

Newsletter

The Newsletter of the
Patent & Trademark
Depository Library
Association

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DEDICATION

This issue of the PTDLA NEWSLETTER is dedicated to Martha C. Sneed.



Where would we all be without Martha C. Sneed? The Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program and the PTDL librarians are indebted to Martha for her dedication, enthusiasm and support. The Executive Board of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association is proud to dedicate this issue of the Newsletter to Martha, our colleague, mentor, advocate, guiding force and friend.

Martha Crockett Sneed has outstanding credentials for her position as Manager of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program. Her years as a patent librarian provide her with an understanding that only that experience can provide. This helps her to understand our needs and convey our message to her superiors. Martha Sneed consistently sets high standards for her staff. This is evident in many ways. However, it is especially evident during each annual seminar. The seminars/conferences and the activities are always outstanding and the attendees are made to feel as if they are special people. That is quite an accomplishment in itself. Thank you, Martha. It's a pleasure to work with people like you.

*—Robert C. Williams, Anchorage Alaska,
PTDLA Past-President*

Martha Sneed was my chief mentor and guide during my two year stint at the PTDL. Whenever I had a question, she always made time to find an answer for me. And believe you

me, during those first few weeks in the Program Office, I had a ton of questions to ask.

Martha also did her best to make me, as a Fellowship Librarian, feel just like one of the permanent staff—in fact, that in some ways made it even more difficult to leave when it came time for me to go back to my home institution. Still, her sense of dedication to the program and her encouragement made it easier for me to go back and do the best job that I could as a PTDL representative.

I'm happy to say that thanks to her, I discovered skills I didn't know existed and feel that the time I spent working under her helped me grow and mature not only as a patent and trademark representative, but also as a librarian. I feel lucky to have had the chance to work with this remarkable and dynamic leader. Although I miss "The Boss" sometimes, I know she is doing her job, and I am doing mine—to disseminate patent and trademark information to the public.

—Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX

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PTDLA PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 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 *Ad Libs*, the official PTO Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) publication. It is distributed free to members of the Association, PTO/PTDLP, and other interested parties. Frequency is irregular.

Editor (1998): Christina Byrne, Seattle, WA, PTDL; Intellectual Property News Co-editor: Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX, PTDL.

PTDLA Officers 1997 - 1998

President: Donna M. Hanson, Moscow, ID

Vice President/President-Elect: Carol Giles, St. Louis, MO

Secretary: Claudine Jenda, Auburn, AL

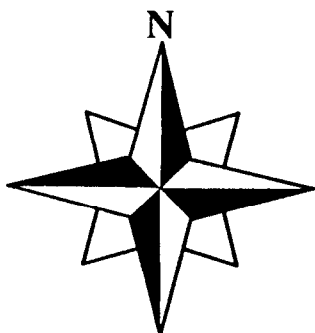
Treasurer: Lisa Hoenig, Toledo, OH

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Regional Representatives

- Region 1: Ann Poulos, Providence, RI
- Region 2: Mary Woodward, Albany, NY
- Region 3: Judy Erickson, College Park, MD
- Region 4: Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC
- Region 5: Mary Frances Panettiere, Atlanta, GA
- Region 6: Tom Henderson, Jackson, MS
- Region 7: Celeste Burman, Detroit, MI
- Region 8: Sarah Calcese, Madison, WI
- Region 9: Deborah Hall, Little Rock, AR
- Region 10: Patty Anderson, Rapid City, SD
- Region 11: Alan Gould, Lincoln, NE
- Region 12: Helen Haskell, Los Angeles, CA

A Message from the PTDLA President



This year has not been as productive as I had hoped for my term as PTDLA President. I had high hopes for several projects that would help the PTDLs provide even better service to our patrons, but such was not to be. I hope to help Carol initiate some of

these during the coming year. Among the things I would like to see us pursue are: updating the bibliography of patent informational materials that we produced in the early 1980s and published through ERIC and NTIS; working with the PTO to produce a substitute for the old patent indexes that are crumbling to dust as they sit on our library shelves; cooperating with PTDLP to prepare and produce instructional materials for the patent searching process that is more user-friendly.

We received confirmation from the American Library Association in December that the ALA Council had approved our application to become an Affiliate Member of ALA. One result of this affiliation is that the officers of PTDLA have been added to several ALA mailing lists and will be receiving lots of additional mail. Jennifer Paustenbaugh's report will be discussed at Conference. We also investigated the possibility of affiliate membership in the Special Libraries Association. We learned that SLA does not

at this time have the mechanism to accommodate this kind of relationship.

I want to thank you, the members of PTDLA, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president and for your patience and understanding during this past year. I also want to thank Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Lisa Hoenig, Claudine Jenda and Rob Williams for all of their help during this past year. Special thanks to Dave Morrison, Mande Putnam, Martha Sneed for their support and help this year. I really could not have made it through this year without all of you.

-Donna Hanson, PTDLA President

ALA Affiliate Status

PTDLA GRANTED AFFILIATE STATUS WITH AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Completing a process begun in late 1995, PTDL president Donna Hanson and past-president Jennifer Paustenbaugh received official notification in January 1998 from ALA that PTDLA had been granted affiliate status with ALA. PTDLA joins other ALA Affiliate members including the American Association of Law Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Medical Library Association.



As an ALA Affiliate, PTDLA may request meeting space and free program listings at the ALA annual and midwinter meetings. This will facilitate receptions and informational meetings for prospective PTDLs and make feasible informal meetings of PTDLA members at these conferences.

Other benefits of our new status include the opportunity to seek liaison appointments to relevant ALA committees and round tables such as the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), the privilege of officially co-sponsoring programs at ALA conferences, and free conference registration for a designated PTDLA representative.

The PTDLA Executive Committee is currently examining the Affiliate membership benefits to better understand how they can be utilized most effectively by the Association. They also will review the Association's responsibilities as an Affiliate to ensure that these tasks are assigned to the appropriate officer and regularly completed. More information should be available at conference.

-Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Stillwater, OK

Message from the PTDL Program Manager

One definition of the word "generation" is the average time interval between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring. As we approach the twenty-first annual training seminar for PTDL librarians, scheduled for March

22-27, 1998, one could say that we now have one generation of true cooperation between the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) and the Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs). This is worth pointing out as there are few librarians still active in this very specialized field whose careers have spanned this "first" generation. As I receive input from PTDL librarians from year to year, I realize how important it is to both celebrate how far we have come, and at the same time, remain fully open to all the wonderful ideas coming from each of you.



To illustrate, a recent e-mail message from a PTDL librarian asks if PTDLs have ever had input to the improvement of PTO search tools. This question stopped me up short.

My thoughts turned back to the year 1975 when I assisted my first patent patron at the Detroit Public Library. I recall the *Index to the U.S. Patent Classification System* being revised every three or so years (emphasis on the "or so"). I recall paper *Classification Definitions* spilling out of binders, and being hopelessly outdated because we could only buy them from the PTO by the page in paper. There were no *Classification Orders* at the library. We had no idea they even existed. The cumulated Subclass listing had to be purchased from a vendor since the PTO published no cumulated listing. Four to five large boxes of paper patents arrived weekly which required collating and binding. "Unusual" publications would arrive with the weekly issue with no accompanying explanation; items such as Defensive Publications and Trial Voluntary Protest Program applications. Trademark information? What trademark information besides the *Official Gazette*? Added to that mix, there were no telephone numbers for librarians to call to ask for assistance with difficult questions. No expert training or guidance was provided. It was a veritable wasteland.

