DEDICATION

Wesley Gewehr, Jane Myers & Martha Crockett Sneed

Three friends of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program have moved on to new things. The Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association would like to express our thanks for their constant support and tireless efforts on our behalf over the years. Quite the triumvirate! 😊

It is always difficult to write these because you are never sure if you are doing justice to the persons being honored. Still, I am honored to have the chance to tell how much I appreciate these folks.

Wesley (Wes) H. Gewehr has a commanding presence when he walks into a room - that may have to do with the fact he served in the U.S. Air Force and is 6'3". However, he is immediately able to put people at ease with his sense of humor and pleasant demeanor. The first time I had a chance to talk and meet with Wes was at my exit interview after completing my Fellowship at the USPTO (he had recently been named Administrator). He immediately made me feel comfortable and was interested in what I had to say.

Wes worked his way through the ranks, joining the Patent Office in 1977 as a senior analyst, database administrator and project manager for several automated system development projects. While Administrator for the Office of Information Dissemination, he always put the Depository Library Program first. One of his goals was to make sure that every major metropolitan area had a PTDL. For us here in Texas, that meant that one of our larger cities, San Antonio, would finally get the PTDL it so desperately needed. It also meant that in the future, the western part of our state would finally get a chance at having a PTDL. Wes also initiated the IDO visits to our PTDLs. These were not inspection trips, but a friendly visit with the staff of each PTDL in all fifty states and Puerto Rico to find out how we were doing and how the USPTO could best serve us. Though Wes has moved on to bigger and better things - among his assignments is to keep the patent and trademark web databases running smoothly - I will miss his annual Patent Office reports and his Patti the Librarian jokes.

I first got to know Jane Myers during my term as a Fellow. She impressed me with her good-natured sense of fun and her dedication to the PTDL program. It was always informative for me to listen to Jane talk at the Annual Training Seminars about the newest updates to our existing set of Cassis® CD-ROM products. Anytime one of us would have a question about one of the CD databases, Jane would get us an answer to our query. She began working at the Patent and Trademark Office in 1968 as Patent Examiner in the organic chemistry

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The PTDLA NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA), representing the libraries designated as public search collections throughout the United States by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO). It is designed to share news and activities of the Association and its members beyond the scope of official PTO and Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) publications. It is distributed free to members of the Association, PTO/PTDLP, and other interested parties. Published annually. ©PTDLA 2001.

Editor: Christina Byrne, Seattle, WA, PTDL. Cartoons by Scott McCullar and © by Scott McCullar; published with permission of the artist.

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area after receiving a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Maryland. She then moved to the Office of Technology Assessment and Forecast Section becoming the Program Director responsible for the reports showing patent trends. In 1985, she became the Director of the Office of Documentation Information, which produced trend reports and created what would become known as the Casis compact disc databases. Her organization became part of the Office of Information Systems in July of 1990. Additional duties of this new organization included distribution of the various electronic products and responsibility for PTO automation activities. In 1994, the name of her organization became the Office of Electronic Information Products and Services, and she continued as Director until she was named Director of the Center for Patent and Trademark Information in 1998. Though she was only Director of Center for Patent and Trademark Information for a short amount of time, she did her level best to answer all of our questions and made an effort to join Wes in his visits to the PTDLs. Jane retired from the USPTO in December 1999.

Martha Crockett Sneed was my immediate supervisor when I reported to Washington in the summer of 1992. She received her A.B. degree from the University of Michigan and her M.S.L.S. from Wayne State University. She impressed me then and continues to impress me to this day as a person that not only works hard, but also one who plays hard as well. Martha began as one of us: a Patent and Trademark Library representative, teaching people how to search patents and trademarks. After working eleven years at the Detroit Public Library, Martha joined the Patent and Trademark Office as a Technical Information Specialist in the PTDL Program Office in 1984. In 1992, she became Manager of the Program that saw the number of PTDLs grow from 78 to 87. So, it was no surprise to me when Martha was named as Director of the Center for Patent and Trademark Information this past year. Like Carole Shores and Jane Myers, her main concern has always been for the PTDLs and their patrons. I was glad to have Martha as my supervisor and mentor when I worked at the PTO. It is because of Martha's efforts first as Manager of the PTDL Program and now as Director of the Center for Patent and Trademark Information that our Depository Library program continues to grow and flourish.

- Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX

PTDLA Officers 2000-2001

President: Jane Running, Springfield, IL
Vice President/President-Elect: Julia Crawford, Stillwater, OK
Secretary: Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX
Treasurer: Jean Porter, Raleigh, NC
Past-President: David Morrison, Salt Lake City, UT

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Region 1: Ann Poulos, Providence, RI
Region 2: Tom Melvin, Newark, DE
Region 3: Jim Miller, College Park, MD
Region 4: Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC
Region 5: Eileen Pernicone, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Region 6: Donna Hopkins, Baton Rouge, LA
Region 7: Elizabeth Zuelke, Cincinnati, OH
Region 8: Charlotte Erdmann, West Lafayette, IN
Region 9: Nan Myers, Wichita, KS
Region 10: Deborah Hanson, Grand Forks, ND
Region 11: Jackie Shane, Albuquerque, NM
Region 12: Peter Warhit, San Francisco, CA

PTDLA President's Report

A long time ago, as I was starting a career in librarianship, I did a great deal of children's work. A very popular writer then was Joan Anglund. Her most popular title, as far as I was concerned, was Spring Is a New Beginning. An autographed copy accompanied a quick sketch of a drawing done just for me is still a prized possession.

Now, even more, spring has become "a new beginning." The Training Seminar, which the PTDLP has developed to a finely tuned, well-orchestrated experience that is always new, is a perfect example of the new beginning which we can always be assured of as we plan to attend each year. The President's report is supposed to be, I guess, a retrospective, and as I looked at most of my predecessors' reports, there is one theme that recurs each year:

CHANGE

Perhaps more than any other, 2000-2001 has and continues to be an evolving implementation of change. The PTO hit upon the PTDLs as a vehicle or focal point to help introduce the AIPA in a number of major locations. These went so well that they have decided to continue in a second tier of cities to further increase the idea of networking with direct governmental access to a greater number of citizens. Surely this is a really big "change" in thought for many DCLand types.

CHANGE

Reorganization of the services/staff available to us directly from the office. Well, I really haven't seen any, though I know that Bernice has moved on to greater heights; and it's usually LaTonya who has such a pleasant greeting for me. I am anxious to have a chance to "see" how/what the changes were because all of the best things about our care and feeding seem to be as terrific as they always have been. Chris, Mike ("which one do you want?" What a trip! All of them, of course!). Cynthia, May and always Mande's level headed help - I've done it now! I know that I've left people out. Martha has slightly strayed but still always available to us. I am so proud that she represents me with a clear-eyed view of how libraries can increase the constitutional mandate for intellectual property. A real torch carrier, Martha!

CHANGE

Equipment? Seems to be in better shape than I can really remember. Boy, do my collector customers love the digitized drawing reproduction that comes from the DVDs! Our backfile that will soon replace our microfilm has arrived promptly, just as advertised, and am I impressed with that. Thanks Bruce Cox, Jeff Alderson, Brookey Givens, Meg Gilbert and the rest of your staff.

CHANGE

AIPA and the Prepub OG. So far we seem to be navigating not too badly with many fewer glitches than most of the electronic titles
available from the Feds. Terrific service for our patrons and wonderful backup. Can't feel the change here that I thought I would.

CHANGE -

With her enormous energy, Julia Crawford is leading the way in our relationship with ALA as a recognized (and influential) part of libraryland. David Morrison has continued to develop useful tools for all of us with his lists of indexing materials. Nancy Adams and Eileen Pernicone have provided a welcome offering to show the rest of us how we might deal with the identification of invention/inventors in our state/area as publicity and as an access tool.

CHANGE -

I reread Dave Morrison's Long Range Committee report in the March 1998 issue of the newsletter recently. While we may not have moved forward in a straight line, it is surprising to me that there is a great deal of that "long rangeness" that has been accomplished.

Perhaps the greatest change has been in each of us as we have continued to deal with these extraordinary All-American materials that make up the intellectual property body of materials. There's a really strange thing that apparently happens to each of us as we deal with these more and more intensely. We love 'em or leave 'em - that's CHANGE, too, the best kind.

Next year will mark the 25th annual meeting of the PTDLA as an organized, recognized group! There seem to be fewer and fewer things that manage to last for 25 years, so this will surely also count as CHANGE!

- Jane Running, PTDLA President

Treasurer's Report - 2001

PTDLA TREASURER'S PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT
February 2001

Balance as of January 31, 2001 $1344.91
2000 Deposits $710.00
Total $8445.91
2000 WITHDRAWALS $6577.02
BALANCE 2/2001 $1,868.89

STATEMENT DETAILS

DETAILED DEPOSITS
3/20/00 T-shirts $ 200.00
3/20/00 Reg./T-shirts $ 450.00
3/22/00 Reg./T-shirts/reimbursement for returned check $4315.00
4/10/00 Reg./gift/T-shirts $ 845.00
9/1/00 T-shirts/dues $ 240.00
12/8/00 T-shirts/gift $ 100.00
Total Deposits $7101.00

DETAILED WITHDRAWALS
3/21/00 T-shirts (Michael White) $1010.34
3/29/00 Hotel Expenses (Crystal City Marriott) $4240.00
4/7/00 Newsletter Costs (Chris Byrne) $1024.69
4/6/00 Travel Costs (Dave Morrison) $ 200.00

Minutes of the PTDLA Executive Board Meeting

March 20, 2000, Crystal City Marriott, President's Suite

Present:

Dave Morrison, President; Jane Running, VP/President Elect; Jean Porter, Treasurer; Julia Crawford, Secretary; Carol Giles, Past President; Donna Hanson, Bylaws Chair; Jan Comfort, Region 4 Rep.; Ann Poulos, Region 1 Rep.; Eileen Pernicone, Region 5 Rep.; Chris Byrne, Publications Chair; Brian Carpenter, Region 6 Rep.; Claudine Jenda, PTDLA Fellow; Jim Miller, Region 3 Rep.

Dave Called the meeting to order at 4:35.

Regarding upcoming business meeting on Tuesday, March 21, it was noted that there would be one hour only. The committee reports were published in the Newsletter. At the business meeting only comments would be made on the reports, not full reports themselves.

During Treasurer's Report Jean proposed that an ad-hoc committee be created for finance. This group could institute a yearly budget, make written policy decisions regarding how to spend association money, etc.

Election results were announced: VP/President Elect - Crawford, Secretary - Carpenter, Treasurer - Porter, Region 2 - TIE (call for a vote at business meeting on 3/21/00), Region 4 - Jan Comfort, Region 6 - Donna Hopkins, Region 8 - Charlotte Erdmann, Region 10 - Deborah Hanson, Region 12 - Peter Warhit.

Old Business included the digitization of historical indexes and the Mark II workstations. Dave mentioned that following Wes' morning presentation, we now know that the USPTO plans to make the full text images available back to 1920 by '01 and to 1790 by '02 (budgets willing). Donna Hanson pointed out that searchable indexes were needed, not just the text of patents. Julia Crawford stated that in the luncheon meeting with Wes, he indicated that the digitization for the older patents was already complete. The OCR'd text was unfielded but PTDLA (or others) could use this digital record as the basis for building fielded databases.

New Business included an increase in association dues, an update in the Patent Bibliography, the ALA Program for Summer '01, the PTDLA's new publication, and pins.

Dave presented information that the association needs "seed" money to be able to undertake ventures such as the new journal publication, purchase t-shirts, provide scholarship for travel, etc. Donna advised that we would need a vote to suspend the bylaws to allow for the vote by email to raise dues.
Regarding the Patent Bibliography, Donna explained that this was addressed 2 years ago and nothing was ever decided. It has been moved to old business.

Dave requested that he be reimbursed for round trip airfare for trip to Jane Myer’s retirement event (where he presented a plaque on behalf of PTDLA to Jane). Julia moved that Dave be reimbursed, Jane seconded, Dave recused, motion passed.

Julia discussed the possibility of participating as an affiliate at ALA ‘01 by presenting programming. It was recommended that Julia be the ALA liaison to head the conference committee that will solicit and evaluate proposals for presentation.

Claudine explained that the publications committee would be pursuing the new Publication (title to be decided later). Anyone interested in participating in directing this publication should volunteer for this committee. Dave reminded the group that we want to encourage lots of participation in committee volunteerism. This is a great way to get involved.

Carol moved to adjourn, Eileen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, Julia Crawford, PTDLA Secretary

Minutes of the PTDLA Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Dave Morrison called the PTDLA Business meeting of the 23rd annual PTDLP training seminar to order at 1:55. Morrison briefly explained the differences between PTDLP and PTDLA and encouraged membership and committee involvement

Minutes: Donna Hanson moved to accept the minutes as published in the 2000 Newsletter. Rob Williams seconded, motion passed.

President’s Remarks: Morrison thanked everyone who supplied copies of the historical indexes for the scanning project. Though the indexes have not been digitized, Morrison expressed appreciation for the help with the project. He also thanked the officers and the PTDLP office for their support. Chris Byrne’s work on the annual newsletter was commended. Morrison announced that Byrne will continue to produce the newsletter, but would not be serving as chair of the publications committee in ’01.

Treasurer’s Report: Jean Porter’s full report was printed in the newsletter. In way of a brief synopsis, she reported that we began the year with about $1,550, took in just over $3,200, spent about $3,400 and ended the year (Feb 00) with $1344.91. The association incurred additional expenses for flowers sent to E. Mayer’s funeral, and plaque provided at Jane Myer’s retirement.

Archives Committee: Jean Bishop was unable to attend. Bishop will be retiring, and a new chair will be needed.

Bylaws Committee: Hanson reported no changes this year.

Conference Committee: Julia Crawford explained that this committee has not previously been active, but because of opportunities on the horizon, this committee’s work has been reinitiated. Specifically, because of the Association’s ALA Affiliate status, we have the opportunity to present programming at ALA. The deadline for ‘00 was missed, but the conference committee will announce a call for proposals to participate in programming for ‘01 in San Francisco. The committee will be charged with deciding which proposals will make up the PTDLA programming at ALA.

Election Committee: Dave Morrison read the results noting that Chris Marhenke was unable to attend and had also resigned as Election Committee Chair. It was noted that MANY opportunities for committee involvement were becoming apparent. Elected were: VP/President Elect - Crawford, Secretary - Carpenter, Treasurer - Porter, Region 2 - TIE (call for a vote), Region 4 - Jan Comfort, Region 6 - Donna Hopkins, Region 8 - Charlotte Erdman, Region 10 - Deborah Hanson, Region 12 - Peter Warhit. Ballots were distributed to members from Region 2 to vote for Tom Melvin or Connie Wu; Tom Melvin elected.

