements in Submarine Vessels; Baltimore, MD.
10. Barbie; Ken was registered in 1960.
11. Ergonomic Pointing Device; Microsoft.
12. Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope, 1977. Episode III - Revenge of the Sith will be in theaters in May. It took 28 years to tell the entire Star Wars story.

Book Review


She has included an appendix to the back of her book that lists patents granted to all African American inventors from 1790 to the present day. Even better, she doesn’t just list the invention name, she gives the patent number – which makes it a easier to find the patent for the invention if you are creating a presentation or developing a talk or even writing your own book or article on the topic.

This book is must for every PTDL.
S. LAKE.
SUBMARINE VESSEL.

No. 581,213.
Patented Apr. 20, 1897.

Witnesses.
Simon Lake.

Inventor.

Fig. 1.
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 Karen Hertel, PTDLA Treasurer. Karen’s telephone number is (208) 885-5858 and her e-mail address is karenh@uidaho.edu

Membership Form – Detach (or Photocopy) and Mail

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

INSTITUTION: __________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

E-MAIL: ________________________________________________________________

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:

Karen Hertel, PTDLA Treasurer
University of Idaho Library
P.O. Box 442350
Moscow, ID 83844-2350