Back to the question, "Have PTDLs ever had input to the improvement of PTO search tools"? **Answer: Oh, yes.** Witness the year 1998. The *Index to the U.S. Patent Classification System* is published yearly, updated bimonthly on electronic data bases, and is fully searchable by keyword. Terms and cross references suggested for inclusion by PTDL librarians over the past 21 years have been included. *Classification Definitions* are provided in a less cumbersome manner (microfiche and electronically) and as a depository item. PTDLs have been receiving all *Classification Orders* and *Indexes* for more than 15 years, allowing PTDLs to keep up-to-date with critical changes. **Cassis**, celebrating its 10th anniversary in CD-ROM format, provides access to the cumulated subclass listing, and over the years has evolved into a powerful, comprehensive collection of critical search tools. (And don't forget that **Cassis** started as an online system in 1982 funded and designed specifically for PTDLs). Has any

other federal agency provided a library with equipment to access its information?

Trademark information? Lots!! Annual training seminars provide information needed by librarians in the field to offer accurate and current reference services. The toll-free line and closed electronic mailing list provide needed communication avenues for librarians to contact the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) with their concerns and questions. Have I mentioned the Automated Patent System, the PTO Web pages, and the new Partnership PTDLs? Things have changed in one generation.

Back one last time to the question, "Have PTDLs ever had input to the improvement of PTO search tools?" **Answer:: Yes, but there is still much that can be done.** The minute we stand still, we all lose. And so, I thank this librarian who asked the question for giving me the opportunity to celebrate how far we have come and yet challenge each of you to see how much further we can go. It may be hard to understand if you are working in an environment where you feel you are not heard, but we at the PTO really do want to hear your ideas and suggestions, especially when solutions are proposed. For in truth, if the PTDLP has enjoyed any measure of success, it directly correlates to the energy, dedication, persistence and curious nature of the librarians carrying out the PTO's work in providing intellectual property information and services to everyday public users.

As a final note for this year's message, I wish to thank the wonderful work of the PTDLP staff, all PTDL Fellowship Librarians past and present, and the many, many people at the PTO who direct services and products your way through the PTDLP funnel.

-Martha Crockett Sneed, Manager, Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program

P.S. To test how long you have been involved with the PTDL Program, if the funnel allusion made you laugh, you've been around!

Minutes of PTDLA Executive Board Meeting

Sun., March 16, 1997, Crystal City Marriott, Rm. 1019

Members present: Rob Williams, Donna Hanson, Dave Morrison, Carol Giles, Brian Carpenter

Not present: Lisa Hoenig, Jennifer Paustenbaugh

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Williams at 5:40 pm.

Member Reports

Outgoing Secretary: Minutes Delivered to Christina Byrne for publication in the newsletter.

Incoming Secretary: Email list updated March 10, new one will be sent out after conference.

Past President: Donna reported for Jennifer that ALA did our request for affiliate status, as long as we change the term "associate" in our bylaws to "affiliate." The term change would affect Article II, Section 4 of the PTDLA Bylaws. This change could be voted on in a ballot given to all PTDLA members after conference. This ballot would have a six week deadline to ensure the changes to the Bylaws would be completed in time for the Annual ALA Conference.

General Business

In addition to the term change question on the after-conference PTDLA ballot, the two following questions would also be posed to the membership:

The exact number of PTDLs in Region 1

The need to have another vote in Region 3. Kevin Harwell is doing the ballots for the PTDLA Region. The Region's members will vote for a representative at this conference during the business meeting.

The following issues were discussed by the Executive Board:

Distribution of patent and trademark materials to GPO depository libraries through the GPO Depository program and the impact this has on PTDLs.

Problems with the new **Cassis** work stations.

Having a full day for PTDLA business.

Concerns with Trademark Office PTDL Conference presentations.

Long Range storage and distribution concerns for PTO products.

The Executive Board decided on the following PTDLA topics for the Tuesday afternoon agenda:

1. Announcement of Region 3 vote to break tie. Ballots will be handed out at the PTDLA meeting.
2. Ballot on ALA Affiliate status and two other issues.
3. Report on the Executive Board meeting Wes Gewehr.
4. Impact of GPO Depository distribution of patent and trademark products to GPO depository libraries and the impact this has on PTDLs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

respectfully submitted,

-Brian B. Carpenter, Secretary

Minutes of PTDLA Business Meeting

March 18, 1997, Crystal City Marriott

I. Agenda: PTDLA Business 4:45-6:00 pm

Robert Williams, PTDLA President, called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

The minutes as published in the PTDLA Newsletter Vol. 9 Issue 11, March 1997 were approved without changes.

A sign-up sheet for names and E-mail addresses of PTDLA members is in the hospitality suite. Please be sure and verify your correct name and E-mail address before leaving this Friday.

A. PTDLA Region 3 Vote: Following the Region three vote, the results of the election were announced as follows:

Region three: Judy Erickson, College Park PTDL

Region five: Mary Francis Panettiere, Atlanta PTDL

Region seven: Celeste Burman, Detroit PTDL

Region nine: Debbie Hall, Little Rock PTDL

Region eleven: Alan Gould, Lincoln PTDL

B. Update on ALA Affiliate Status with ALA and proposed changes to Bylaws.

Donna Hanson, Vice President/President Elect for 1997-1998, explained how past President Jennifer Paustenbaugh went to the ALA Annual conference last summer to get approval of ALA associate status for PTDLA. When she went to Annual meeting, she understood that the ALA Executive Committee would grant the Association the associate status but later ALA came back and said it could not grant associate status because of the way our bylaws were set up.



The pro and cons of the change in the bylaws were the following:

PRO

Would bring more visibility to the Association.

Would make it easier for librarians to justify coming to this meeting since it is related to a professional librarian position, including monetary support for travel to this meeting.

Would provide greater opportunities to network and publish in this new field.

CON

Possible doing away with PTDLA meetings in Washington in favor of meeting during other professional association conferences, e.g., ALA.

Affiliate members would be allowed to vote and hold office, diluting the power of the non-affiliate members.

There are already many opportunities that currently exist for networking and publishing in this field.

Martha Sneed, Manager of the PTDL Program Office, noted that the seeds for this change to the Bylaws grew from the original PDL Advisory Council which notified the Patent Office about resources and services needed to better help disseminate patent, and later trademark, information to the public. What we now have is a new professional specialty. She noted how the name of the Conference had changed to Training Seminar to reflect this specialty and how the adding of affiliate status with ALA and other library professional organizations would strengthen this.

In response to Carol Giles', Incoming PTDLA Vice President for 1998-99, question regarding doing away with PTDLA Day from the PTDL Training Conference, Martha spoke for the PTO stating that the PTO will never do away with PTDLA day, and that the Association will always have time on the program during the Training Seminar.

Associate members (Patent Express, PTDL Office, Vendors, Retired persons) currently may not vote or hold office.

Member Diane Richmond, Chicago PTDL asked that The Bylaws be suspended to allow the approval of a mail ballot on ALA affiliate status and to change the bylaws to allow affiliate members to serve on committees.

Following a discussion on the pros and cons of changing bylaws and how getting ALA affiliate status might open the way for affiliate status in other organizations, e.g., Special Libraries Association, the membership voted to suspend the bylaws to allow a ballot vote to be sent out on changes to the bylaws.

A sample of the questions on the Bylaws ballot:

Add to Article II, Section 4: (y or n)

"Affiliate members may serve on any committee except those required to take an official position on PTO policy"

and

Should PTDLA explore the possibility of affiliate/associate status with Special Libraries Association (SLA): (y or n)

The motion carried and Bylaw change ballots will be sent out after meeting with a six-week turn around time.

C. PTDLA Executive Board Meeting with Wes Gewehr.

Robert noted that the meeting with Wes Gewehr and Jane Myers will be on Thursday, March 19 in the Crystal City Marriott. The two questions to be presented by the board are:

1. Long term and short term document delivery issues; in particular product storage issues and distribution of products issues

2. What does he see as our function as PTDLs in the PTDL Program?

Any of the current or incoming members of the PTDLA Executive Board are welcome to attend.