OLD BUSINESS:

Historical indexes: Funding was cut. Martha explained that this was resource dependent and the money is not there. Morrison mentioned that Wes gave the OK for the Association to take the OCRed text of the historical collection of patents themselves and work on fielding the information. Donna Hanson asked for an ad-hoc committee to explore the time involved. Ted Cebula expressed that reps need to make votes heard regarding need for this older information in digital format. Jim Miller moved that a letter be written by PTDLA President to Commissioner stressing importance of these indexes, and frequent use by independent inventors as this is a buzz-word/catch area these days. Donna Hopkins seconded. Motion passed.

Bibliography: Donna Hanson pointed out the need for a group to update the Patent resources bibliography. This can be one of the many projects to be examined by the publications committee.

Rob Williams moved to reorder agenda, Nancy Adams seconded, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Increase Dues: Morrison explained that the PTDLA dues had been $10 since 1987. The dues collected at training seminar are only enough to cover the printing of the newsletter. He suggested a $10 increase in dues. Suggestions for a scholarship fund, seed money for T-shirt printing, publication of new journal, etc. were possible uses of the increased dues. A lively discussion followed regarding appropriate uses of the money. Donna Hanson reminded the group that the bylaws state the dues shall be $10 and a must have a written vote to change this. Rob Williams moved to suspend the bylaws to allow for a vote by email. Comfort seconded, vote carried. An email vote of all paying association members will be taken before May 1 to vote on whether or not to amend bylaws for increase in dues.

Pins: less than half of the attendees indicated they were interested. This item agenda tabled until further interest.

New PTDLA publication: Claudine Jenda taking the lead on the Publication Committee’s new endeavor. This poses an excellent opportunity for involvement by Association members.

Hanson moved to adjourn, seconded by Jackie Shane, meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, Julia Crawford, PTDLA Secretary
PTDLA Business Meeting – Open Forum

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Special guests:
Jan Hirabayashi, TAF
Kathy Hollan, Public Search Facility
Martha Crockett Sneed, PTDLP
Bruce Cox, OIP
Wes Gewehr
Mande Putnam, PTDLP

Tom Melvin: Posed question regarding redundancy of products and how long this will continue. Specifically, Tom gets questions from his administrators regarding how long the OIP products will continue when the images are available on the web.

Bruce Cox: USAPat continues to have value in redundancy, but it is only a matter of time before we’re unable to provide both formats. The Internet is not sufficiently reliable. Some work that we do in OIP is unique over the Internet databases, but on its own, these uniquenesses wouldn’t justify continuing the program.

Tom Melvin: Also, it would be really nice if the Internet record would indicate the USAPat volume.

Jackie Shane: Could the patent numbers be put on the jewel cases of the USAPat disks?

Bruce Cox: Numbers are not listed because the patents aren’t placed on the disks in strict sequence. This allows for publishing of a disk, even if there are missing patents, or stragglers. This is exactly why film was always so far behind. A reel had to be held up until all patents were available.

Carol Giles: Asked what appeared to be a planted question regarding the PTDLP’s opinion of the effect of the Internet on the PTDLs.

Martha Crockett Sneed and several volunteers gave their response set to the tune “Our love is here to stay.” The song lyrics explained that “It’s very clear, the web is here to stay.” But also that the PTDL experts are still needed. The sentiment was lovely, and the singing wasn’t half bad either.

Marc Conrad: What programs are available for training at the libraries?

Martha Crockett Sneed: PTDLP staff can’t go to every library every year, but they will make an effort to travel to train staff AND to get more band for the buck, can do public seminars at the same time.

Robert Klein: What are the plans for the Spanish language materials?

Martha Crockett Sneed: Dick Appley (Office of Independent Inventor Programs) is breaking life back into the Hispanic web pages.

Robert Klein: What is the PTDL representatives responsibility for confidentiality? Is there an agreement available that would put the patrons at ease?

Martha Crockett Sneed: There is no such agreement provided by the PTDLP office. This is an ethics question to be handled by your system’s own legal council, to assist in deciding when you are overstepping the bounds. One way to protect yourself is to not encourage disclosure. And libraries with fee-based services should provide a non-disclosure statement. Our agreement with each institution is very informal.

Danny Walker: What resources do you have in DC that the PTDLs don’t have?

Kathy Hollan: We do training, but we don’t recommend agents or searchers.

Danny Walker: Do professional searchers have access to examiners?

Kathy Hollan: Professional searchers know how to search & where to go, but when they get stumped, they go to the house phones and call examiners.

John Graham: Comment: the merits or pros and cons of the web vs. CD-ROMs for document provision is beside the point. As a government agency, PTO has the obligation to provide permanent public access to its information products. That obligation, to me, is the reason why PTO is obligated to continue to provide its patents in tangible form. This comment is from my background as a documents librarian, not just a PTDL rep.

Mary Kate Weeks: Can we have a copy of the song lyrics?

Martha Crockett-Sneed: Yes.

Pat Ragains: Regarding the new business process patents, can you provide some information on how broadly this applies.

Martha Crockett Sneed: We did have a session last year on this, and we will try to include a substantive program on this next March. In the mean time, we will get the PTOS Journal writings on this topic and compile a mini-bibliography.

Michael Hydorn: This is a standard topic in the Partnership libraries continuing education program offerings. We will try to get the PowerPoint® presentation on this.

Donna Hanson: While we’re on the topic of seminar, a session on “Why is the patent office patenting . . . ?” would be a good topic. We could be updated on cases and the legislation.

Eileen Pernicone: Is it possible to get a report on how many people get patents by zip code, or by county?

Jim Hirabayashi: Data by county level is very difficult because the county isn’t reported on the patent application. You can search by zip on WEST, but not on the web.

Eileen Pernicone: Can Mark III be modified for Internet access?

Bruce Cox: All you need to do is get an administrative password for adding network cards and Internet access. However, each time the machine is re-ghosted, the administrative changes will have to be replicated. We will investigate making Mark III accept WEST with minimal reghosting.

Erminio D’Onofrio: Will there be PTDL librarians on the new Patent & Trademark Advisory Committees?

Wes Gewehr: The legislation dictates how these committees will be made up. While I have the microphone . . .

First, pre-grant publication concept paper will be posted on the web in the next week.

Second, I’ve heard the rumor that the Patent OGs will cease. The Application Pub will have no OG. There has been some discussion about substituting and electronic form because of the cost of printing.
the OG. GPO recently tripled the price. The commissioner says the
print will continue, but we may see a “call for comment.”

Donna Hanson: As depositories, we can’t drop the OG, but we are
getting 2 copies, one through GPO and one through PTDL.

Martha Crockett Sneed: We visited this 2 years ago. Yours may be a
special circumstance that needs to be resolved.

Jan Comfort: Can an exemplary drawing be added to the web Bib
database?

Wes Gewehr: No, there’s no funding. The Patents Bib file will be
dropped once the Full text file has current class. We hope it won’t be
dropped before that.

Charlotte Erdmann: Why do different fields display in Patents Bib
vs. Patents Full-Text?

Wes Gewehr: Tasking is looking at “turning on” some of the fields
that haven’t appeared before.

Meeting concluded at 5:25 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, Julia Crawford PTDLA Secretary

Minutes of Luncheon with Wes Gewehr and Martha
Crockett Sneed

March 20, 2000, Marriott’s JW Steakhouse

Dave Morrison, Julia Crawford, Carol Giles, Jean Porter, Jane
Running, Susan Ardis, Robert Klein in attendance.

Dave began session by thanking Wes & Martha for the Casis Mark
III workstations, and availability of web search databases.

Questions were posed to Wes regarding full-text databases back to
1790. Specifically, if the FT has been captured, does this negate the
need for digitization of the historical indexes? Wes responded that the
digitization of the older patents was complete, but does not mean that
the data is structured for searching. Specifically, the data from each
patent is in one long unfielded continuous string. The patents would
be keyword searchable, but not fielded. A possible focus could be to
utilize the OCRRed text from the USPTO and manipulate it into fields.

Dave asked if presentations, PowerPoint slides, etc, created by the
USPTO could be made available to the PTDLs. These would be a
useful and welcome resource when librarians need to make
presentations. Martha mentioned that to make such presentations
available, a place with limited/controlled access would be needed
which was not accessible by the general public.

Concerns over optical disk vs. film archive were raised. Specifically,
the PTDLs accept that the DVD provides for wide distribution, but
there is concern about this as a viable storage medium. Wes addressed
that the data will migrate to new technology as needed.

Specific complaints about the TESS system were voiced. Specifically,
that the “OR” is the default operator as opposed to “AND.” Martha
said that we will see this search system during training, and should look
to see if the default operator has been corrected. If not, the change
will occur soon.

Questions regarding delivery of patent images in TIFF format were
posed. Wes responded that future plans include mechanisms for
converting on the fly from TIFF to PDF.

Dave mentioned that several PTDLs had voiced a desire to add more
workstations to the Casis Mark III, allowing it to work as an
Intranet. One librarian wanted a detailed instruction sheet on this.
Martha indicated that Bruce Cox’s shop will talk with this librarian’s
systems department, but will not reprogram for the PTDLs.

Lunch at the Marriott was enjoyed by all.

- Respectfully submitted, Julia Crawford, PTDLA Secretary

Message from the PTDL Program Office

The Changing of the Guard! This is the order of the day in the
new millennium in the federal government from the Patent and
Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program to the President of
the United States. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to
display PTDLA as the Manager of the PTDL Program. I am proud
and honored to do so and extend warm greetings from the Program
office to each of you in our 88 PTDLs located in all 50 states, the
District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Many changes have occurred in PTDLP since last year’s newsletter.
Martha Crockett Sneed has been promoted as the Manager of the
Public Search Services Division (PSSD). In addition to oversight of
the PTDL Program she is also responsible for all of the Public Search
Facilities at the USPTO. We miss having as much direct daily contact
with her, but are grateful that she is now in position to provide a loud,
strong voice advocating the importance of the dissemination of patent
and trademark information to the public. She is still working hard
supporting our interests.

As a result of Martha’s move, some former PTDLP and IDO staff
have been reassigned to her new area. Bernice Smith was promoted
as her new Program Analyst, and Jeanne Oliver, Jim Arshem, and
Michael Harrigan are also reporting to Martha. Although their
Chris Kitchens is our new Administrative Librarian, filling the vacancy I left when I became Program Manager. LaTonya Suggs was reassigned to PTDL from General Information Services in April. She has been assuming greater outer office responsibilities. We have continued to have additional outer office support provided by a temp agency. Ebony Minter has been with us in this capacity since October. Once the federal hiring freeze has been lifted we look forward to filling two vacancies.

I am grateful to report that we are still receiving dedicated and expert support from Cynthia Banicki, Electronic Services Librarian; Mary Gómez, Management Analyst; Michael Hydorn, Partnership PTDL Manager; Michael White, Librarian Training Specialist; and Claudine Arnold Jenda, Fellowship Librarian from our PTDL at Auburn University, Alabama.

You may be interested to learn that several of us in PSSD and PTDL share one bit of history in common. We first became associated with the PTDL Program while working as the Representatives at a PTDL! Martha came to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from the Detroit PTDL, Jim from Denver, Jeanne from Springfield, Chris from Ft. Lauderdale, Mike W. from Orono, and I from Newark, DE. We all have seen dissemination of patent and trademark information from both sides. We have taken various paths to come to the USPTO, but share a broad base of skill and knowledge. The remaining members of the staff have a combined record of over 70 years of federal service. Claudine, our Fellowship Librarian, helps remind us what the major issues and current state of public service areas in libraries around the United States. Did you know that you had such a wealth of staff resources at your fingertips, at the end of the toll-free line, and the ALLPTDLS e-mail list?

If you have ever been reluctant to contact the PTDL Program for assistance, please overcome your reluctance. We are here to assist you and your users with questions and problems, and to listen to your concerns. I truly believe that PTDL is a model of one of the best things available to the public in our federal government today. Matched with your dedicated and knowledgeable assistance in the field, we are a win-win combination.

We look forward to seeing you in Crystal City on March 18-23, 2001 for the 24th Annual Training Seminar. Come prepared with your questions, curiosity, and readiness to learn. We have a week planned that is full of training and activities waiting to challenge you. Travel safely and we'll see you soon!

- Amanda (Mande) Putnam, Manager PTDL Program
Mary Woodward gave a presentation on patent information/searching at the New York Library Association annual meeting in November. The questions were fairly sophisticated - it appears the Internet is certainly raising awareness and demands for further clarification and information!

-Mary Woodward

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Centennial Engineering Library, University of New Mexico

The patent and trademark depository for New Mexico is housed at the Centennial Science and Engineering Library at the University of New Mexico. The PTDL librarian is Jackie Shane who works with seven other science and engineering librarians. Jackie recently hyperlinked her online guides to searching the patent and trademark databases to reflect the recent changes on the Internet. Jackie has been extending outreach to the state and will once again present an intellectual property workshop at the New Mexico Librarians Association Conference in April.

-Jackie Shane

Amherst, Massachusetts

Physical Sciences & Engineering Library, University of Massachusetts

The Physical Sciences and Engineering Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst has been a Patent and Trademark Depository Library since 1984. Linda Amy, Eric Esau, Selma Etter, and Cindy Spell provide patent and trademark reference services. Cindy (who attended the Annual Training Seminar of the PTDL Program for the first time in 2000) is the chief architect and engineer of our Patents and Trademarks home page:

www.library.umass.edu/subjecUscience/scieng8.htm

Selma will be our representative at the 2001 Training Seminar.

In April 2000 and again in January 2001, Selma met with the entire fourth grade of the Palmer (MA) Elementary School to introduce 400 students, and their teachers, to the world of inventions and inventing. Her chief example was microwaved popcorn (see US 5,326,576), the tangible results of which were a big hit with the fourth graders.

A new inventors’ association, the "Innovators' Resource Network," has formed in this area recently and already boasts a large, active membership, drawn primarily from west-central Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut. On October 28, 2000, this group hosted an all-day workshop, "A Day With the Patent and Trademark Office," which was held at the Enterprise Center of Springfield Technical Community College, in Springfield, MA. Richard Apley, Director of the Office of Independent Inventor Programs at the USPTO, was an engaging and encouraging presenter, and he was ably assisted by John Cabeca, Supervisory Patent Examiner in Technology Center 2700 and Karin Tyson, Senior Legal Advisor, in a series of practical, helpful, and often humorous sessions. Eric represented the Amherst PTDL at this event. Several attendees have subsequently visited our library for individual assistance and advice.

For the first time since becoming a PTDL nearly seventeen years ago, we are now able to offer to our users the full-text of the entire backfile of U. S. patents, in one format or another. The DVD backfile has been a great boon, and we thank everyone at the PTO who helped make this achievement possible.

Finally, we would like to add this note of appreciation and gratitude, quite overdue, to the "senior" PTDL in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, namely the Boston Public Library. Staff there have been unfailingly helpful to those of us in Amherst, going way back to the years before we had even become part of the PTDL network. Marilyn McLean, the Boston representative, has long been both a mentor and a friend to us, and we shall be forever in her debt, not only for practical help but also for her sage advice.

-Eric Esau

Anchorage, Alaska

Z.J. Loussac Public Library, Anchorage Municipal Libraries

The Anchorage PTDL has had a very quiet year. The in-house use of our collection has decreased by at least 50% this year, and I have received only 15 calls for assistance from those living outside the Anchorage area. Requests for visits and talks to students and inventor groups are also down. When queried, most everyone answers, "I did all my searching on the Internet." Information to patent and trademark searching is usually falls on deaf ears.

On a more positive note, we continue to receive excellent support from the OPTDLP and have had very few equipment or software
problems. Also, we have enjoyed having the ability to access the older U.S. patents and trademarks.

- Robert Williams

"With my new ‘Lightning Cannon,’ Mr. Bond, I can destroy whole countries and have the world at my mercy... as soon as I get all my patents to clear."

©Scott McCullar 2000

Auburn, Alabama

Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

The Auburn University PTDL has been active since 1983 providing patent and trademark information to patrons in Alabama, West Georgia, and the Panhandle of Florida. This past year has been active. We sent one of our own, Claudine Jenda, to the patent office as the Patent Fellow, and the USPTO asked her to extended her stay, and that left me, to cope at best I could, understanding that our loss was the USPTO's gain. Cindy Mitchell and I, also gave a successful presentation at the Alabama Inventor’s Conference in Anniston, Alabama where we introduced ourselves at Auburn to inventors, told them a little about the patent search process, and staffed a table so we could answer their questions.

As part of a general library re-organization, the PTDL work area moved from the fourth floor to the second floor of the library. My phone number is now 334-844-1768. The move went without any major problems.

The major change to the PTDL at Auburn has been the introduction of the patent DVDs from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. With this addition, we now have complete coverage of the US Patents in either disc or microfilm format. I learned about the power of the new DVDs when late one night a retired gentleman came into the library and asked for a search on turpentine cups. Being a trained information searcher, I knew that the proper response was not a blank stare, but rather, I initiated a reference interview. From questioning the gentleman, I learned that turpentine production was a major industry in the Southeast from after the Civil War to the rise of the oil industry. I quickly figured that what the gentleman wanted was patent classification 47/11. If you do a search on the CASSIS, you will find that there has been no activity on this technology for decades. We then used the new image discs to retrieve the patents of interest. He was so impressed he told me that we were finding patents that he didn't find a couple of years ago when he visited the patent office on just this question. This is a tribute to the ease of use of this product. The gentleman later gave me a copy of his book in appreciation. The book was Treasues of the Longleaf Pines Naval Stores by Carroll B. Butler and details something about how turpentine was collected from pine sap and how it was used as a sealant and caulk for wooden ships.

This was definitely the highlight reference interview of the year for me!

See you all at PTDL Workshop!

- Andrew Wohrley

Austin, Texas

McKinney Engineering Library, University of Texas at Austin

Probably the most significant thing that happened to us this year as a PTDL is that the University of Texas at Austin was blocked from using the USPTO Patent Searching databases because of "excessive use." Below is my report.

Problem Report

The Engineering Library at the University of Texas at Austin discovered on January 3 that blocking software was being used on the search pages accessed from the selection "Searchable Databases". All other pages would work including Trademark Search. What would not work was "Quick Search" and etc. In trying to figure out whether this was a UT or a USPTO problem we discovered the following statement on one of the USPTO WebPages:

"These databases are intended for use by the general public. Due to limitations of equipment and bandwidth, they are not intended to be a source for bulk downloads of USPTO data. Bulk data may be purchased from USPTO at cost (see the USPTO Products and Services Catalog). Individuals, companies, IP addresses, or blocks of IP addresses who, in effect, deny service to the patent databases. Accesses (searches, pages, or hits), whether generated manually or in an automated fashion, may be denied access to these servers without notice."

What we discovered

During the course of our fairly extensive investigations we discovered that the UT caching servers had been blocked. This meant that no UT computer (that's right none of the 40,000 Imips nor 3300 dial-up access computers) could access the patent databases. Getting this situation solved was neither smooth nor without frustration and irritation.

The following is what we recommend you do if you think your institution or an individual you are helping might be blocked.
If you are blocked you will receive the "Problem Report" message (copied below) when you pick one of the first 3 searches from page

http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/search.html

If you are using a version of Netscape it will churn and churn and then send out the message below.

If you are using Internet Explorer you will see the loading bar until 96% or so and then it will give the message below.

Problem Report
There was a communication problem.
Message ID
TCP_ERROR
Problem Description
The system was unable to communicate with the server.
Possible Problem Cause
The Web server may be down.
The Web server may be too busy.
The Web server may be experiencing other problems, preventing it from responding to clients.
The communication path may be experiencing problems.
<INSDATETIME="1999-11-02T20:37"cite="mailto: %20"
Possible Solution
Try connecting to this server later.


Obviously this error message covers several problems and does not specifically mention that you might be blocked. If you get this message several times during one day then you are probably blocked.

The Solution

The solution is to:

a. Contact your network administrator and get a list of all IP addresses (including caching) used by your institution.
b. If you are a PTDL then call the program office.
c. If not call the help lines (800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357) and ask for "the Administrator for Search and Information Resources, Office of Search Systems."
d. Simultaneously send a problem message to the Webmaster.
e. Include a list of your IP addresses in your messages; ask specifically that each of these be checked to see if any are on blocking list. If so, ask specifically that they be removed.
f. Voice your objections to the whole idea of blocking without being warned and with no obvious means of recourse being provided.

Conclusions

This was a discouraging situation with mixed messages about what providing "public access" means. Frankly, the most troublesome parts of this are:

a. Library or public institution (whether a PTDL or not) could be blocked.
b. What constitutes investigation prior to blocking is not stated.
c. Warnings of potential blocking are somewhat hidden.
d. No recourse or listing of whom to contact is listed on the web pages.
e. Behavior of some portions of the organization (not PTDL) was at best unfortunate and at worse unacceptable.
f. Even with some prodding no messages have yet been sent out to other PTDL libraries notifying them of the possibility of being blocked.

-Susan Ardis

Bayamón Puerto Rico

University of Puerto Rico - Bayamón

My name is Mildred Pérez and I am a librarian at the University of Puerto Rico – Bayamón Campus. On April 23, 2001, we are going to inaugurate the new Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) at our campus. This will be the second PTDL on the island. The first one is also located at the University of Puerto Rico, but at its Mayaguez Campus, which is located on the western part of the island. With the new library at UPR-Bayamón, we will be able to serve the metropolitan area which is located in the north.

We would like to thank Prof. Arturo Avilés, Associate Dean of UPR-Bayamón. He was able to perceive that there was a need to establish another PTDL. As a result of this need, he took it upon himself to persuade and convince the administrative officials of the University to permit to establish this special kind of library. To be able to share this special moment with us, we would like to invite all the PTDL members to our inauguration. For more information, please contact: mil_perez@cutb.upr.clu.edu

-Mildred Pérez

Boston, Massachusetts

Boston Public Library

The Science Reference Department has had another successful post-flood year, although we are still in limbo about moving to a non-temporary location. Our local saying is that temporary is one day short of forever.

Staffing shortages do continue to plague us whatever our location. David Petersante has gone to the Kirstein Business Branch permanently. He has been an important person in our patent life - many years ago he attended his first conference to learn Cressis. He was our computer guru, and we miss him. Our new staff person, Jim Bailee, will be attending the conference, so many of you will get to meet him. He is a wonderful science librarian and is learning patents and trademarks.

As with the rest of our library, statistics continue to fall, except for Internet use. It is wonderful to be able to tell people who call from a distance that the USPTO web site is so complete.
We hosted one of the workshops on E-filing in the fall. It was very well attended, and as always we love hosting our friends from the PTDL office.

- Marilyn McLean

**Burlington, Vermont**

Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont

The Vermont Patent and Trademark Depository Library is located in the Government Documents Collection of the Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont in Burlington. The VPTDL has been in existence since November of 1996. Scott Schaffer has been the PTDL Representative for the VPTDL for two years. All seven members who work in Documents and Maps work with the PTDL.

The VPTDL sees a steady stream of inventors, small business people, and collectors. Due to Vermont's rural nature, we frequently consult with patrons by phone, as they may be unable to make it to the "big city." Vermont is full of people with big ideas and they like to come to the VPTDL and rack our brains.

- Scott Schaffer

**Butte, Montana**

Montana Tech of the University of Montana Library

In May 2000, we were privileged to have Michael White from the PTDL program come to Montana for a state training tour. He gave presentations in Billings (May 15), Butte (May 17-18) and Great Falls (May 19), Montana. Over 30 librarians were trained on "Patent and Trademark Basics." The presentation was motivational and packed full of information. Mike spent an extra day with the PTDL staff in Butte to answer questions and to train on some of the advanced points of researching. Later in the fall, Ann St. Clair, Interim Director and Reference Librarian, and Jean Bishop, Reference Librarian Emeritus, developed an E-Class "Patent Research Basics" for staff training at the University of Montana in Missoula. More patent and trademark questions are being received over the telephone asking for assistance on using the PTO web page. Some of the most challenging questions involve the downloading of full-text patent images. Jean Bishop will be attending the March 2001 Seminar, thanks to an award received through a Montana Library Association's Professional Development Grant.

- Ann St. Clair

**Chicago, Illinois**

Chicago Public Library

The year 2000 was busy at Chicago Public Library. The American Library Association's annual conference was here and staff members were occupied visiting exhibits, attending meetings, programs and receptions. The staff greeted and conducted tours for visiting librarians showcasing the Chicago Public Library and the city of Chicago.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office had an exhibit booth at the conference. In spite of their hectic schedule at the exhibits, Jim Arshem and Mike White were gracious to accept our invitation to conduct an informative hands-on workshop to CPL staff after the conference. Mike covered the USPTO website, which is a gold mine in itself. He also showed us some tricks on searching trademarks. Jim gave the staff an overview of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999.

October was another busy month for us. Our Business/Science/Technology Division hosted educational workshops focusing on the AIPA of 1999 and on Electronic Commerce with the USPTO conducted by representatives from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Forty-five local independent inventors came for a half day workshop on the 30th. The full day workshop on the 31st attracted 120 patent lawyers and agents from Metropolitan Chicago and with some coming from as far away as Rochester, New York and Denver, Colorado. We had a major complaint from lawyers: the 31st was in conflict with their children's Halloween activities so they could not make it!

- Nita Salmillo

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**Cincinnati, Ohio**

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County can be considered both old and new in patent services to its Tristate community. As one of the original 21 depositories designated in 1871, the Library has been offering a full collection of patents and search tools for well over 125 years. In 1997 the collection became the 'patents' in the new "Public Documents and Patents Department," which was established to provide greater visibility and accessibility to both our GPO and PTDL collections. The department is staffed by a manager, assistant manager (who serves as PTDL representative), three librarians, and four public services assistants.

In May, our PTDL assistant department manager and PTDL representative, Elizabeth Zuelke, was promoted to Manager of the
Library's Institutions/Books-by-Mail Department. Elizabeth had been instrumental in establishing the Public Documents and Patents Department and much of the good organization and training in our patents collection is due to her fine work. Her position has since been filled by Tracy Koenig, a librarian with previous experience in patents and public documents, during the time they were located within the Library's subject departments. Tracy is looking forward to her first PTO Seminar in March.

The last year also marked some major events in our department. Besides the burgeoning electronic formats and the controversies over business method and gene patents, which affected all PTDLs, we experienced a year of outreach to patent professionals, independent inventors, and our general library patrons. We continued to offer our bimonthly introductory program, "The Power of Patents," which was attended by over 80 people. Responding to the need for legal expertise in answering the queries of this program, we developed a "Patent Law Q&A" session with a local intellectual property lawyer, Kurt Grossman, on June 13. Mr. Grossman offered three hours of his legal acumen and practical wisdom to an appreciative audience of 35 people, mostly independent inventors. In the fall we signed on to host the PTO roadshow on the implementation of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 and electronic filing. Our two-day program, which we dubbed "PTO 2000," drew over 150 patent professionals and inventors to the Main Library on November 13 and 14.

Our in-house activities also took some interesting turns. Because our government documents collection is not yet included in our OPAC, we requested the creation of catalog records for our patent collections as an indicator of our holdings. We also have an extensive collection of British patents and catalog records were created for these, too. The rewards were quickly reaped when a woman who researches historically accurate corsets found our records on WorldCat and visited our collection. She promised to relay her findings to others interested in footwear and headgear.

Since the onset of its publication, United States Patent Quarterly has been held by the Library, but most recently was located in our Magazines and Newspaper Department. During the past year, we transferred ownership to the Public Documents and Patents Department where we have been locating current volumes in new BNA binders on our patents index table.

The department also participated in the Library's monthly theme-based booklists. August was Inventors' Month, so we created a display and submitted titles which were posted on the Library website.

We continue our staff development on patent-related products and issues, which are incorporated into our weekly staff training schedule. Beyond training related to our programs, sessions this year also included searching foreign patents, using USPTO, and an introduction to Cassie2.

- Tracy Koenig

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**Cleveland, Ohio**

Cleveland Public Library

A PTDL since 1899, the patent and trademark collection is housed in the Government Documents department. The most noticeable change at our library this past year has been with staffing. Sig Weinhold, PTDL representative since 1983, resigned his position as Department Head in June of 2000. I (Robin Gray) was appointed Department Head in August. The transition to PTDL representative has been smooth since I have acted "unofficially" in that capacity for the last fifteen years, attending most of the annual training seminars and acting as liaison between the PTDL office and the Library.

In October, Cathy Williams, one of our more experienced staff members, died suddenly. After working with Ms. Williams for nearly twenty years, it goes without saying that her friendship as well as subject expertise is greatly missed by her colleagues as well as the many patrons she routinely assisted.

To make adjustments for the many staff changes, the Government Documents department acquired three new staff members, all new to the world of government information, patents, and trademarks. My greatest task thus far continues to be getting a predominately new staff up to speed in delivering quality reference service. I wish I could say this task has been a simple one, but it's been difficult. I must remind these often hesitant and terrified staff members that as in any discipline, the confidence comes with experience.