D. Impact on PTDLs of GPO Depository distribution of USAPat and **Cassis** products to non-PTDLs.

Robert Williams opened discussion on this issue and his concern that there is no training for the non-PTDLs which received the USAPat.

Wilson Plunkett, College Park PTDL noted that most non-PTDLs in Maryland seem to be ignoring, storing or have deselected these discs. He only knew of three libraries that were concerned about receiving these discs.

Martha noted that GPO created these non-PTDL depository discs as part of an agreement between PTO and GPO to produce the USAPat discs.

Many suggestions were offered as solutions and comments were made on this problem.

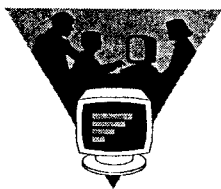
Amy Spare, Houston PTDL noted that she offered to do training for selective depositories at the Houston Government Documents Group. Alan Gould, Lincoln PTDL was asked by a government documents librarian when **Cassis** is distributed to all non-PTDLs, can it be circulated. He told the librarian no, that **Cassis** does not circulate. Cheryl Sirna, New York PTDL kept the extra copy of USAPat to serve as a backup copy in case the original was lost or stolen. Charlotte Erdmann, West Lafayette PTDL showed the discs at the Indiana Government Documents Group and made them aware of the problems of using this disc by itself. Diane Richmond, Chicago PTDL noted that something should be done about reference sources such as USAPat and the *Official Gazettes* being out there without anyone at these non-PTDLs with the benefit of someone present who has been trained on how to use these resources. Ted Cebula, Milwaukee PTDL noted because USAPat does not have the same restrictions as **Cassis** that they allow the disc to circulate.

When Donna Hanson posed the question on whether **Cassis** would be distributed to all GPO libraries without warning as was the case with USAPat, Martha Sneed indicated that GPO intended to survey for **Cassis** before distribution to GDL's. Martha also reminded everyone that PTO still owns the license to USAPat, but on **Cassis** which will be distributed soon, it is a violation of license to lend these discs out to patrons. Also discs must be destroyed when discarded.

A subscription to **Cassis** is a site license to one machine or group of networked machines not an institution.

Discussion will continue on this topic via the PTDLA-L listserv.

E. Future of the PTDLA-L discussion list



After giving a brief history on the origins of the PTDLA listserv, Kevin Harwell, administrator of the listserv, asked for guidance on what should be done with PTDLA-L in light of PTDLP's new listserv, PTDL-P, which is a closed listserv for PTDL representatives to use as their own. Kevin mentioned that he can easily continue to run it and that because it is not monitored, he does not need a lot of help running it.

After some discussion, Jan Comfort made a motion that PTDLA-L continue to be the PTDLA listserv. The motion was approved by the membership. Kevin noted he will send out an e-mail message after conference on how to subscribe to PTDLA-L and to clear up confusion between this listserv and the PTO listserv.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rob announced there would be sign up sheets in the hospitality suite for the PTDLA committees. Currently standing committees include the Archives, Bylaws, Conference, Election, and Publication committees.

Ad-hoc committees include the Government Relations, Home Page, Social, and Long Range Planning committees.

Archives – Jean Bishop: Standing committee; collects and organizes Association archival materials. Jean requested that anyone with archival materials from PTDLA to send them to her. Also any old photographs related to the organization should also be sent to her. She also look for printouts or downloads of any PTDLA E-mail messages.

Bylaws – Wilson Plunkett: Standing committee; reviews and proposes changes to bylaws as needed. The Bylaws Committee will be working on changes to the PTDLA Bylaws based on the results of the upcoming proposed bylaws change to be voted on after conference.

Conference – Wilson Plunkett: Standing committee; plans the program for PTDLA meeting in cooperation with the PTDLP staff. No report.

Election – Sarah Calcese: Standing committee; nominates at least two candidates for each vacant office and conducts the election.

Announcement of the election winners:

Incoming President/President Elect: Carol Giles, St. Louis PTDL

Secretary: Claudine Jenda, Auburn, AL PTDL

PTDLA Region three: Judy Erickson, College Park, MD PTDL

Region five: Mary Francis Panettiere, Atlanta, GA PTDL

Region seven: Celeste Burman, Detroit, MI PTDL

Region nine: Debbie Hall, Little Rock, AR PTDL

Region eleven: Alan Gould, Lincoln, NB PTDL

Finance – Lisa Hoenig: Standing committee; prepares a budget for the year; reviews and makes recommendations concerning the Association's fiscal situation. Lisa provided copies of this year's budget for the Association. A full report of the committee was in the March 1997 edition of the PTDLA Newsletter. She stated that the current proposed budget will be presented to Executive Board before the end of this week.

Government Relations – Jane Running: Ad-Hoc; Studies policy issues pertaining to access to patent and trademark information and other issues of concern to the Association. Jane reported the committee will be looking at the recently introduced copyright legislation and other intellectual property related pieces of legislation.

Home Page – : Ad-hoc committee; develops and maintains PTDLA Home Page. No report

Long Range Planning – : Ad-hoc; develop a long range plan for the association for presentation to the Association at or before the 1998 PTDL Conference. Dave Morrison reported the committee will be looking at extending PTDLA day to a full day. Be sure to note in your PTDL Seminar evaluation if you would like to expand PTDLA day, but remember that this meeting will have to be balanced with other training and programs to be presented by the PTO.

Publications – Christina Byrne: Produces at least one issue of the Association's newsletter each year; works on promotional projects. Christina reported that copies of the newsletter have been distributed to all current PTDLA members. If anyone who is a member did not receive their copy, please let her know. She also announced she is looking for articles and reviews to go into the next edition of the newsletter. Please let her know if you have any submissions for the newsletter. Christina also stated she would check on the possibility of obtaining new pins for Association.

Social – : Works with the Conference Committee Chair to host the PTDLA Welcome Reception during the conference. Charlotte reported on helping with PTDLA reception and coordinating this with the current President of the Association. Those who are interested in joining see Jan Comfort or Charlotte Erdmann.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

-Brian Carpenter, Secretary

PTDLA Business Meeting – Open Forum

Tuesday, March 18, 1997, Crystal City Marriott

PTO Forum panel: Martha Crockett Sneed, Manager PTDL; Jeanne Oliver, Manager General Information Services; Jane Myers, Head, Office of Electronic Information Dissemination; Mande Putnam Assistant Manager PTDL; Jeff Alderson COTR *Cassio* work stations; Harold R Smith, Director of Classification Operations; Jessie Marshall, Office of Assistant of Trademarks; and Bruce Cox, CD-ROM program

Martha Sneed, Manager PTDL: I know some of you are asking, when will the new *General Information Concerning Patents* be out? Here's the update. This [publication] will be out in May. Detroit was the one which asked and we will track this and let you know when it comes out.

Celeste Burman, Detroit PTDL: What about the Design Application source?

Martha Sneed: Will take a fresh look at the material for that source. Right now I know you will be getting *General Information Concerning Patents*.

Betsy Lowther, Philadelphia PTDL: What about *Basic Facts About Trademarks*? I called the GPO bookstore, and I know they are out of print.

Martha Sneed: 25 copies per PTDL were sent out. You can contact GISD or my office for extra copies.

Robert Williams, Anchorage PTDL: Can we get 50 copies for each PTDL?

Martha Sneed: We'll check on this.

Jane Myers, Head, Office of Electronic Information Dissemination: We hope to have these up on the web, possibly before they are printed again.

Donna Hanson, Moscow PTDL: Will the text on these web versions be current?

Jane Myers: Yes.

Celeste Burman: Concerning the GPO being out of *Basic Facts About Trademarks*...

Martha Sneed: Printing may be being held maybe as a consolidated print.

Jeanne Oliver, Manager, General Information Services: Concerning individual customer's needs, we have plenty of copies of the *Basic Facts About Trademarks*. We can give you or the public the copies. Just call our 800 number, 1-800-PTO-9199.