After doing a seminar for Akron Public Library, Chris Kitchens, Claudine Jendla, and Michael White graciously modified their travel schedule and came to Cleveland to give hands-on training to my new staff. Included also in this training bonus were staff from our Science and Technology department, a branch library, and staff from our fee based research center.

- Robin Gray

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**College Station, Texas**

Evans Library Annex, Texas A&M University

It has been another busy year here in College Station. We are continuing to receive an increasing number of telephone calls and walk-in patrons wanting to know how to search patents and trademarks. I attribute that to the campus/area-wide access to the USPTO web site. We use both Cassie and the web databases to show them how to do a proper search. In fact, to help our patrons who use the USpto database through the web, we are developing a tutorial to show them how to use the "step method" as first popularized by the USPTO, to show them how to do a proper search. After we have ironed out all the bugs, we are going to provide a link to this tutorial through our website and our library's Public Access Menu to Electronic Resources.

As a resource person for patent and trademark information, I am now frequently called upon as a resource person for copyright information as well. Of course, I don't do copyright searches, but I do...
get asked by people for the best websites for copyright information, to set up copyright video conferences for different departments on campus, give talks on copyright basics, and so forth.

For me, this fits right in with my patent and trademark training, because now when I talk to them about copyright, I can also talk to them about patents and trademarks as well. Training is the most important thing. We feel teaching them how to do the search themselves and letting them explore the world of patents and/or trademarks gives them a better feel for this if and when they think they should talk to an attorney.

Our monthly newsletter (called strangely enough, Intellectual Property News Monthly) continues to expand its number of subscribers. I really find this is good way to keep in touch with those that have visited the library, or have participated in a video conference.

- Brian Carpenter

Concord, New Hampshire

New Hampshire State Library

The Concord PTDL at the New Hampshire State Library continues to assist the public with their patent and trademark searching. After last year’s seminar, Davis Sturges returned to give a summary and overview of the conference to the Reference Staff. We are continuing to see a migration of users to the Internet as our in house statistics drop while our web statistics increase.

Again this year Franklin Pierce Law Center Summer Institute came to the State Library for a presentation, by David Sturges and me, on Patent Searching.

- Diana Degen

Dallas, Texas

Dallas Public Library

Greetings! My name is Rob Martindale, and I’m the new Patent and Trademark librarian here at Dallas Public Library. I just graduated from library school less than a year ago and am very excited about the PTDL program and how well it works for our patrons here.

The use of our IP collection at Dallas Public seems to be growing more and more as more people are learning how to access the resources. And now that we finally beat that TIFF viewer bug we had for many months (don’t ask me how, it just started working, and I am not going to ask questions), many patrons come and use the Internet site as well as Cassie for searching, viewing and printing.

Robert Frantz, our ever-faithful patent agent, continues to volunteer to come to Dallas from Oklahoma City once every other month to conduct workshops entitled “Protecting Your Invention” dealing with the basics of patents. He is now joined by Lars Jensen, a patent agent in Arlington, who conducts our one-on-one question and answer sessions with local inventors who have basic questions about their searches, filing, etc. These sessions are also every other month (the “off” months of the workshops). Both of these have proved to be very popular and are constantly filled up.

Some of the highlights of the year include the Dr. Pepper company trying to track down the trademarks for Hawaiian Punch® and the genealogist finding his ancestor’s patent. He then gleefully got the file from the patent office with all the lovely correspondence (which apparently was at the person’s different addresses where his great-grandfather lived).

- Robert Martindale

Denver, Colorado

Denver Public Library

Here’s a brief report from our PTDL for the annual newsletter. My name is Louie Casem, and I’m the new PTDL representative at the Denver Public Library, replacing my colleague Danny Walker, who was promoted to the position of Senior Librarian for another department within the library. I currently work as a Reference Librarian for the Government Publications and Business Reference Department, where the patent and trademark collection is located. The Denver Public Library is a designated PTDL since 1977.

As part of our department’s outreach program, we organize and conduct monthly patent searching workshops that are available free to the public. We also work closely with the local inventors group called the Rocky Mountain Inventors and Entrepreneurs Congress. They are holding their annual conference on April 7, 2001, wherein our Department Manager, Mrs. Elena Wenzel, will deliver a presentation on the inventors resources. We will also be hosting one of the USPTO Patent Customers Outreach Seminars in April with the coordination of our Outreach Librarian, Mr. Lou Peterchack!

- Louie Casem

Des Moines, Iowa

State Library of Iowa

The big news at the State Library of Iowa’s PTDL is that, after nearly two years of being displaced for renovation, the State Library has moved back into its permanent location in the west wing of the beautiful Old Babcock Miller Building. The extensive project is restoring the building, where the State Library has resided with pride for almost 100 years, to its original splendor.

The new PTDL area offers patrons comfort, convenience, and privacy for patent and trademark research. The PTDL reference desk has a new phone number as well, (515) 242-3886. Improvements include two patron stations with Internet connections, a viewing room for PTDL training videos, and a display rack for patent and trademark brochures.

Karon Moll, who has been at the PTDL for eight years, has recently completed two Internet projects to improve services to PTDL customers. Our Patents and Trademarks webpages have been expanded and updated to include useful information and links to many patent and trademark sites. In addition, the Iowa Inventor’s database that Karon has been working on for four years is now available on our
website. It covers all Iowa inventors and their inventions from 1840-1974. Both the website and the Inventor's Index can be found at www.silo.lib.ia.us/patents.

- Barbara Corson

**Detroit, Michigan**

Great Lakes Patent & Trademark Center
Detroit Public Library

Last summer, GLPTC was one of the first PTDLs to host the American Inventors Protection Act/Electronic Commerce road show. This informative event featured speakers from the USPTO discussing recent legislation that would impact individual inventors as well as the specifics of electronic filing. The first day of the workshop was directed toward patent attorneys, patent agents and other legal professionals, while the second day of the workshop targeted independent inventors. The interactive question and answer format proved to be popular with participants.

Once again, GLPTC was pleased to host the Michigan State University Technology Transfer Program as part of that institution's annual summer seminar. This seminar attracts scientists and researchers from all over the globe. The participants worked on a project that introduced them to U.S. patent searching and included hands-on exposure to the EAST (Examiner's Automated Search Tool) system. We look forward to a return visit next summer!

In addition to serving local inventors, businesses and students, GLPTC continues to provide monthly videoconference seminars featuring experts from the USPTO, has trained local law firms in the use of EAST, and provides outreach to Library Science classes from Wayne State University in Detroit.

- Carla Reczek and Hilary Callaghan

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Broward County Main Library

Hi Reader! My name is Eileen Pernicone, and I've been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL Representative for four years, and have worked at the PTDL in the capacity of Patent and Trademark Librarian for six. I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in both Chemistry and Physics, a Master's degree in Communications and a second Master's degree in Library Science.

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

**New Department Head**

When Barbara Schumacher left the Business, Law, and Government Department, Chris Marhenke was selected to replace her as our new Department Head. His position was then filled by Debby Auchter, who is the Assistant Department Head overseeing the Patent and Trademark Unit.

**2000 Highlights**

- Chris Marhenke served on the 2000-2001 PTDLA Election Committee as the Outgoing Chair.
- Eileen Pernicone served as the PTDLA Region 5 Representative for the two-year term 1999-2001.
- On August 5, 2000, Eileen Pernicone gave a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Inventors Society of South Florida. It included information learned at the Annual PTDL Training Seminar.
- A successful and exciting Invent Broward 2000-2001. Hundreds of invention models from Broward County area elementary schools were brought in for display on the sixth floor of the Main Library. Diane Leiner, the new programming coordinator at the Main Library, did a great job in putting together this program, which includes a showcase of the inventions and a reception for participating students and their parents and teachers. Eileen Pernicone spoke at the reception and led the children in the traditional inventor's cheer.
- Eileen Pernicone wrote an article for publication in the new intellectual property journal of the PTDLA on copyright law issues entitled 'Is There a Need for a New Form of Intellectual Property?'
- Our website should be up by the time of the conference.

- Eileen Pernicone

**Grand Forks, North Dakota**

Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

The Grand Forks PTDL has existed since 1990, but this year was a year of changes.

The head of our Documents, Patents, Trademarks, and Periodicals (DPTP) Department, Nancy Mulhem, left in early summer. Some of you may remember her as one of our first Patent and Trademark Coordinators. Shortly after her departure, Debra Hanson left her position as our Patent and Trademark Coordinator. That left our PTDL without a person experienced in patent searching and the use of CAS. Richard Suggs, Student Supervisor and acting department head, had to learn the basics fast. By mid-September, I was hired and began to teach myself how all this worked... (Thanks Mike White!!!!) The University also hired a new Libraries Director this year. His name is Wilbur Stolt, and he was previously at the University of Oklahoma.

Since September, I have had the pleasure to absorb an enormous amount of information. My degree is in English Education and the past eight years I have worked in human services. This was a change for me. I have, quite likely, learned more information in the past few
months than I had in whole semesters of college. (At least it feels that way some days when I give an answer to a question and think... “How did I know that?”)

In early January, I presented patent searching information at the first North Dakota Inventors Congress. It was an exciting event for the inventors and presenters (the PTDL, Small Business Development Center, a patent attorney from Fargo, and the Institute of Business and Industry Development for North Dakota State University). We had over 100 inventors attend and that’s incredible considering January gets really cold in North Dakota.

I have created PowerPoint presentations regarding general patent information and patent searching on the USPTO website. I have revamped all our display materials and designed a new brochure. It arrived from the printers last week. I have participated in more patent searches than I would have ever guessed I would. Currently, the new DPTP Department Head, Jim Beasley, is learning how to conduct patent searches on Cassie and the USPTO website. WOW! And, as always, there are new inventions...

- Angela Bailly

Hartford, Connecticut

Hartford Public Library

The past year was a great one for Hartford Public Library. In the month of November alone, three wonderful things happened. The Library received a $500,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, voters authorized $21.5M for completion of the Central Library Expansion and Renovation Project, and Louise Blalock, our Chief Librarian, was chosen Library Journal’s Librarian of the Year for 2001 (announced in January).

As the Library’s Projects Manager for Reference and Adult Services, I always have a number of irons in the fire. This year, I included among them some activities to promote the PTDL collection. In April, I participated in a panel presentation, "Hidden Treasures: Special Collections in Connecticut Libraries," at the Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference. The following month, Kellie O’Donnell, reference librarian and past PTDL Training Seminar attendee, and I did a trademark program for the Capitol Region Library Council Reference Roundtable.

Richard J. Apley, Director of the Office of Independent Inventor Programs, spoke at the Library in October. After his presentation, Richard was available to meet individually with our aspiring inventors.

This winter, reference librarian Sandy Gamzon and I collaborated with the staff of Girls, Inc. to organize an invention fair. The girls displayed their projects at the Library and, with their parents and instructors, were guests at a reception we held for them. Hilda Perez, an inventor (patent number 5,651,407) and teacher at one of Hartford’s elementary schools, was our guest speaker.

In conjunction with Black History Month, reference assistant Judi Malootian created a very popular display on African-American inventors. Our Webmaster Steve Sweet and I also put up a Web page for the PTDL.

http://www.hartfordpl.lib.ct.us/patent.htm

Even one of our Board Members indirectly helped promote the PTDL collection. In Stephen Goddard’s Colonel Albert Pope and his

American Dream Machines: the Life and Times of a Bicycle Tycoon Turned Automotive Pioneer, the importance of patents in transportation history is often discussed. It’s been a busy and successful year for all of us at Hartford Public Library.

- Mary E. Albro

5,651,407 Shower Curtain Loop
Hilda M. Perez (New Britain, CT), Issued July 29, 1997

Hawaii State Library

Aloha from sunny Honolulu.

The Honolulu PTDL is the only PTDL in Hawaii and is part of the Federal Documents Section of the Hawaii State Library which was originally built with a grant from Andrew Carnegie. Our library has been a PTDL since December 1989. The current staff of the Federal Documents Section includes Jan Tawarahara, Section Head Librarian and PTDL Representative since 1992; Stewart Chun, Librarian, appointed June 2000; and Amelia Silva, Library Assistant. The section currently has a vacancy in a librarian position.

The Honolulu PTDL hosted Amanda Putnam and Michael White of the PTDL who presented three seminars, two for the public and one for library staff, from January 19th to the 21st. Mande and Mike received the traditional flower lei greeting and parting gifts of macadamia nuts and Kona coffee. A total of eighty people attended the public seminars. We charged a nominal fee to cover expenses for the meeting room and refreshments. A total of twenty library staff attended the staff seminar including staff from other islands who
received grants from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii for their travel expenses. The Friends of the Library of Hawaii also provided a grant for refreshments for the staff seminar. The weather was a bit rainy and windy but Mande and Mike could walk to the beach and enjoy the view from the hotel. It was certainly balmer than the snowy conditions they returned to the next week when DC shutdown for a few days. Mahalo (thank you) to Mande and Mike for three great seminars.

We had a DVD drive fail in the C dassie DVD tower, and Brookey Givens of the PTO provided excellent email correspondence assistance, as well as a replacement drive which our computer technician installed without difficulty. Mahalo to Brookey.

We hope to send a representative to the 2001 training seminar and have submitted a grant application for a Friends of the Library of Hawaii continuing education grant to cover travel expenses. Keeping our fingers and eyes crossed.

- Jan Towarabara

Houston, Texas

Fondren Library, Rice University

What a busy year here in Houston!

The PTDL hosted one of the American Inventors Protection Act workshops in September. The extremely successful event was attended by over 200 independent inventors in the Houston area and by 130 attorneys! In addition to the special AIPA workshop, Fondren Library's PTDL continued to offer weekly patent classification searching classes to over 250 Houston inventors.

The PTDL partnership at Fondren Library, the South Central Intellectual Property Partnership at Rice (SCIPPR), said goodbye to Brian Rossman, Patent Information Specialist, last August and hello to Alice Phillips in November. Alice works part-time and handles most of the searching requests.

Barbara Kile, Director of SCIPPR, recently spoke at the BOBCATSS Symposium held in Vilnius, Lithuania. This annual conference in library and information science attracted students, teachers, researchers and practitioners from all over Europe. Barbara participated in a workshop on "Government Publications as Tools for Democracy". The PTO website was a highlight of the presentation. The PTO gifts of mousepads were extremely popular with the participants!

- Denise L. Arial

Indianapolis, Indiana

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

IMCPL has scheduled three public programs in the Internet Lab for hands-on searching of patents. The programs last 1 1/2 hours and are presented by the same two librarians each time. We had to close the first one in February, as we limited the classes to 10 people. We also trained 25 branch librarians in case somebody prefers to do searching at a branch rather than coming down to the Central Library. I put up a patent page on the web site and continue to tinker with it as I find things to add. I send any interesting tidbits to the local Inventor's Association, however it is rather like yelling down the rain barrel as I don't hear from them except when there is a program. Better than hearing too much, I suppose.

- Phyllis Karr

Jackson, Mississippi

Mississippi Library Commission

I am Indira Bhowal, the Government Services Manager, and have been responsible for the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program for the past three years. The Patent Technician, Mr. Lawrence Smith has been associated with this service for the past two years. Our Information Services Director, Ms. Velma Champion, has been involved with the program since its inception in 1990.

This program is housed in the Government Services area of the library. We are looking forward to a new building within the next couple of years. As a result, we are in the planning process of shifting our PTDL to a new location.

The Millennium 2000 was a very eventful year for the Jackson PTDL.

The Mississippi Small Business Development Center and the PTDL co-sponsored the Mississippi Inventors' Conference: "Inventing in the New Millennium" in Olive Branch, Mississippi in November. It was a huge success. Mr. Don Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of the Academy of Applied Sciences, was the guest speaker. The PTDL staff exhibited and demonstrated online patent and trademark searching to exhibit goers. Those who visited our booth received brochures, cups, pens and beautifully designed bookmarks. They also registered for door prizes. More than 100 people from around the country attended this conference.

In the month of September, we set up a booth at the newly constructed Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, to celebrate the Inventors' Day sponsored by the Society of Mississippi Inventors and to promote our PTDL services. More than 15 inventors displayed their inventions and approximately 600 people visited the museum that day.

Our newly designed PTDL brochure was sent to all state agencies, university libraries and all law firms in Jackson. Our old web page for the PTDL has also been redesigned with a new look.

I made a slide presentation on the 'Parts of a Patent' at the Society of Mississippi Inventors monthly meeting in May. It was well accepted by the large number of attendees. I was also interviewed by a local radio station, WJNT Channel 1180 AM, about our PTDL services. It was a wonderful experience.

We made a display at our library on Mississippi Inventors with some of their inventions to celebrate National Inventors' Month in August. A number of visitors, including a state senator, appreciated that display very much. A photograph of that display has been sent to
Inventors’ Digest magazine and will appear in one of their upcoming issues.

The PTDL sent e-mails to U.S. Senators Thad Cochran, Trent Lott and Representative Harold Rogers with a request to oppose the $300 million budget cuts of FY 2001 for the USPTO.

In the month of June, I contacted five state libraries, which are designated as PTDLs throughout the United States, with a request for the monthly statistics on number of patent and trademark requests received by each individual library.

We have started a user-satisfaction survey on our services to our patrons beginning at the end of 2000.

This year our new addition is a Microfilm Scanner 500 by Canon. It has a wonderful feature that allows us to e-mail copies of a patent to patrons outside the library. We have received a positive response from our patrons since we began this service.

The greatest achievement of this year is the new subscription for an online trademark database called Trademark.com. We are really enjoying this service. The state registrations, domain names and common law marks can all be searched in this database. The local SBDC is referring all of their patrons to us for a complete search of trademark information.

We are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of the coming year.

- Indira Bhowal

Kansas City, Missouri

Linda Hall Library

The Linda Hall Library opened to the public in 1946. Herbert Hall and his wife, Linda Hall, left the money for a library as part of their will. He was a businessman in the grain business in Kansas City. The couple had no children. Linda Hall died in 1938 and Herbert died in 1941. The library is built on their original 14-acre estate, located in the heart of Kansas City’s cultural community. The library is named for Mrs. Hall.

Linda Hall Library is the largest privately supported library of science, engineering, and technology in the United States. The library’s collections cover all areas of science, engineering, and technology (excluding clinical and surgical medicine).

Recently, we made our collections more accessible to the public by extending our circulation program to the general public! In the past we had a limited borrowing program in which we only loaned books and standards to some local companies and educational institutions. Now, individuals can borrow materials. This is a big change for the library. We will be handling this circulation activity over the Reference Desk.

We have not been using Cassie as much as we used to. We are using the PTO website much more. With walk-ins we may start with the paper patent search tools (I know I still tend to do it that way) and then go to the search tools and databases on the PTO’s website. Or, we may go straight to the web as the starting point, just depending on the situation and the patron. The recent linking of patent numbers to the classification system on the PTO’s website has been a significant enhancement in the searching process.

We are using USAPI a lot for actually printing full patents because it is so fast, compared to printing one page at a time from the PTO’s website. The PTO site is fine for short patents, but not much fun for patents which are several pages long.

Just recently, we finally removed the old leased computer (the company never came and took ours away). We acquired a brand new computer and networked it to the Mark III and added Internet access to both. So now we have two well-functioning workstations in our PTDL area.

Our Education Outreach Librarian, Nancy Green, conducted several orientation sessions covering patents and inventions for 4th through 6th grade students. Inventions are included in the local curriculums for those grades.

The annual meeting of our library’s Friends Group featured a talk by two patent attorneys. The talk was titled, “Aspects of Patenting the Human Genome: The Development, Controversy, and Rush to Patent the Human Genome.” It was a very popular talk, attended by over 60 people.

We have a new member of our Reference staff. Jann Frank comes to us from the public library, so this job is just a piece of cake for her. She is a quick study as far as patent searching and easily assists patrons with the search tools.

See you in March!

- Shannon Stipe

Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas State Library

Arkansas State Library staff welcomed Jack Mulkey as the new State Librarian and bid farewell to John “Pat” Murphey, upon his retirement. Jack was the former Associate Director of the agency. Both Mulkey and Murphey are avid supporters of the PTDL Program.

This past year our walk-in traffic for patent and trademark usage has decreased, but we received more phone calls from people wanting information about the USPTO website. We link to other intellectual property sites and several PTDL websites which we point out to our patrons doing Internet searches.

The Arkansas State Library, Arkansas Small Business Development Center, Federal Laboratory Consortium and Arkansas Technology Transfer Center sponsored an Intellectual Property Workshop, “Selling Your Idea.” Local patent attorneys and Debbie Hall of the State Library were presenters.

Mary Leckie, Coordinator of State Library Services, and Elizabeth Danley, Reference Librarian, attended the September 20, 2000 American Inventors Protection Act Workshop in Washington D.C. Because Elizabeth was new to patents and trademarks, Mary asked the Patent and Trademark Depository Program staff to arrange tours of search rooms, libraries, and the offices concerned with patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

Elizabeth writes the following about her visit to USPTO. “In the evenings we “talked shop” over dinner with PTDL Program staff members at favorite DC area restaurants. The search rooms were of
special interest for they were bustling with the activity of the public engaged in two distinct but complementary information technologies. In these rooms, people perused with equal comfort the contents of electronic screens and of paper documents housed in "shoeboxes." At the Lemelson Invention Center, we examined artifacts of American inventions: inventors' journals, prototypes, and products. Notebooks full of drawings and narrative descriptions presented tangible evidence of the evolution of inventions.

What made each of these visits especially informative and enjoyable were the staff who so warmly greeted us and explained the varied activities of each agency. What a terrific introduction to the world of intellectual property rights protection.... and they say that it was just a taste of what attendees experience at the Patent and Trademark Depository Training Seminars! I have already packed my suitcase!"

- Debbie Hall and Elizabeth Danley

Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library is one of five Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs) in California. We serve a varied urban and suburban clientele.

During the past year, the Science, Technology and Patents Department sponsored numerous free programs, held in the library auditorium, geared toward independent inventors and entrepreneurs. For the fourth consecutive year, we co-sponsored the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association's "Washington and the West" January seminar.

Rita Cotton and Juliette Chastang continue to supervise the clerks, all of whom work on the Patents Desk. Librarians work at one side of the Reference Desk in Science while Library Assistants and clerks deal with the public at the Patents Desk. Richard Acero and Carolyn Thomas are two new additions to our reference staff. Ms Cotton exceeds the demand for printed copies of everything from copyright forms to "How-To- Conduct-A-Trademark-Search" to training seminar announcements by making photocopying a continuous part of her job. We recently added an online program registration form to our website for patron convenience.

Easy, inexpensive online access to patents and other intellectual property forms and documents have greatly cut down requests for photocopies. This has been a good thing as our Library Photocopy Center ceased operating last summer. We must now make the photocopies then send them with a completed invoice to another floor for mailing and billing.

Availability of online information has cut down the number of patrons who come in to conduct patent and/or trademark searches. However, patrons seem to need more guidance than ever to filter through all the web data and conduct thorough searches. More time is spent with patrons both in person and on the telephone. We have noticed more genealogists using the patent collection and, as word spreads among this growing group, expect all PTDLs to be increasingly visited by family history researchers.

- Helen Haskell

Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Free Public Library

Hi, I'm Rae Shepherd-Shelechter, and I'm not only unspellable and unpronounceable, I'm the Patents and Trademarks Librarian for the Louisville Free Public Library in Louisville, KY.

2000 was an exciting year for me, because I have been working on an online version of Statistical Abstracts (statistics about the state of Kentucky) for the Kentucky Virtual Library, and I have also come up with a patents and trademarks web page for this site. My name is not yet in lights and online, but it should be happening soon. Check out the Kentucky Virtual Library at www.kyvl.org

In addition to my monthly workshops at the library, this year I gave a presentation on patents and trademarks at the Kentucky Library Association's fall meeting. In LFPL's BROC (Best Reference Sources on Computer) meeting in October, I had a chance to train our branch librarians as well as the reference staff at Main. Just this monthly the Ford Truck Plant called me in to do a continuing education workshop on patents and the independent inventor for Ford staff, and I hope to do more for the company in the future.

On a final note, LFPL gave prizes of free passes to the Thomas Edison House in Louisville in the hopes of inspiring budding little and big inventors in their search for fame and fortune. When they make their bazillion dollars, I hope they remember their favorite patents librarian.

- Rae Shepherd-Shelechter

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 include Sarah Calces, our PTDL representative and Head of Resources, Technical Reports Librarian Nancy Spitzer, and Reference Librarian Anne Vandeburgh. We help patrons with patent questions through appointments, phone reference and email reference. Having the images of all patents available on the Internet and most of the earlier patents on DVD has made a big difference in helping our patrons obtain documents. This year Anne Vandeburgh will be coming to Washington for the patent seminar.

Highlights this year:

- Class session on intellectual property in general and patents in particular for the UW School of Library Science course on Government Information.
- Class session on the value of patent information for an undergraduate credit course given by Wendt librarians called, Technical Information Resources for Engineers.
- A WebCT module on patent information for a distance education course developed by Wendt librarians.
- Class session on patents for an undergraduate class in Biological Systems Engineering (for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences).
- Class on patent searching for Medical Physics graduate students.
- Workshop on finding chemical patents for faculty and grad students in Chemistry.
- Last February our display for National Engineers Week depicted "Wisconsin Ideas," highlighting landmark patents by Wisconsin inventors. This February an exhibit celebrates African American History Month, depicting scientists and inventors such as George Washington Carver, Elijah McCoy and Madame CJ. Walker.
- Patrons asked for help finding historical patents, e.g. a "split lock" washer for field glasses found on the Custer Battlefield, design patents for Haviland China, pressed glass articles from Tiffen, Ohio, and a Colt revolver from 1836.

- Nancy Spitzer

Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

General Library, Mayaguez Campus, University of Puerto Rico

Greetings from the Tropics, where even in winter temperatures remain in the 80s.

The year 2000 exciting one at the Library at Mayaguez. An event was a conference on Property Rights conducted by Heath W. Hoglund of San Juan in September. Turned out to be an exciting conference with over 100 attendees, representing independent inventors, students, professors, scientists, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs, businesspeople and government officials, found the conference a very rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Other activities to report include exhibits, presentations, patent search workshops, short seminars, personnel training, speeches, talks, and lectures and a visit by a high-ranking member of the Panamanian Government. In December, Mr. Samuel A. Moreno, an international trade negotiator/economist from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Panama visited Puerto Rico. Among his top priorities was a visit to the Mayaguez PDTL. Mr. Moreno was particularly interested in opening communications channels between Panamanian inventors and the PDTL and how we could help and assist them in getting access to our resources. The visit was arranged by the U.S. State Department and coordinated locally by the State Department of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In May, the staff organized a colorful exhibit about rose plant patents, which was sponsored by the Document and Map Collection of the General Library. In June, the PDTL's two brochures in English and Spanish were revised and updated, as were also its two webpages. In August, a permanent exhibit of the first patent issued in 1790 and the story behind it was presented to the public. This exhibit has generated a lot of interest among visitors and clients.

- Franklyn Irizarry

Miami, Florida

Miami-Dade Public Library

I have been the PDTL representative from the Miami-Dade Public Library since 1991. The Library became a PDTL in 1984. This year, John Shipley transferred out of the Business & Science Dept. and is no longer involved with patents and trademarks. We have gained two new staff members, Lina Velez and Carmen Doreucho. Liza Acosta, our library assistant who updates the databases and otherwise assists patrons using our PDTL collection, is currently on Maternity Leave, having delivered daughter Ada Victoria on January 23. We will be updating our monthly patent class presentation this year, and converting it to a PowerPoint presentation. Carmen has already attended the necessary in-service PowerPoint classes that Lina and I will attend in March and April.

- Robert Klein

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee's Central Library is the headquarters for the Milwaukee Public Library System and its twelve branches. It also houses the Milwaukee County Federated System, which is composed of 14 suburban libraries, in addition to the Milwaukee Public Library System.

As part of a complete renovation of the 102-year-old Central Library, the Business, Technology and Periodicals Room has been updated to offer improved access to information, materials and resources through new technology and services. A major benefit is the library's increased access to technology, an essential component of today's library service. The room has 30 computer stations with Internet access, more than double the previous number. An adjacent new computer lab offers additional 17 computers, a SMART Board and other state-of-the-art equipment for public instruction.

The Business/Science/Technology area includes reference materials in pure sciences, health, technology, business information, patents, trademarks, statistics and census materials. Many customers use the collection to research existing companies or to find information on starting a business.

The Periodicals area includes thousands of magazines and more than 100 newspapers from all over the United States. Librarians assist customers in locating articles either in print or electronic formats.
Many individuals use this area to find consumer information, vehicle prices and stock quotes.

In essence, we have streamlined our collections in order to incorporate resources that are only available in electronic format. These additions compliment an already comprehensive collection of valuable information, not the least of which is a complete up-to-date Patent and Trademark collection recognized as a partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a Depository Library.