Terry Lee, Ann Arbor PTDL: Getting back to *Basic Facts About Trademarks* and the Trademark forms are these also available on the web, and are all patent forms on the web site?

Jane Myers: Yes, all forms from the specimen book, all the PCT forms and any other forms that can be found will be put up as soon as they are available.

Mary Woodward, Albany PTDL: When should we refer persons to the Help Desks, for instance when should we refer someone to the Trademarks Assistance Center?

Jeanne Oliver: First you should send them to the 800 line. We will do as much as we are able to do to help them. If it turns out they need the assistance center will forward that call to them. If it is a technical question, have them call the Assistance Center.

Robert Williams: What does the PTO tell someone when they are referred to a PTDL by GISD? I had a patron who called recently and was told that the PTDL can do searches for them.

Jeanne Oliver: When we refer patrons to PTDLs, we give them the telephone number only, we are very clear in telling them that the PTDL does not do any searching for them and we also state the person should call first before visiting the library.

Donna Hanson: Do you give out PTDL Addresses?

Jeanne Oliver: We do not give out PTDL addresses. We give out the number that is listed in the latest *Official Gazette*.

Martha Sneed: I would like to remind everyone that the telephone number given out is the public number listed in the *Official Gazette*. Jeanne has done a lot of work to clean up the responses given. The quality of work regarding this area has been vastly improved and is superior to what was happening 4-5 years ago. Also the training for them has not been static. There is continual on-going training. If you receive a funny call, find out where this person called to and who they received this information from; this is especially true if a call is way out of line. We cannot do anything without the specifics. Please do get the name of the person and their telephone number. I would also like to mention that someone else, Mr. Matthew Lesko, has hold of our toll-free line number and that line is especially for you [the representatives]. I want to find out how he found this number since this is only supposed to be for PTDLs. Mr. Lesko's publishing of our number really diluted our support to you for a while.

Kevin Harwell, University Park PTDL: I would like to speak to what Rob spoke about in terms of inventors sometimes call expecting certain things or through selective hearing misunderstand what they are told.

Jeanne Oliver: I know this is true; we also have persons call that do not believe what my staff tells them and I have to talk to them.

Kevin Harwell: New Jersey and Delaware [PTDLs] will do trademark searches is what I have been told. Will forms for trademarks also be made available on the web?

Jessie Marshall, Office of Assistant of Trademarks: That is under consideration.

Amy Spare, Houston PTDL: Is there an easier way to find your office on the web?

Jane Myers: We can look at this again. Maybe we can be placed closer to the top.

Bob Klein, Miami PTDL: The list of products that are offered on the toll free line, can these be ordered through the mail?

Jeanne Oliver: They can be, but there are delays with orders coming through the mail because first they have to be sorted out in the mailroom. It is faster if they order the materials while they are still on the telephone.

Bob Klein: Can we get the complete list of items offered on the voice mail for 800 line?

Jeanne Oliver: Those items are listed in the catalog.

Christina Byrne, Seattle PTDL: I have a question on Plant Patents. The older ones are starting to yellow and degrade. What are other people doing about this?

Martha Sneed: Is it all the pages or just the photographs?

Christina Byrne: Just some of the older photographs.

Martha Sneed: Would you like us to check with the Office of Publications regarding this? [A show of hands indicated a majority did]

Ray Dickinson, Big Rapids, PTDL: Could you let us know via e-mail, at times we don't know what we are supposed to get; there have been gaps in what we get.

Amanda Putnam: We are aware of this problem and are instituting a new procedure due to the increasing number of claims. We will be working with the Office of Publication more closely to make sure that materials are mailed out properly.

Martha Sneed: We will make sure a memorandum regarding the status of plant patents is sent to all of you. [Indication from group that e-mail is preferred if possible]

Donna Hanson: Could we have the notification through electronic mail?

Martha Sneed: Yes, we can do this.

Jane Myers: For people who want to check if certain plant patents have been withdrawn, they can check the latest addition of **Cassis** Bib disc to check to see if a disc has been withdrawn.

Cheryl Sirna, New York City PTDL: What about plant patent storage; what is the best way to store plant patents?

Ray Dickinson: We use plastic inserts for the photos and have the papers inserted in three ring binder.

Jan Comfort, Clemson PTDL: Do you use archival folders?

Betsy Lowther: We put ours in a notebook.

Donna Hanson: We put ours in acid free boxes and then lock them in a file cabinet. And the microfilm is moved to another cabinet.

Helen Haskell, Los Angeles PTDL: We bind our plant patents every two months and treat them like books.

Celeste Burman: We get calls about what is supposed to be in a patent application.

Jeanne Oliver: There are a number of forms, and [people don't know] what is the difference between small entity forms, a design form, and what is appropriate. Staff should remind the public that there is not an "application form" and that the instructions for a proper application can be found in the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*. If they have any other questions, they can direct the patron to call Patent Assistance Center about what other forms might be needed.

Amy Spare: Like to hear about how other libraries are charging for APS copies of patents.

Jean Bishop, Butte PTDL: We offer pay as you use.

Jean Porter, Raleigh PTDL: We have a vend-a-card system attached to our computer. We had vendors come and talk about how the system works at a previous PTDL Conference.

Martha Sneed: You can have a deposit account and continue paying into this account as often as you want. The lowest amount you can have in your account is \$300.00 and when you use the system, the amount of time the system is used is subtracted from your account. You will however, get a penalty charge statement if you go below that \$300.00 balance.

Donna Hanson: Can you carry this amount over into the next year?

Martha Sneed: As long as you don't fall below the \$300.00 amount.

Celeste Burman: About the *Design Patent Guide*, is there any way we can help you make sure the library information is complete before you send it out to the libraries?

Martha Sneed: We were very upset with this. Distribution of this publication had been held up for three years. The library list, by the time it was published was very old. It was not sent out by us but by the Office of Public Affairs. We have shared with them the information that the list was old as soon as it was distributed.

Celeste Burman: Can we have the list in the *Basic Facts About Trademarks* as well?

Martha Sneed: We'll have to check on this.

Donna Hanson: Question about outstanding problems.

Martha Sneed: We learn from you first regarding any problems; you are the first person sometimes to let us know when something is wrong. Sometimes it makes us look good; keep those pieces coming.

Robert Williams: Storage is a concern for USAPat. Right now our present cabinet will be able to store discs for four to five years. But the cost and floor load considerations, even though this is a fairly new library, are a concern. I heard about DVD ROM; will the PTO be looking into other means of delivery? And what about distribution of products on-line? The web is becoming more stable and accurate.

Jane Myers: We are beginning to explore this. We have begun a study to look into this. Analysis is beginning now, but we need to scope out passwords, security, etc.

Martha Sneed: As for storage, all PTDLs need to provide their own storage for the USAPat discs.

Christina Byrne: Periodically we have patrons who ask for specialized reports. Who do we go to if a patron wants specialized customized profiles.

Jane Myers: Check with Jim Hirabayashi.

Christina Byrne: Is it free or for a fee?

Jane Myers: For a fee. We do have a number of current reports which we do on a regular basis. In the past we have done Biotechnology Reports, Computer technology reports, and others. All of these are listed in the IDO catalog. All that are done as requested are done on a cost recovery basis. Some special reports are difficult if not impossible to do.

Christina Byrne: What about inventor activity?

Jane Myers: Jim Hirabayashi and Bill Brown need to be consulted.

Can they be available via the Internet?

Jane Myers: Delivery on the Internet will have to be studied.

Karen Moll, Des Moines PTDL: Patrons wish to print the term "No trademarks found", how can they do this?

Bruce Cox, CD-ROM program: Under the current Windows program, this is not possible. We will ask Dataware for this option.

Can we also get the time and date stamp on the printout as well?

Bruce Cox: Yes, but keep in mind the system will have to be turned off every night or rebooted in the morning to keep the clock accurate.

Marjory Cameron, Sunnyvale PTDL: We used to have an option on Dataware to pause on the copyright screen. Will it be possible to do this on the new stations?

Bruce Cox: We will investigate with Dataware about the possibility of giving everyone screen printout capability.

Cheryl Sirna: What about this on the new Windows data base?

Bruce Cox: This cannot be done with Windows.

Susan Ardis, Austin PTDL: There are number of work around if people are interested. The one we used is called Snag-It.

Jean Porter: What is the status of **Cassis** content sheets, why are they not sent out anymore? We used to keep them by the terminal and route them.

Mande Putnam: These have not been suspended. The delay was partially due to the introduction of the new software and the changing of the installation procedures.

Martha Sneed: We will get these out to the libraries as soon as they are ready.

Selma Etter, Amherst PTDL: What about the problem of the copyright screen disappearing before a patron can look at it?

Bruce Cox: This is a function of the speed of the CPU. Do you want the screen to stay until the user has seen the information?

[Assessment of the group is to have this option available]

Donna Hanson: Here is a written question - "What happened to idea of the weekly floppy updates for the trademarks data base?"

Bruce Cox: This was discussed in the PTO; recall from this morning that Ken said **Cassis** is a live database and a special project for us from Trademarks from which he captured data for us. The idea of building a data base and maintaining it like a commercial provider would solve the problem, but the CIO frowns on work like this.

Donna Hanson: We heard earlier about no changes to the classification manuals. Are they still reclassifying?

Harold R. Smith: They are moving classification in with industry sectors and actually doing more with fewer people. Right now for the immediate future they are continuing. It will be up to the industry sectors to determine how they will classify.

Donna Hanson: One more question.

Terri Lee: What can we do for people who want to do their searches via the Internet on the world wide web databases?

Martha Sneed: You could have the same kind of on-line disclaimer that you have for users using on-line data bases such as DIALOG.

Terri Lee: The question we get from these inventors is why do we need to come to your library? Why don't we just use the web?

Jane Myers: Because we still have to face the man on the street going in without patent professionals. This is difficult to do over the telephone and most likely in most databases they will only be able to do word searches.

Betsy Lowther: We are seeing more rejection slips from inventors who do searches using these web data bases.

Cheryl Sirna: We can use as a disclaimer what is put in the [PTO] videos.

Martha Sneed: Its scary these days what people can do from their home computer, inventors as well as corporate librarians; they may be making some real mistakes and we welcome any ideas you have on how to resolve this problem.

[At this point Robert adjourned the meeting to allow time for Cynthia Baniki's presentation.]

PTDLA/PTO Business Meeting Minutes

March 20, 1997, Crystal City Marriott, 12:00-1:00 pm

Present:

Wes Gewehr: PTO - Administrator, Information Dissemination Organizations

Jane Myers: PTO - Director, Office of Electronic and Information Products

Rob Williams: PTDLA - President 1996/97

Donna Hanson: PTDLA- President 1997/98

Carol Giles: PTDLA- President Elect 1998/99

Lisa Hoenig: PTDLA- Treasurer

Brian Carpenter: PTDLA- Secretary 1996/97

Claudine Jenda: PTDLA- Secretary Elect 1997/98

The purpose of this PTDLA/PTO luncheon/business meeting is to provide a closer dialogue between PTO and PTDLA on issues that are of concern and interest to PTDLs. The PTO uses this forum to communicate information to PTDLs on any new programs and services, that are of interest to PTDLs. The PTO also provides information on the direction of the PTDL Program that PTDLs can expect.

1. Delivery Formats for Patent Information: A question was posed (Rob Williams) that requested a projection of what the delivery format for patent information to PTDLs is likely to be in the future. Is there any dominant format that is likely to be used for delivering patent and trademark information to PTDLs? In response to this question, (Wes Gewehr) stated that the PTO will be looking at all delivery alternatives: DVD, INTERNET, CD-ROM, etc. It is most likely that a combination of delivery formats will be utilized. PTO is looking to address the need for INTERNET-based patent/trademark information that several PTDL directors are expressing. As the INTERNET becomes stable, the PTO will continue to explore ways of providing new and

enhanced forms of patent/trademark information to PTDLs exclusively, through the use of passwords for example. An understanding was reached that delivery of patent/trademark information not be limited to the INTERNET medium only, because of the need for archival information that PTDLs have.

2. Providing Patent Information to GPO: GPO access to patent information on the INTERNET. As a follow-up issue, PTDLs needed to know if the PTO contemplates extending provision of patent information to all GPO libraries, especially through the INTERNET. PTO does not contemplate such a move, PTDLA members were told.

3. Safety and Storage Issues of USAPAT Discs: USAPAT discs pose safety and storage concerns to PTDLs. PTDLs want to know if there are any plans to address the need for safety of the discs, by providing lockable CD-ROM drives, for example (Rob Williams). After a discussion of various practices that different PTDLs employ, PTDLA members were informed (Jane Myers) that replacement of lost discs would be made by PTO on a case-by-case basis. It was further noted that storage of USAPAT discs will not be provided by the PTO. PTDLs were encouraged to employ the best safety and storage means available at their individual institutions.

4. World Patents Production Schedule: PTDLA members were notified (Wes Gewehr) that the World Patents database of patent format pages is ready for delivery to PTDLs. Wes Gewehr sought input from PTDLA executive members on scheduling of delivery of this new database, that would work out best for most PTDLs. After a discussion of several possible delivery options it was suggested that the PTO seek input from PTDLs directly on the PTDLA list-serve and see if there is a consensus. PTDLA executives were appreciative of this new enhancement to the patent and trademark information services that PTDLs offer. A clarification was offered (Jane Myers) that the World Patents Database is expected to serve as a search tool at PTDLs, and not a document delivery media. The database provides access to a representative member of the family of the World Patents. The database will contain 2/3 of the present patent families as US Patents, which should facilitate searching and locating members, hopefully. Based on feedback from PTDLs, a future development related to the World Patents database will be the development of a document index as a search tool.

5. Pre-1971 Full Text s US Patents: An announcement was made (Wes Gewehr) to the PTDLA executive members about a project that is currently underway that will create full text electronic copies of pre-1971 US Patents. Conversion to electronic format of patents back to 1790 will be made. This project currently targets patent examiners as its primary users. Because of this, conversion of patents to full-text will be made by technology group. PTDLA members asked that information on this project and the project's status be shared by PTO with PTDLs via the listserv.

6. Trademark Assistance Center Information Service (TAC): From experiences that some PTDLs have now, it was reported (Donna Hanson) that, on some occasions, people experience a 25 minute hold on the TAC answering service. A Suggestion was made (Donna Hanson) that TAC consider providing an E-mail address as well as the 1-800 number that people can use to seek trademark information. No definite answer to this question was given, but PTO offered to explore the suggestion further.

7. Patent/Trademark Information Contacts: The Patent and Trademark Information Contacts booklets do not have the area code in a prominent place (Donna Hanson), could the PTO look into this? (Jane Myers) offered to look into this suggestion that area code be displayed at the beginning of the booklet in a more prominent place.

8. Trademark Information Hotline: The Hotline has been reported at conference meetings as a successful improvement over previous similar services. However, (Lisa Hoenig) reported cases where a few callers experienced line disconnects after the answering machine message gave some options. Callers should be able to pick out any option that they want during the taped message without waiting for the whole tape to play (Jane Myers) explained. PTO offered to look into this more closely.