The Business, Technology and Periodicals Room has been a popular place with library patrons over the years and we are eager to let more people know about recent improvements and how the library can be of better service in this electronic age. We have moved our paper copies of U.S. Patents to the tier for in-house retrieval and our microfilm collection has been moved to a microformat area that now has six new digital reader/printers. The Cassie DVD-ROM was the forerunner to this new technology and has a place of its own in the Business, Science and Technology area. We have placed CD-ROM/DVD-ROM storage cabinets next to the Cassie workstation and patrons have a self-service environment for USAPat and USAMark. Inventors, book authors, the general public and staff have adjusted well to this new DVD-ROM technology. We have placed an on-line Internet terminal workstation next to the Cassie workstation and the two supplement each other.

Our web page (www.mpl.org) has a category "Patents and Trademarks" that links one to the USPTO web site, IBM web site, esp@cenet web site, British Library web site and a few more. In this transition period, when we had instances in which paper copy resources weren't available, the above web sites became educational tools for staff to learn in order to continue our high level of public service.

Representatives of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, sponsor of the Inventors Protection Act of 1999, visited the Milwaukee Public Library in the year 2000 as part of their outreach tour. Speakers from the Patent Office gave two presentations: one for the attorneys and legal staff and one for the inventors. A total of 139 were in attendance to hear about the recent American Inventors Protection Act and to learn how to file patent applications via the Internet.

On behalf of the entire Milwaukee Public Library staff, I would like to thank the staff of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for providing Cassie (DVD-ROM and CD-ROM) and Internet electronic searching capabilities. The results are beneficial in many ways that cannot be adequately described by words. The end user objectives and goals of the CD-ROM and DVD-ROM Project have been met in all aspects. It is cost-effective, provides hands-on public access, and disseminates U.S. patent and trademark information by using the latest technology. In conclusion, I have one item on my wish list and that is to see in the DVD-ROM format a list of patentees taken from the "Commissioner of Patents-Report" back to 1790.

- Ted Cebula

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center

The depository library in the Technology/Science/Government Documents Division of Minneapolis Public Library has undergone major changes in the past year, and is looking towards even more profound alterations.

Our primary loss this year was the retirement of Tom Smisek, who had the sense to start early in the library and got out after thirty years with most of his brain still intact. (We still don't know how he chewed through the shackles.) The loss of Tom's many years of expertise—not to mention his infinite number of stories—has left a huge hole in our staff complement. Despite this, and the fact that he refused to take the pager we bought him as a good-bye gift (we would have only used it a few times a day), we wish him well in his new role as Mr. Mom, motorcycle tinkerer, and general layabout.

His leaving has put the department down two full-time librarians, with another, part-time, library assistant retiring in March. Our professional complement will then be 28.5%, smaller than it was in December.

The future of ALL these positions is unclear, because last November Minneapolis voters approved funds for a new central library. As it now appears, sometime in 2002, we may be working in an interim site, under unknown conditions. All bets are off as to what the new departmental configurations could be in this brave new world. Luckily, this should coincide with the last shipment of DVD patent records, which will greatly aid us in moving to what will likely be much smaller space.

The only certain thing, with regard to the patent and trademark collections, is that the interest in, and use of, the collection will continue unabated. And I am lucky enough to have remaining on my staff, smart, intuitive people who are second to none in their dedication to public service and their determination not to let me go postal as I try to do the 17 hours of things Tom did in every 8-hour day.

- Bill Johnston

Morgantown, West Virginia

Evansdale Library, West Virginia University

Hello, my name is Natalie Rutledge. I've been the PTDL Representative since West Virginia University first became a Patent Depository Library in 1991. This year we begin the project of officially adding to our on-line catalog the paper 100 year patent back file which we received several years ago, courtesy of the PTDL Office. Upon arrival, the collection, which had originally been in New York Public Library, remained in boxes in storage in anticipation of the remodeling of this building. The remodeling was completed last year. The patents now reside in our new compact storage area and in several ranges on the second floor of our building. Also completed last year was the
WVU Libraries remote storage facility. Once cataloging is completed, part of this collection will be sent to remote storage. The collection has been a pleasant surprise to many patrons who came to the library assuming that viewing an older patent might involve considerable delay.

This year I held instruction sessions for classes in Technology Education, Business Management, and Engineering. As in previous years, individual inventors have visited the library through referrals from the USPTO, by patent attorneys, and just word of mouth.

- Natalie Rutledge

Moscow, Idaho

University of Idaho Library

2000 was an interesting and challenging year for the Patent and Trademark operations at the University of Idaho. We ran short of space for shelving the Official Gazette, but we were able to rearrange some index table shelves. The shelving units have adjustable shelves above a slanted reading surface with knee space much like a desk. We have set them up to accommodate three to four shelves on each side. We have placed the patent and trademark searching tools on one side and the annual indexes for the OG on the other side. This will give us about five years of growth space on the regular shelving and actually makes the annual indexes more usable.

We continue to work with engineering design classes at both the University of Idaho and at Washington State University in addition to our outreach programs to the Small Business Development Centers across the state. Many of our referrals come to us from the SBDC offices in southern Idaho. Even with the databases available on the web from the USPTO, our patrons prefer to consult the Manual of Classification in paper format and then to review corresponding lists of related patents. For those who do not have web access, we provide them with a list of patent numbers related to their selected patent classes and subclasses and refer them to a nearby institution that has the either the OG or the USAPat available. We are fortunate that several of the libraries in southern Idaho have elected to receive the OG in microfiche format and/or the USAPat discs from GPO.

We had a change of personnel in our reference unit in the fall. The new reference librarian, Karen Hertel, has agreed to work with the patents and trademarks. She has been sitting in during Casisis orientations with visiting inventors and is demonstrating that she will be an excellent representative of the UI Library and the PTDL program. Karen and I will be working together through the end of 2001 and then it becomes her responsibility.

We have found that there was a decline in the number of patent and trademark related questions received late in 1999 and early in 2000, but there has been a rebound in contacts during late 2000 and early 2001. It appears that some folks think they can do a patent search on the web but soon discover the limitations of that resource and are returning to our facilities. One frequent comment is about the slowness of retrieving and displaying the full text images in comparison with the speed of the displays from USAPat and USAMark.

As in past years, some of our most difficult questions arise from archaeologists and historians. They may encounter an artifact with partial information identifying source and need help determining when and where the item(s) were produced. Many times we can determine this information using our own resources, but occasionally we need to call on the PTDL staff for assistance. They can almost always provide the information to fill in the empty blanks. Thanks especially to Mike White and Claudine Jenda for help this past year.

- Donna Hanson

New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven Free Public Library

I am Lorraine Murphy and I have been the PTDL Representative at New Haven Free Public Library for 2 years. Our PTDL has been part of the Science & Technology Department since we opened in 1997. Librarians Tony Pasquaroni and Betsy Goldberg continue to staff the PTDL. We were lucky to hire new librarian Seth Godfrey this fall. He came to us with some experience from the patent world, having once worked at the former PTDL at Science Park in New Haven.

Our major staff change this year was our new director. James Welbourne, formerly of the Baltimore Public Library System, has purchased our first bookmobile and is developing plans for a new branch.

We are very excited for one of our hardest working patrons. His 11-year-old daughter invented a soda can tab lifter for a school contest. He has trademarked the name she gave the product and is well into the patenting process. His latest news in that Coca-Cola is interested in having their name on his daughter's invention. We are hoping he will be our first big success story.

- Lorraine Murphy

Newark, Delaware

University of Delaware Library

I'm now approaching my 12th anniversary as the PTDL representative for the Morris Library at the University of Delaware, and in November we will celebrate our 21st year as a member of the PTDL program. My position is as a reference librarian with a specialty in Engineering, so we are part of the Reference Department in the library, but the majority of the collection is housed downstairs in our Government Document department. The Casisis terminal and all of the searching tools are located in an area of the Reference Room that we call the "Patents Alcove," so patrons do most of their initial searching in the Reference Room and then use the materials downstairs as needed. With the availability of on-line copies of patents there is less need for patrons to use the microfilm or the Gazettes, so they don't do as much running up and down the stairs as they used to.
The past year has seen an increase in the number of people inquiring about the various web sites that are now available, a sure sign of the increasing knowledge and use of the web by independent inventors in our area. I have had to modify my traditional method of search instructing to allow for the use of the online resources, especially the improved versions of the Index, the Manual of Classification, and the Classification Definitions. I find that those patrons who are experienced with the web prefer to use the online resources available from the USPTO because of the ease that they provide in moving from Index to Manual to definition, etc. However, there are still many patrons who are shaky about using the web and still prefer the traditional print resources. When scheduling appointments for instruction I now make a point of asking about the patrons use of the web, how comfortable they are in using on line resources, and then decide which materials, print or electronic, to concentrate my instruction on.

On February 20, I did a presentation on patent searching for the Small Business Development Center of Delaware, the first of what I hope will be a series of patent related events sponsored by the Center. I'll be participating in the panel discussion on non-inventors uses of patents that Julia Crawford is organizing for the ALA conference this summer and I'm excited about having a reason to attend an ALA conference for once!

- Tom Meisgen

Newark, New Jersey

Newark Public Library

Hello, my name is James Capuano, and I am the PTDL representative for the Newark Public Library. The Business, Science and Technology Reference area of the Newark Public Library is the home of the patent and trademark collection, and my colleagues in this division are Dale Colston, Simone Galik, Curt Idrogo, Maureen Ritter and Wilbert Stevens. Wilbert will be our representative to the 2001 conference.

Our library has been part of the depository system since 1900, and we continue to assist a "technology rich" community. Both Rutgers and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) have major campuses in Newark, and it is the home of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). City and community leaders have joined with Rutgers, UMDNJ, NJIT and Essex County College to plan the new University Heights Science Park - a 50-acre site that will contain research centers, housing, a magnet science and technology high school and office space. The International Center for Public Health will open in Science Park in the fall of 2001.

Patrons can use CASI on the PTDL workstation in the Business, Science and Technology Reference area. We also have two PCs devoted to patents, trademarks and copyright. These computers have the Patent and Trademark Office site. The Official Gazette (paper and microfilm) is in this area, as are the patents on microfilm and the patents on CD-ROM and DVD-ROM. Our patrons have embraced the CD/DVD full text versions of the patents. No more printing page by page from microfilm - if they can help it.

Internet access is a major issue at public libraries, and we continue to expand the number of computers that have access to the web. A special computer room - the Victoria Technology Center - has 15 Internet workstations, and the reading room on the second floor now has 10 more. In addition, the Center allows patrons to use the Microsoft programs: Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Word.

The library received a major gift for its patent and trademark collection in 2000. A local donor gave the library copies of the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents/Official Gazette in paper from 1854-1930. We also received funds to conserve these volumes from the same individual.

- James Capuano

Orlando, Florida

University of Central Florida Libraries

Greetings from the Orlando PTDL. My name is Peter Spyers-Duran, and I have been the PTDLP Representative at the University of Central Florida (UCF) for the past 4 years. UCF is a rapidly growing public research university with approximately 34,000 students. The PTDL is part of the Reference Department. On duty reference librarians are responsible for helping patrons with their patent and trademark research. This past year considerable time was spent creating and then updating online tutorials to help our patrons conduct preliminary trademark research using TESS and also preliminary patent research using the USPTO Web Patent Database. As many of our patent and trademark patrons call or e-mail seeking assistance and never come to the library, the tutorials enable us to provide assistance that we otherwise could not provide.

The UCF Library was host to the Central Florida Library Consortium seminar "What's Up Docs: Documents Reference for

- Peter Spyers-Duran

Piscataway, New Jersey

Library of Science & Medicine, Rutgers University

This has been an extremely quiet year for the patent and trademark depository here at Rutgers University Library of Science and Medicine. We still have patrons who visit the library on a regular basis and prefer to use the Cassia workstation in our quiet reference corner. Our PC Coordinator Mike Giarlo, who had been responsible for updating and maintaining the workstation, accepted a promotion and moved to our College Ave. campus in New Brunswick. Newly hired PC coordinator, Beth Sawicki, is currently in training.

We had a very brief moment this spring when we were incommunicado with the PTDL office listserve due to a new spam filter on the Rutgers email accounts. Thankfully, USPTO staff solved this problem fairly quickly, and we are receiving messages once again.

Our library installed a color photocopy machine this fall, so patrons can now make color copies of plant patents, etc. We also installed network printing capacity on all the public workstations, so patrons can print (black and white only) from the USPTO web pages (at ten cents per page). The library's CopiCenter now also offers a scanning service with a color printer.

Several questions about patents were received through the library's "Ask a Librarian" service on our web page. This service is open to anyone who clicks on our page, and receives queries from researchers and inquisitive folk worldwide. Although we prefer to answer questions about the Rutgers library collections or New Jersey, a volunteer staff of 14 librarians answers all questions posed within 48 hours. Questions about patents and trademarks are generally referred to me for a reply, and it is interesting to note how many are about international or foreign patents.

Connie Wu has been busy in her unofficial role as ambassador of goodwill, meeting with officials from the USPTO in China this fall. Connie was on faculty leave in China completing her research at the Chinese Patent Office. She also gave several talks at various institutions and universities while in China. And, after returning to the States in November, she assisted our USPTO as translator for visiting officials from China in Crystal City.

Neither Connie nor I will be able to attend the PTDL seminar this March. But I know I can count on attendees to give a warm welcome to our medical librarian, Jackie Mardikian, who will be there representing Rutgers University PTDL.

- Ellen Calboun

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The Science and Technology Department put on three seminars in the fall of 2000 at our Gates Technology Learning Center Laboratory. The seminars were geared toward the first-time patent searchers, each of whom is seated at a separate PC workstation. The Lab can accommodate sixteen people per session and each seminar was oversubscribed. We plan to do more seminars in the Spring of 2001.

The Department printed a selected booklist on trademarks and patents. This annotated booklist highlights fourteen new books published in the last two years. The Department also put out a new "Six Step Strategy" for conducting a trademark search and an updated "Seven Step Strategy" for conducting a patent search. Each of these strategies provides numerous web links to the uspto.gov site. Websites covering invention promotion fraud were also added to our PTDL site.

- Kim Chrobak

Raleigh, North Carolina

D.H. Hill Library, North Carolina State University

This has been a busy year at the NCSU Libraries' PTDL.