9. Trademark Images: Most PTDL conference attendees were favorably impressed by the WIPO demonstration of Patent pilot discs that incorporate images. Could a status report be given on the development of US Trademarks that would incorporate images (Claudine Jenda). PTDLA members were assured that the Trademark live database should be in production and completed this year. Trademark Live will provide access to U. S. Trademark images as well as text. (Jane Myers)

10. Relationship of PTO/PTDLs: To a question on the relationship of PTO to PTDLs, (Wes Gewehr) informed the meeting that PTDLs are viewed as the primary channel of patent and trademark information dissemination. Wes



further noted that PTDLs reach and serve more people collectively than the PTO. The needs of PTDLs are a priority and of primary concern to the PTO. For example, the PTO will be looking at the possibility providing more patent/trademark products to PTDLs. PTDLs are the primary clientele that the PTO designs and develops patent/trademark products for, subscribers are a secondary concern.

11. Dataware Quality Problems: The problems that PTDLs are experiencing over noted patent/trademark equipment/software were noted. The lack of Dataware support for an effective Windows-based searching interface on **Cassio** was noted. (Jane Myers) offered an outlook on possible scenarios that PTDLs may expect with regard to **Cassio** products. PTDLs were again advised to install DOS-based **Cassio** products on the new work-stations, until the problems with windows are resolved by Dataware (Jane Myers). The PTO has and continues to appraise Dataware of the need to meet operational and performance standards of patent and trademark **Cassio** products that Dataware develops for the PTO and PTDLs (Jane Myers).

12. Need for Beta-Test PTDL Sites: Wes Gewehr sought feedback from PTDLA on the possibility of utilizing PTDLs, as beta test sites for new (**Cassio**) products. Beta test sites would provide necessary feedback on the performance of new products before mass distribution of new products to all PTDLs is made. All were in agreement that this is a suggestion that could be most useful to both PTO and PTDLs. However, it was suggested that consideration in the selection of beta test sites be given to making sure that a representative cross-section of all types of PTDLs is made (Lisa Hoenig). It was also suggested that beta test sites be rotated among PTDLs (Carol Giles). Provision of well-documented manuals should also be made with all products to beta test sites and PTDLs (Donna Hanson). It was further suggested by all that PTO seek additional feedback from PTDLs, via the listserv.

13. Dataware/PTO: As new patent or trademark products and services are designed and developed, input was sought from PTDLA members on the importance of producing products that utilize similar software. Does similar, familiar software and interface make training patrons on new products easier, and how important is that to PTDLs? PTDLA members were in agreement that adhering to providing products with similar software interface is only an ideal request, it should not be viewed as a critical requirement that must be adhered to. Most libraries are already dealing with electronic products that operate in different software/interface environments, and patrons are being trained to adapt accordingly. Further more, most PTDLs that are federal depositories are already working with products that operate in several different software environments and interfaces, and are coping with the situation as well as they can. It was emphasized that if new or enhanced products and services are likely to be introduced to PTDLs, the need for software uniformity in **Cassio** or other products will be of minimal concern to PTDLs. It will be more beneficial that PTDLs be provided with more or enhanced new products for the provision of patent/trademark information services than wasting time over software/interface uniformity concerns.

As a long term goal, the PTO could explore the possibility of developing a uniform interface to the different products.

14. FolioViews Possible Use for **Cassis** Applications: A discussion was held on the possibility of using Folio Views software for some **Cassis** applications especially trademarks. Input was sought from PTDLA members on the acceptability of such an application that may be different from **Cassis**. All present were in agreement that this is a product that will be of interest to PTDLs. Test products that utilize this software can be sent to PTDLs for trials and further input, as needed.

15. Video-conferencing Equipment: Many institutions, such as universities and colleges, are involved in distance education programs where video-conferencing and satellite up/downlink of programs is done. Could the PTO supply PTDLs with a list of the types of videoconferencing equipment that the PTO uses at partnership libraries such as Sunnysvale, so all PTDLs would be aware of what it would take to run similar programs (Donna Hanson). In response, it was mentioned (Wes Gewehr) that the PTO is using state-of-the art equipment from CLI. The cost of such equipment was estimated at \$90,000 because it was top of the line quality.

16. Derwent Microfilm Contract: No microfilm will be distributed after 1999. PTO may change suppliers of film as a result of recompeting the current contract.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

-Brian Carpenter, Secretary/Claudine Jenda, Secretary Elect

Minutes of Executive Board/Regional Representatives Meeting

March 21, 1997 8:00-8:30am PTDL P Hospitality Suite, Crystal City Marriott

Donna Hanson, Incoming President call the meeting to order. She mentioned she had called this meeting of the full council, so that the new and old Region representatives could place names with faces. She then proceeded to introduce the current and incoming members of the Executive Board.

Donna Hanson, President 1997-1998

Carol Giles, Incoming President/President Elect 1998-1999

Claudine Jenda, Secretary

Lisa Hoenig, Treasurer

Robert Williams, Past President 1996-1997

Second, Donna asked that everyone present sign the tablet being passed around. Only name and e-mail address were needed on the tablet.

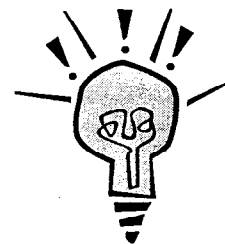
I. Luncheon with Wes Gewehr and Jane Myers

Next, Donna and Rob reported on the topics that were discussed at the luncheon with Wes Gewehr on Thursday (March 20) These included:

- Delivery Formats for Patent Information
- Providing Patent Information to GPO
- Safety and Storage Issues of USAPAT Discs
- World Patents Production Schedule
- Pre-1971 Full Text US Patents
- Trademark Assistance Center Information Service (TAC)
- Patent/Trademark Information Contact Codes
- Trademark Information Hotline
- Trademark Images
- Relationship of PTO/PTDLs
- Dataware Quality Problems
- Need for Beta-Test PTDL Sites
- Dataware/PTO
- FolioViews Possible Use for **Cassis** Applications
- Video-conference Equipment
- Derwent Microfilm Contract

II. PTDLA Program Ideas For Next Year

Donna asked that PTDLA members think about a one month turnaround time on presenting ideas for the program for next year. She would like to see the Association have at least half a day if not a full day for committee business.



Some suggestions proposed for the next meeting at the PTDL P Seminar next year:

A. PTDLA members meeting as a region to discuss regional issues. Possibly having a pizza session on PTDLA day. She would like to get feedback about this idea.

B. Another big topic to be discussed is where the association is going [the future direction of PTDLA]. She noted that the Association concentrated on internal issues for the last three years, such as affiliate/associate status, establishing a listserv, and regional PTDLA representative reorganization.

Donna also mentioned that some of the topics discussed/presented at this year's Conference/Training seminar, e.g., the Fastener Quality Act, the problems with Dataware software, the history of the patent office as presented by Mr. Jim Davie at the PDS luncheon, would definitely have an effect on next year's Conference/Seminar.

III. Topics/Projects Mentioned For PTDLA Consideration:

Videotaping of PTO unofficial historian, Jim Davie's presentation and providing everyone with a script of his talk. This could be used in local Project XL programs or inventor's forums.

Project XL being moved to the Office of Civil Rights and the National Creative Inventor's Project being moved out of the PTO—at least for this year. What is the future for Project XL?

PTDLA members should begin to think about issues to discuss at next year's business meeting and the Chair of Long Range Planning (Dave Morrison) will be looking at the direction of the Association.

Dave also mentioned several projects that he has identified, while working at PTO, that might be of interest to PTDLA. The first is a project to digitize the older patent indexes which have begun to fall apart. The PTO is planning to digitize these indexes and save them to an image database. This project currently does not have a component to enable a full text search of the images because text data only began to be captured in 1971. Up to the present time PTO has had little interest in trying to preserve the pre 1971 data. But now, they are also looking at the old backfile of patents and capturing all the indexes in one file. Dave noted he will report to PTDLA the status of these projects as they develop.

Donna mentioned that maybe Publications committee can look into helping support the PTO indexing image project and the videotaping of Mr. Davie's presentation.

IV. PTDLA Treasurer Report and Fee Increase Proposal

Lisa Hoenig reported on the latest update of the PTDLA Treasurer's report. She noted that to use this budget and to enable her to pay out reimbursements, she would have to have the approval of the Executive Board. After a review of the draft budget, the Board voted to accept the budget and approve the reimbursements she needed to make.

Lisa also reminded anyone who needs to pay their membership/conference fee should do so as soon as possible. Donna and Rob noted that food for the PTDLP Training Seminar break periods comes from the membership/conference fee. In order to cover increasing costs and to provide a better distinction between PTDLA members and non-members, it was decided to raise the membership/conference registration fee for non-members to \$40.00. It is hoped this will encourage vendors and members of the PTO's Patent Documentation Society to join the Association as affiliate members. The notice of the fee increase will be sent out with bylaws ballot to all current PTDLA members and all those who registered for this conference/seminar.

After some discussion by the board members, the motion was approved. Lisa noted that the new membership form will reflect this change.

V. Other Business

Jean Bishop, Chair of the Archives committee again asked for anyone who has archival materials or photos to please send them to her.

Donna stressed once again how important it is to get the PTDLP Seminar Training conference forms back to PTDLP as soon as possible and that comments be made clearly and distinctly so they can begin planning the seminar for next year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*-Brian B. Carpenter, PTDLA Secretary 1996-1997 and
Claudine Jenda, PTDLA Secretary 1997-1998*

Treasurer's Report - 1998

PTDLA TREASURER'S PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT

Eighty-four people paid fees for the 1997 Patent and Trademark Depository Library Seminar. A total of 93 people paid PTDLA membership dues for the 1997/98 membership year. Of those, 92 were PTDL Representatives, and one was an Affiliate Member.



Balance as of February 10, 1997: \$1983.82

DEPOSITS

3/19/97	Seminar registrations and dues	\$2462.00
4/24/97	Additional memberships	\$190.00
8/22/97	Additional memberships	\$40.00

TOTAL CREDITS (+) \$2692.00

DEBITS

3/15/97	Election ballot mailing	\$32.00
3/17/97	PTDLA Reception costs	\$171.40
3/21/97	Secretary's photocopy costs	\$6.90
3/21/97	Newsletter expenses	\$759.14
3/21/97	Contribution towards Seminar expenses	\$1742.00

3/21/97	Contribution towards Commissioner's Reception	\$100.00
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3/26/97	Officers' lunch with Wes Gewehr	\$108.02
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4/16/97	ALA Affiliate Fax cost	\$5.00
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4/16/97	Special ballot mailing expenses	\$46.94
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5/23/97	IRS materials FedEx from PTDLP to Toledo	\$11.20
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TOTAL DEBITS (-) \$2982.60

Balance as of February 20, 1998

\$1693.22

-Lisa Hoenig, Treasurer

Archives Committee 1997-1998 Report

Committee members: Jean Bishop, Butte, MT, Chair; Alan Gould, Lincoln, NE; Karon Moll, Des Moines, IA

Two new folders have been added to the archival files: Long-Range Planning Committee and PTDLA/PTO Business Meeting. Lisa Hoenig, PTDLA Treasurer, sent two versions of the 1997-1998 PTDLA Membership roster. One is alphabetical by member name, the other by PTDL. Kevin Harwell has placed the newest diskettes of the PTDLA listserv records into the archival files. Kevin also sent some memos from the Election Committee. Mande Putnam sent materials from the old New Haven PTDL (Science Park) files.

Research from the files was done for David Morrison and Donna Hanson who requested old copies and correspondence of the Organization's By-Laws.

Many of the PTDLA memos and reports are now published in the *PTDLA Newsletter* and original papers are not sent to archives. Two copies of the newsletter are filed and the newest publication is Volume 9 (Issue 11), March 1997.

-Submitted by Jean Bishop, Butte, MT, Chair

Long-Range Planning Committee Report

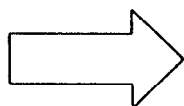


A number of issues brought up last year are being addressed, or have been resolved during the past year:

1) The Patent Indexes

PTO is considering a number of electronic initiatives that could provide us with replacements for the annual Patent Indexes, but these will take time to evolve. One group is looking at scanning patent data from 1970, the earliest date currently in the Automated Patent System (APS), back to 1790. Initially they were supposed to go all the way back to 1790 and load the full-text into APS, but they are also considering other formats such as front-page or bibliographic. Once the data has been loaded into APS, it would then be relatively easy to pull the index fields off and publish them on DVD-ROM or the future equivalent.

This group was supposed to have sessions with target database users last fall, but they were postponed until late February or this coming March.



2) Multi-media training materials

The development and dissemination of training programs is being discussed by PTDL staff, and initiatives in other areas of the PTO are being tracked for potential utility to PTDLs. The time is right for us to discuss what sorts of materials are most needed by the PTDLs, perhaps during this seminar's breakout sessions. Martha is very interested in our suggestions!

3) Affiliation with other professional organizations

Our petition for affiliate status to the American Library Association was approved during the ALA Annual Conference in June 1997. A letter from ALA notifying Donna Hansen of that approval finally reached her in January 1998. As this year's ALA annual conference is in Washington, DC, this would be an opportunity to draw upon the resources of PTO and the PTDL Program for any affiliated activities.

Congratulations and thanks to Jennifer Paustenbaugh from Stillwater, OK, who worked on our ALA affiliation petition for the past few years despite her own lessening involvement with the Stillwater PTDL.

4) Annual seminar agenda

Many of the suggestions for changes to the annual seminar agenda provided in last year's survey were addressed during last year's program or in this year's agenda. For other association concerns addressed in the intervening year, please see the Six-Month Progress Report sent out in PTDL Memorandum 97-74.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Although I've worked mostly on ad hoc issues during the last two years, the original intent for the Long-Range Planning Committee was to survey PTDLA's members. If we look at the "Minutes of [1996] PTDLA Council Meeting" in the PTDLA Newsletter for March 1997 under the section for New Business (p.5), we'll find:

"Council members feel that PTDLA is reacting to issues; long range plans might allow us to be more proactive. Items to be addressed should include Role of Regional Representatives; Needs of PTDLs; Mission of PTDLA; Concerns of Different Types of PTDLs. We need to poll the members to determine their expectations of the Association... Regional representatives could be members of the Planning Committee..."

Under "Minutes of PTDLA Business Meeting" in the New Business section (*ibid.*, p.6) we have:

"Jennifer [Paustenbaugh, PTDLA Chair 1995-1996] announced the formation of the Long Range Planning Committee as approved by the Council. Regional Representatives will be the core of the committee. A survey of other members in the region..."

With these thoughts in mind, I will propose that the Committee distributes a survey through the regional

representatives as soon as possible after this year's seminar, addressing the following broad questions:

1. What is the mission of the PTDLA?
2. How well is the Association meeting the needs of the membership?
3. What activities can the Association undertake to better satisfy those needs?
4. How can we begin to use our new affiliation with ALA to further our long-term goals?
5. What should be the role of our regional representatives?

A few PTDL reps reported their long-range concerns on PTDLA-L. Mary Leckie (Little Rock, AR) said:

"We have talked of having regional workshops, and I think this is a good idea. The PTDLs in surrounding states are on our mailing list, so the PTDL Rep will know about any workshop and can alert interested persons. If possible, I would send staff to any training in the surrounding states. This is especially good when you have new staff."

Jim Miller (College Park, MD), Pat Ragains (Reno, NV), Eileen Pernicone (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Sarah Calcese (Madison, WI) all discussed electronic replacements for the historical annual Patent Index series. Sarah stated:

"I agree with you that fielded searching would be a definite plus for an historical database...Fields I would consider critical are: inventor, date, title, subject. Abstract would be nice too. If this database may be a replacement for the printed annual indexes, it should be at *least* as good as the printed indexes!..."