- The Raleigh PTDL web page was completed
  http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/risdl/patent/index.html

- The PTDL and NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Department created a joint exhibit entitled INVENTIONS! The display was prominently placed in the lobby where it had wide exposure. Each display case contained the PTDL designation certificate, examples of the various types of patents, a copy of an Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents from the 1850's open to an invention related to North Carolina and examples of famous patents. The other 6 display cases showcased the patents granted to members of the NCSU faculty. Many faculty contributed special awards or plaques denoting their patent achievements. Also included in the cases were some of the actual articles that were patented. The exhibit was on view from May 1 - July 30, 2000. The Special Collections Department also created a web page for the exhibit
  http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/archives/exhibits/patents

- In June while attending SLA in Philadelphia, I had the opportunity to take a side trip to the Hagley Museum and Library in Delaware. This is the birthplace of the duPont Company. The main attraction as far as I was concerned was a large collection of patent models that were displayed in floor to ceiling glass and wooden cases in the library's conference room. It was also interesting to see how gunpowder was made and to hear about the early years of an important US company.
The Raleigh PDTL hosted one of the early “road shows” for the American Inventors Protection Act (AIPA) and electronic filing of patents. Three staff from the USPTO offered sessions on two consecutive days to attorneys and other patent professionals and then to inventors and entrepreneurs. These sessions were held July 13-14, 2000. Over 50 people attended the two sessions. The response was so positive that outside sponsorship has been found to bring USPTO staff back to the Raleigh PDTL in June 2001 to offer the session again.

On August 21, 2000 the PDTL had a brief visit from a group of (6) Russian librarians from Sakhalin Oblast which is an island northwest of Japan. The librarians were visiting libraries to learn how government information is distributed in the United States. The public documents librarian at Duke University who coordinated the visit in North Carolina felt that learning about the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program would add to their experience. Through their interpreter, I talked about the PDTLP and demonstrated the USPTO web site to them.

- Assisted Jim Arnhem and Jeanne Oliver in the USPTO booth at the Public Library Association meeting in Charlotte, NC on March 30, 2000.

- Spoke about patent searching to Mechanical Engineering Senior Design classes, fall 2000 and spring 2001; Technology Evaluation and Commercialization course in the School of Management, fall 2000; Industrial Design class, fall 2000 and spring 2001; and about history of patents in the US and patent searching to a group of students from the North Carolina State University’s First Year College, fall 2000.

- The most important and rewarding activity has been the consultation with inventors from around the state. Access to the USPTO web page has not diminished our business, just changed it. I kept informal statistics regarding contact with patent and trademark clients. From last March to February 23, 2001 I have personally talked to on the telephone, e-mailed, faxed, or consulted in-house with over 122 clients. Fifty-eight of those clients came to the NCSU Libraries for in person consultation. Time spent with each individual varied from 15 minutes to over an hour. This does not include any questions handled by the other members of the Research and Information Services Department staff.

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program is Alive and Well in Raleigh.

- Jean Porter

Reno, Nevada

University Library, University of Nevada-Reno

Although there were no significant changes in 2000 for the PDTL at the University of Nevada, Reno, several things seem noteworthy. The PDTL staff conducted a patent searching workshop in early August for local high school science teachers. The workshop was part of a special course on teaching about innovation and entrepreneurship, in support of a $100,000 undergraduate scholarship competition made possible by the Lemelson Foundation. Secondly, the appearance of our service area was enhanced by framing and hanging several plant and design patents (the images were digitized, then enlarged). The staff have found these useful when explaining aspects of patents to patrons, for example, references and other information on a patent’s front page. Lastly, we’ve expanded our collection of intellectual property reference books and added circulating copies of high-interest titles.

- Patrick Ragains

Rochester, New York

Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County

The Patent and Trademark Center at Rochester’s Central Library occupies a prominent place in the Sciences, Technology and Health Department. We have been part of the PDTL Program for two years. The department is staffed by myself, Division Head Jeff Levine, Librarian Jay Osborne, and part-time Librarians Lydia Watt and Mary Seebach.

Most of our customers looking for patent information are independent inventors intent on doing patent searches. We do get a smattering of visitors with other interesting questions. Some of our favorites are the folks who have widgets with patent numbers printed on them in their hands, wanting to know what in the heck it is. We also occasionally have genealogical researchers and historians. The customer that gave me the biggest challenge this year was a graduate Psychology student. He was planning a research thesis on whether patent holders are more “inspired” than the general population (seems obvious to me) and needed a mailing list of local patent holders so that he could send them questionnaires. With a little help from Claudine, there was no problem providing a file in mailing label format.

The Patent and Trademark Center is only one of my responsibilities, and I often wish that I had the luxury of spending more time with it. I did write an expanded version of the 7 Steps detailing where to find the materials in our Center. I also wrote a one page “Before you apply for a Patent...” handout especially for the folks who appear at the desk and announce, “I have a great idea and need a patent application right away.” As you know, there are a few things to consider first!

During National Inventor’s Month last August, we participated in a program with a local inventor’s group, The Inventor’s Society of New York. We had three local independent inventors tell their stories – both the good and the bad, and it was fascinating! A local patent attorney also spoke on why you should do a patent search, and how to use the library. This January I did a continuing education presentation for the Rochester Regional Library Council, which sponsors a series of “Pizza and...” nights. We had “Pizza and Patents.” Local librarians were interested in learning about the depository, and the basics of a patent search. The program was very well received, so I will be doing another in June on using the Web for patent searches.

I have 2 grandchildren now, and I love to brag. If you know what’s good for you don’t ask if I have any pictures! See you all in DC.

- Deb Leary
Sacramento, California

California State Library

This past year was filled with quite a bit of activity at the Sacramento PTDL. Brent Miller, who was the senior librarian for public services and the PTDL representative, was promoted to supervisory librarian of the Government Publications Section. Kris Ogilvie was hired as the new senior librarian for public services and the PTDL representative in May of 2000.

In June, the Government Publications section, of which the PTDL is a part, returned from its temporary location to its home in the historic 1927 Beaux Arts building across the street from the Capitol. The staff was happy to return, and our patent and trademark researchers were delighted that the library is back in downtown, despite the lack of parking in the area.

In late summer, PatentCafe.com contacted the library to ask if they could film a segment of PBS' television program American Business Review with Morley Safer in the library. The library was happy to oblige. Donald G. Kelly, the former Director of the Patent Examining Group at USPTO, was interviewed as part of the segment on Intellectual Property in Business. The segment will air through the end of the third quarter of 2001.

- Kristine Ogilvie

Salt Lake City, Utah

Marriott Library, University of Utah

Hi, everyone! My name's Dave Morrison, and I'm the PTDL Representative at the Marriott Library of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. I came to the library as documents librarian and PTDL representative in 1987, and have been here ever since. From 1996 to 1998, I was the Patent Fellowship Librarian at the PTDL Office in Crystal City - an opportunity that no PTDL librarian should pass up! - and served the PTDLA as Chair from March 1999 to March 2000.

The Salt Lake City PTDL, located in the Government Documents and Microforms Division of the University of Utah Marriott Library, was designated a PTDL in 1984. The library has been a GPO depository since 1893, and is also a depository library for the United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization, UNESCO and the State of Utah. All division staff - including head Jill Moriearty, five librarians, three senior staff, and six student assistants - provide basic patent and trademark reference services to our patrons. I handle the more specialized patent and trademark reference questions, and U.S. documents reference.

Undoubtedly the highlight of this past year was our chance to host a local presentation of the AIPA seminar series covering the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 and new e-commerce initiatives at the USPTO. Two days of programs were presented in the Marriott Library by Stephen G. Kunin, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, and three USPTO experts on the changes to patent law mandated by the AIPA and the new EFS (Electronic Filing System) and PAIR (Patent Application Information Retrieval) systems.

Our first day, targeted at local patent attorneys and IP professionals, was an unqualified success. The second day program, intended for individual inventors and the general public, started out with snow storms and travel advisories, so attendance was limited.

Documents and Microform Division staff continue to report an increasing amount of patent and trademark reference by phone. Typically, our patrons start out on the USPTO Web pages and U.S. patent database, and call us for reference assistance. We also talk a lot of phone patrons through the process of installing a TIFF-viewer such as AltemaTIFF so the patron may view the patent images as well as text at home. After an extended period of declining foot traffic in the Division we are seeing more people again coming in for reference assistance and training before searching patents and trademarks.

We also see more folks coming in to do historical research in the U.S. patent database, with some people more interested in the inventors themselves, and others more interested in the areas of technology. My own technical and historical interest in the banjo led me to do some patent research of my own this past year. The two most important U.S. banjo patents for the period I'm most interested in are:

U.S. Pat. 928,948 (July 27, 1909) - issued to David L. Day and assigned to the Vega Company of Boston, Massachusetts. This invention for a banjo rim was marketed as "the Whyte Laydie" banjo in many different models.

Almost all models were made out of a novel (for that period) light-blond maple wood for the rim and neck.

U.S. Pat. 1,090,937 (Mar. 24, 1914) - issued to Nelson J. Nelson and also assigned to the Vega Company of Boston. This invention, mostly for the circular, rectangular-sectioned tonal chamber with holes facing the interior of the rim,
became known as the "Tu-Ba-Phone" tone ring, and was used by the Vega Company for their finest instruments until the early 1970s.

These two banjo patents mark the beginning of what has been described as the "Golden Period" of American banjomaking, centered in Boston at the turn of the last century.

-Dave Morrison

San Diego, California

San Diego Public Library

The PTDL in the San Diego Public Library is in the Science and Industry/Government Publications Department of the Central Library. Our staff consists of four librarians, two library assistants and one library clerk. We never run out of things to do! This year we had a 150% turnover in two of the librarian positions.

Our walk-in business in patents and trademarks has declined over the last several years, but we do a lot of how-to over the phone and more recently by email.

San Diego Public Library was pleased to host the AIPA roadshow. There was an excellent turnout, with some attendees coming from as far away as Idaho.

I mentioned a couple of years ago that we were hoping to move into a new library by 2002 or 2003. That schedule has slipped to an undetermined future.

Have a great conference; you'll have the pleasure of meeting Gary Klockenga, SDPL's government publications librarian, who will be attending for SDPL this year.

-Nora Brooks

San Francisco, California

San Francisco Public Library

The Patent and Trademark Center at the San Francisco Public Library is located in the Government Information Center. The Center contains 5 computer terminals; two devoted to Cassie, two to the USPTO website and one for printing full text patents from USAPat and Patview (1974-1993). Peter Warhit has been the PTDL representative for the past year and a half. SFPL has been a PTDL for the past 6 years.

San Francisco Public Library was the first city on the USPTO's AIPA lecture tour back in June of last year. Last year we began a series of classes on basic patent searching. We also began a series of free patent legal clinics with Jack Lo, author of The Patent Drawing Book. In the clinic, Jack meets with independent inventors one on one. Jack will be sharing his knowledge and expertise with a larger audience in a question and answer presentation in April of this year.

To celebrate the beginning of the professional football season and the World Series, we displayed a group of sports trademarks. During the protracted post election period, we displayed a series of historical patents on voting technology. One of the patents displayed, "Voting Machine", was invented in San Francisco - patent number 544,218 and had a publication date of August 6, 1895. Inventor: Salomon Ducas.

-Peter Warhit
Seattle, Washington

Engineering Library, University of Washington

Well, I can safely say the 6.8 earthquake of February 28, 2001 is the biggest thing to "hit" the Seattle PTDL over the past year!

The building is just fine...the book stacks are not. We are happy to report that no one was injured. As this Newsletter goes to press, our three upper floors (books, journals, microforms) are closed; the first floor is open. The PTDL collection and research area (except for older OGs) is located on the first floor. The University and the UW Libraries are in the midst of bracing solutions, shelving assessments, stack replacement planning, expediting document delivery and ILL services, etc., etc. Staff access to the shelves in order to retrieve materials for patrons is our primary goal at this point. I certainly will have a story to tell at next year's Seminar!! Needless to say, a lot of activities and projects are being pushed to the side for now. To keep up with our recovery process and see photos of the damage, check out our website at

www.lib.washington.edu/Engineering

In the middle of all this, a new librarian started! Linda Wang joined the staff in March 2001 as Engineering Instructional Services Librarian. Julie Cook joined us in 2000 as Engineering Information Services Librarian. We have had some staff turn over in both librarian and classified staff positions. We are currently trying to fill 2 vacant classified staff positions. The UW Libraries also has a new Director, Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson. Betty Bengston retired in December. Betsy was Associate Director of Libraries here at the UW.

We hosted the USPTO AIPA/Electronic Filing workshop in October 2000. After a few technical glitches, things went well. My thanks to Dave Talbott and his colleagues!

As Editor, I want to thank everyone for submitting items for this PTDLA Newsletter. My apologies for the late publication date. Thanks so much for your e-mails of support during our earthquake "trial" - it is appreciated. I will not be able to attend the Seminar this year. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2002

- Christina Byrne

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Patent & Trademark Library, Oklahoma State University

Greetings from Oklahoma! The Oklahoma State University PTDL, in Stillwater, Oklahoma has been a depository since 1956. The OSU PTDL is a separate branch library and is staffed by two librarians: Julia Crawford and Cokie Anderson; two staff: Jay Decker and Madeleine Hounslow; and several students.

Librarians Cokie Anderson & Julia Crawford have been busy completing outreach activities to the Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers, Kansas and Oklahoma Inventor groups, K-12 educators, librarians, state legislators, and Oklahoma Manufacturing representatives.

Recent outreach to new and existing faculty also presented some wonderful new presentation opportunities to classes in Engineering, Business Law, Housing Design, Entrepreneurship and Marketing. Additionally, the monthly program entitled "Food Entrepreneurs," hosted by the OSU Food & Agricultural Products Research & Technology Center, includes a standing presentation by one of the librarians on "What you need to know about Trademarks."

Librarian Cokie Anderson was selected to serve as "Members Records Holder" for the America Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Special Interest Group on Digital Libraries. Julia Crawford was awarded "Outstanding New Librarian" in April by the Oklahoma Library Association. Crawford was elected Vice President/President Elect for both the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association and the Oklahoma chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries.

Articles published this year include:


Springfield, Illinois

Illinois State Library

2000-2001 has been an interesting year for the ISL PTDL. Last February, a colleague indicated that she would like to develop a specialty in learning to deal with the PTDL. It turned out that this has been one of the best interests that could have occurred. Cheryl Gota-Smith will be attending Seminar this year and will be really raring to go when we return to Springfield.
Greetings from sunny Florida! My name is Cheryl McCoy, and I have been the PTDL representative for the Tampa PTDL since 1995. In my position as Assistant Head of Reference/Government Documents Coordinator, I administer the federal, state, and patent and trademark depositories here at the University of South Florida, Tampa Campus Library.

The USF Tampa Campus Library has been a PTDL since March 1990. The Patent and Trademark Library is located in Government Documents and is open to the public the same hours as the rest of the library (108 hours per week). Administratively, Government Documents is part of the Reference Department, but due to its physical location on another floor (the basement - very rare in this part of Florida), we maintain a separate reference desk to service the collections.

There have been many personnel changes since last year, but I am happy to report that, after a somewhat challenging year, Government Documents is currently fully staffed. In October 2000, we welcomed Maryellen Allen as the new Reference/Government Documents Librarian. Maryellen and I both work half-time in Government Documents and half-time in Reference (which means that the two of us together equal one documents/patent librarian). In January 2001, we welcomed three new staff members, Julie Sayles, Lessette Espinosa, and John Tooze. At this point, the new staff members are somewhat fearful of the patent search process, but they are learning! The Documents staff members are the core of the Gov Docs Public Services Team. They provide back-up service during the week and are our mainstay during the evening and weekend hours. In addition to the Documents staff, there are a number of brave reference and cataloging librarians who provide documents/patent reference service during peak weekday hours.

This year at the Tampa PTDL, we have noticed a tremendous decrease in the number of patrons who come in to use our facility. USF is a large urban university (35,000+ students), but we rarely have anyone from campus using the PTDL resources and services. Our
Patron base has always been from the surrounding community, and we used to have a large number of what we affectionately called "patent people." Now our statistics have really bottomed out, and it is not unusual for a week to go by without a single patron. Here in Tampa, for whatever reason, regularly scheduled training sessions have always been poorly attended, so we created a series of self-guided handouts that walk patrons through the search process. Of course, we have always been there to help so this system has worked very well for us, particularly during those times when we have been short-staffed.

This year has definitely been the year that the Internet took over, so early in the year, I decided that we needed to move our self-guided concept to the Internet. Several months in the making, but finally last fall, the Tampa PTDL tutorials for patent searching and trademark searching made their debut on our website. When we get a chance to speak to a potential patron, we try to encourage them to come to the library to do their patent/trademark research but so often their preference is to use the web, and they don't come. Here at USF, we routinely make referrals to our online tutorials and have come to view these as an extension of our service mission as a PTDL.

-Cheryl McCoy

Tempe, Arizona

Noble Science & Engineering Library, Arizona State University

The past year marked another busy year for the Tempe PTDL. Its librarians and staff used special programming and exhibits to inform searchers of what a Patent and Trademark Depository Library has to offer.

In May, PTDL Representative Tom Turner gave the presentation "Accessing Trademark Information in the Year 2000." to the spring meeting of the Arizona Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. For most of the special librarians in attendance it was their first introduction to trademarks and the useful features of the USPTO web site. "Finding Patent Information on the Web" was the Tempe PTDL's first foray into promoting the PTDL's services in a public library setting. Tom Turner's May presentation was well-attended at the Glendale Public Library (Glendale, AZ), but not as well-attended as a presentation by a cowboy poet in an adjoining room.

Mid-year, the Noble Library's Patent and Trademark Search Room received a new addition, the dedication of a computer workstation devoted to searching via the WEST search engine and database, the same one used by patent examiners and patent searchers in the Patent Search Room back in Arlington. Tom had one-on-one sessions with the Science Reference Department librarians to introduce them to the features of WEST. Initial reaction from patrons was positive, especially to the new access to images of all U.S. patents.

Currently running at the Noble Library is an exhibit on display promoting the patent activity of Arizona State University faculty entitled "Promoting Technology Transfer: The Role of ASU Researchers as Inventors." Highlighted in the display are the 49 patents of researchers at ASU's Cancer Research Institute. The exhibit explains the process of technology transfer and the role that ASU's Office of Technology Collaborations and Licensing plays in seeking patent protection for ASU researchers. Tom Turner organized the exhibit, which will run throughout the spring semester in the Noble Library atrium.

The Special Library Association's publication for its student members, The Student Union, featured an article by Tom in the Fall 2000 issue entitled "Fellowships- An Alternative Option for Professional Growth," which discussed Tom's year as a Fellow with the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office.

Personnel Notes: Tom Turner, PTDL representative, was also Acting Head of the Science Reference Department from 11/99 to 12/00. He stepped down with the adoption of a new departmental organizational structure in which Science Reference is now a team with a team leader who serves for a term of three years (Linda Shackle, also ASU's Chemistry Librarian). At the end of February 2001, ASU Libraries bid a sad goodbye to Gordon Durzisac (PTDL Rep. in 1999) who left to assume a position as a business librarian at the University of Washington in Seattle. Tom Turner will become Acting Engineering Librarian in addition to remaining the PTDL representative.

- Tom Turner

Toledo, Ohio

Toledo/Lucas County Public Library

It has been a busy year for the Toledo PTDL and Representative Jill Gregg Clever. Jill was promoted to the newly created position of Business-Technology Specialist in February 2000. The duties of the position cover not only PTDL duties but the areas of copyright, small business and government procurement also. The Business, Science-Technology and Social Science Departments merged to form the Business-Technology Department in March 2000.

In March 2000 the Main library closed for a month to move out of the historic building into the new 75,000 square foot wing. The historic building was then closed for renovations. The completed Main Library building was to have opened in May 2001. However, we received word in January that the building would not be finished until August 2001. That means we have several more months of crowded conditions, temporary work areas and a lot of items unavailable in remote storage (including all our print copies of patents). We are all looking forward to the end of this long project and of having the materials in remote storage become available again.

Jill continued support of the local Inventor Council, although attendance at the monthly meetings has been sparse and willingness of members to volunteer time, even harder to come by. TLCPL is currently weighing its options regarding continued support of the group by the library. Other PTDLs have indicated to Jill that they play a much smaller role in their local inventor groups than does Toledo. We are taking that into consideration. Due to the increased responsibilities of Jill’s new position it is not possible to devote so much time to the Inventors Council.

Oh, and Jill got married on October 14th, 2000 to Rick Clever (pronounced like the word clever not like the Beaver’s last name).

- Jill Gregg Clever
West Lafayette, Indiana

Siegesmund Engineering Library, Purdue University

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library at Purdue University has been busy this year showing users how to use the PTO's web site. Many university clients like the web interface. The Cessie CD-ROM products are used for searching and printing. Class instruction has been extensive including workshops for mechanical engineering, electrical engineering technology, and management. Training workshops have also been presented to the staff of Purdue’s Office of Technology Transfer.

The library has also worked with several local inventors and historians to identify significant numbers of patents from the recently acquired DVD Patent Collection.

- Charlotte Erdmann

Wichita, Kansas

Ablah Library, Wichita State University

Wichita State University is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a PTDL this year. We will be holding three special events in the Fall 2001 semester to celebrate that in conjunction with our centennial year as a Federal Depository Library. We have formed a CentENnial Committee to plan the events for both our anniversaries. We’ll let you know in next year’s “News” what the events were and how it all went.

Our PTDL is staffed by two full-time employees: Nan Myers, Librarian for Government Documents, Patents and Trademarks, and Josephine (“Jo”) Gregg, Library Assistant II. As you can tell from my title, I head up the Government Information unit of the library, so our mission is extensive. We also have two student employees, and assistance from Technical Services for processing and cataloging documents. Jo was hired in 1991 to help start up the PTDL and we rely on her experience heavily. I moved into my position in September 1999, following the resignation of Gayle Gunderson.

Within University Libraries, the PTDL is housed in the Government Documents area, which is adjacent to the Reference area right outside the Documents Offices, along with two Pentium PCs which are loaded with TIFF viewers. I train patrons to search both in Cessie and the www.uspto.gov online databases.

WSU’s PTDL maintains close relationships with several organizations on campus: the Small Business Development Center, the National Institute for Aviation Research, and the Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center. In addition, we work with IASCK: Inventor’s Association of South Central Kansas to give an annual program and provide assistance on request. In October of each year, we team up with the Small Business Development Center for a half-day workshop on Patents and Trademarks. For the past two years, Julia Crawford from Oklahoma State University has also joined us, so we are a lively crew! This past Fall, I mounted two displays in wall cases outside our office: "News on Patents" and "The WSU Library Offers Patent and Trademark Service."

University Park, Pennsylvania

Business Library, Paterno Library, Pennsylvania State University

The Penn State University Libraries has been a PTDL since 1979. Originally a part of the Documents/Maps Section of the Library, we’ve been in our new surroundings in the Schreyer Business Library for a little over a year, where we are enjoying a strong and growing relationship with the Smeal College of Business. We anticipate that our combination of business, legal, and intellectual property resources will provide a rich, focused information environment for use by students, faculty and the public.

Most of the librarians and staff of the Business Library are new to patents and trademarks. Kevin Harwell is the official representative to the PTO on matters relating to the PTDL Program. He became a "PTDL Rep" in 1989 at Oklahoma State University and moved to Penn State in 1990. He is a past president of the PTDLA and has published several articles on patent and trademark services in library journals. Gary White and Diane Zabel, also librarians, are well known in the Reference and Users Services Association of the American Libraries Association. Both have published extensively on business information resources and services. Gary is the Head of the Schreyer Business Library and holds an MBA degree. Diane holds the position of Endowed Librarian for Business. Our full-time library assistants, Rick Stringer, Stephanie Movahedi-Lankarani, and Dawn Mullberger, have over 35 years of library experience, combined. We are looking forward to an on-site training visit from the staff of the PTO’s PTDL Program Office in May.

In our new facilities we are seeking new opportunities for outreach to inventors and other entrepreneurs in central Pennsylvania. Our local Small Business Development Center has begun to seek information assistance from us directly. The service that the PTDL Program Office provides makes the most important difference for inventors, small businesses and other patrons is the annual PTDL Training Seminar. Although travel costs for a week in the Washington, DC area are significant, the benefits for our patrons are immeasurable. The intensive training we receive each year, from fundamentals to advanced concepts and new developments, translates directly to improved service to people who need patent and trademark information. In the current information environment, the number of contacts we receive by telephone and E-mail are increasing at a steady rate. The Training Seminar and direct information assistance we receive from the PTDL Program Office enable us to provide accurate, timely information to many individuals that we may never see face-to-face.

We appreciate the resources and services that the PTO provides through the PTDL Program Office. The growing backlog of patents on DVD-ROM will soon provide us with a complete in-house collection of U.S. Patents from 1790 to present. Databases provided by the PTO for searching patents and trademarks are getting better with each passing year.

- Kevin R. Harwell
Our patron usage is broad: faculty and graduate assistants (especially in Engineering), students, and the general public in Kansas. We have a 1-800 line and receive frequent calls from all over the state. In 2000, Jo and I did over 300 trademark searches, and I conducted nearly 100 patent tutorials, the majority for independent inventors. I also developed a slide show presentation to take to workshops, including one for the local IEEE chapter. Quite a few of our patrons are interested in historical research — locating their grandfather's patent, evaluating an antique, or tracing a favorite inventor or line of inventions (Massey-Ferguson tractors come to mind). My favorite patent filed and in process by a patron this year is for a unique (of course) violin structure. Favorite trademark granted is "Artemis Arrow", a local feminist newspaper.

And favorite obsessive historical research was for a gentleman from the high plains of Kansas who collects antique paper fasteners. I now know that there is an Early Office Museum online at: http://www.officemuseum.com. Working with patents is such an education!

- Nan Myers

**Intellectual Property News 2001**

Brian Carpenter, College Station, Texas

**NAPSTER!!!**

Have I gotten your attention? If not, this should. Despite what experts might say, Napster is here to stay. What about what has recently been said about Napster? It's ultimate fate in the courts? I think Napster as it is known today will eventually be just another footnote in the history of the Internet. What I don't think will go away, is the program which Shawn Fanning wrote and is now set to transform the music industry. File-Sharing. In October of last year, Fanning made a deal with Bertelsmann (parent company of music producer BMG) to help defray napster's court costs in return for exclusive rights to Fanning's File-Sharing program.

Now BMG has exclusive rights to Napster's revolutionary and controversial file-sharing program. Fanning's new program would be a secure subscription based version of Napster. If the program works as well as the original, BMG could effectively corner the market on MP3's and digital music.

And what does this mean for everyone involved? First, after some very messy and public court battles in which Napster Inc. is lambasted for its recklessness, BMG introduces a copyright-friendly son of Napster. The musicians are happy because its subscription based - no copyright infringement. BMG is happy because it owns exclusive rights to son of Napster, and the music industry undergoes a revolution as the surviving music companies try to come up with an alternative to son of Napster.

Look out you clones of Napster: a record company may come knocking on your door and make you an offer you cannot refuse.

(A commentary on the current Napster news. The opinions expressed in the above are solely the opinion of the author. They do not represent the opinions of the PTDLA or the PTDLA Newsletter editor. All mistakes are my own.)

More on Napster

Want to know the key players in the battle over file sharing and Napster? Check out "Stormy Weather" in the January edition of Yahoo Internet Life's special section, "2000 Top of the Net." This magazine also salutes Shawn Fanning, creator of the controversial Napster program.


**UCITA - Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act**

Want to know what UCITA means for Libraries? Check out the article by Vicki L. Gregory in January's issue of Online electronic magazine

http://www.onlineinc.com/onlinemag/OL2001/gregory1_01.html

Source for Gregory's article: Marydee Ojaia, Editor, Online and E-Content magazines.

**News from the American Library Association Conference in Washington, DC - January 2001**

The American Library Association at this year's Annual Mid-Winter Conference discussed various copyright issues and changes in copyright law.

Topics included, the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), Copyright law section 1201a (anti-circumvention rule for encryption and other technological locks), First Sale, Section 109 of U.S. Copyright Law and dangers to Fair Use

For more information on these go to:

http://copyright.ala.org
http://www.ala.org/washoffice/ucitareg
http://www.4cite.org
Battle of the Grilles

Take 'em to court and tell the judge they are infringing on your trademark. That's what DaimlerChrysler has done to General Motors. What's at stake? For more information on the story, check out David Kiley's story in the Feb 15, issue of USA Today.

*Chrysler Corporation. Reg. No. 1433760

Source: David Kiley, "Lawsuits broil over grille similarities" Business, USA Today, February 15, 2001, page 3B.

YUMM'YUK! Green Ketchup!

If you're interested in how new products might be received in the marketplace, checkout Kevin Coupe's IdeaBeat Radio.


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. The objectives of the PTDLA 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. Only individual memberships are permitted; there is no provision for institutional or group memberships. Dues for membership remain a bargain - just $25 per year. Dues cover membership from the current Seminar to the end of the next year's event.

Our membership fees make up the vast majority of PTDLA's operating budget. They pay for some 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.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please direct them to Jean Porter, PTDLA Treasurer, at the D.H. Hill Library, North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Jean's telephone number is (919) 513-3969, and her e-mail address is jean_porter@ncsu.edu.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Detach and Mail)

NAME: __________________________________________ E-MAIL: __________________________________________

INSTITUTION: __________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

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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: Jean Porter, PTDLA Treasurer C/O PTDL Program U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Crystal Park 3, Suite 461 Washington, DC 20231