It would really benefit the entire patent community to have the older patents with images available on the Internet. I don't know about other PTDLs, but our older film is heavily used and it's breaking like crazy. Also, I don't see the PTO really having to "compete" with commercial vendors in mounting the older patent images; I would think most vendors are more concerned about the recent patents. Finally, having the old patents with images, available on the Internet would be helpful to those PTDLs without a full backfile."

Eileen Pernicone (Ft. Lauderdale, FL PTDL) added:

"[A]bout capturing the old patent data into electronic format, I agree with you that without separate searchable fields, we might just as well depend on our film backfiles. It would be nice to have it captured as fully searchable text with a way to pull up the drawings and/or photos of models by using a function key, like with the SIRS (Social Issues Resources Series) software, in addition to having separate searchable fields for inventor name, title, subject, current and old class/subclass, original assignee if different from the inventor, patent number, date, or range of dates, etc."

Lisa Hoenig (Toledo, OH) made a suggestion that:

"[T]he patent information part of the job is just the beginning. Once our inventors complete their patent searches and fill out their applications, they are back with oodles of other invention-related, but not necessarily patent-related questions. Marketing, licensing, finding capital, etc., and answers to those kinds of queries aren't easily found in reference books..."

I'd like to see PTDLA (Martha said it would have to be on "our" time, since PTO cannot promote any outside organizations) invite a half-day or so worth of speakers from other organizations that work to benefit independent inventors..."

Lisa specifically mentioned WISC, the Wisconsin Innovation Service Center based at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, which I have recommended to independent inventors in Salt Lake City for years. Lisa has a contact at WISC who would be happy to speak to our entire group, given enough notice.

Eileen Pernicone (Fort Lauderdale, FL) asked regarding the scheduling for the annual training seminar:

"Concerning the annual training seminar, probably for the one in 1999, would it work to have three days of training, a weekend in between, and three more days of training, like for the Interagency Seminar? This would give PTDLA the opportunity to meet over the weekend without taking time away from the training, in addition to providing attendees with an opportunity to think about and "digest" the information learned in the first half of the training. Then, they have the opportunity to ask questions while they are still there, and, even if they do not have questions, they will be more rested for the second half of the training seminar. All of these things would enhance learning. Also, in many reference departments it might be easier to schedule a person out for two half weeks than one full week, because there can be greater flexibility in switching nights and weekends with other staff members. An added bonus is that often one can get better airfare deals by staying over a Saturday."

Finally, Robert Williams (Anchorage, AK) pointed out our continuing need for PTO or GPO cataloging for PTO publications.

-Submitted by David Morrison, Salt Lake City, UT, Chair



PTDLA Bylaws Change Election Results

Date: Fri, 23 May 1997 14:53:14 +0000
From: Kevin Harwell <krh@psulias.psu.edu>
Reply-To: ptdla-l@psulias.psu.edu
To: PTDLA-L@psulias.psu.edu
Subject: PTDLA Bylaws Change Election Results

Since we are past the May 20th deadline, and since I will be out of the office all next week, here are the results from 57 ballots received.

Item 1: Should a new second sentence be added to Article II, Section 4 that reads:

"Associate Members may serve on any Association committee except those that may be required to take an official position on topics affecting the relationship between the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Patent and Trademark Depository libraries."

Yes = 54

No = 1

Abstentions (question not marked) = 2

Item 2: Should the word "Associate" be changed to "Affiliate"?

Yes = 56

No = 0

Abstentions = 1

Advisory vote:

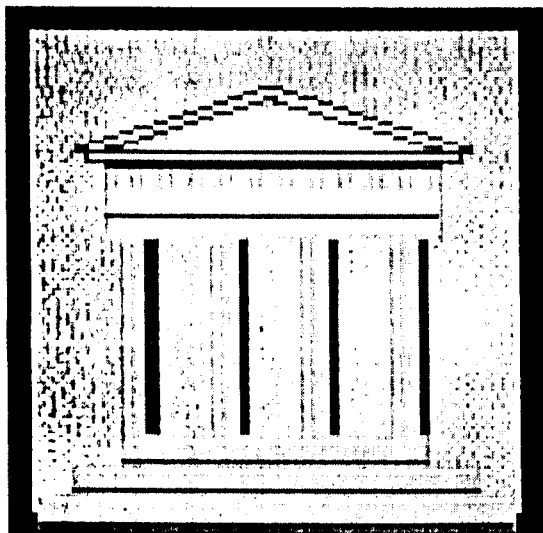
Should the PTDLA investigate establishing affiliate membership in the Special Libraries Association?

Yes = 51

No = 5

Abstentions = 1

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin R Harwell
Election Committee



A Little Comic Interlude...

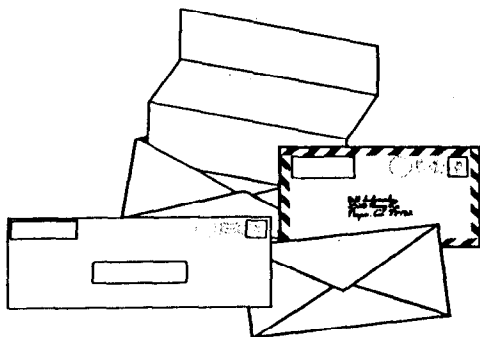


OK, DAD. I'LL JUST STAY HERE QUIETLY GROWING UP AT AN UNBELIEVABLE RATE, NEVER SPENDING MUCH SPECIAL TIME WITH MY OWN DAD, WHO'S ALWAYS WORKING.



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News from the PTDLs



Akron, Ohio

Akron-Summit County Public Library

The Akron Summit County Public Library Patent and Trademark Center is up and running well after two years of experience. All Science and Technology Division staff aid patrons, but a core team is responsible for day-to-day maintenance and operation. The original team members welcomed the addition last Fall of Hillary Miller-Folb and Curtis Bower, who have studied hard to broaden their knowledge of patent and trademark procedures.

The Fall brought other good news. The library's bond issue for expansion of facilities passed. Who doesn't wish for more space in this computer hardware age? In our PTDL Center we do make space for five computers and four printers. Three workstations churn out twenty years of patent images squirreled away in the sub-basement on more than 2,000 CD-ROM's. The discs are housed in a specially devised changer that is about the size of our operating center on the second floor. Our patrons marvel at the prompt appearance of copies of their desired patents. In addition to our **Cassis** computer, we have a computer dedicated to the uspto.gov site on the Web. Hopefully, it too will soon have a printer so patrons can print out their own forms.

We were happy to host a program for our local inventors group. It's a great year when most of your efforts show positive results. We are looking forward to an even more productive year in 1998. We are eager to host a PTO delegation headed by Wes Gewehr this Spring.

-Kay Clark

Albany, New York

New York State Library

Our State Legislature has finally almost completely come on board with Internet access, and the NYS Library has throughout supplied training on how to effectively utilize it. This has spilled over into the patent area, as our Internet publicity has brought in patrons as well as questions about

the Internet in general..(we offer free access on the public floor to anyone smart enough to figure out where we are... and yes, the teenagers are here). Numerous phone calls to the reference desk involve Internet access for patent and trademark resources, so we have expanded our handout, and installed quite a lengthy list as a bookmark on the public floor terminals.

We recently offered our services to representatives of our State Department of Taxation. They requested a meeting to discuss the ability of our system to identify holders of patents and trademarks from our state that may be in some way receiving money from patent assignments or use of trademarks. I'm not sure of all the tax ramifications of their questions (do we want to know too much about this?), but we're joining in the spirit of friendly cooperation with those amiable tax guys, who are just looking to grab moneys the state is entitled to.

Finally, on a bit of a silly note, I've been attempting to get the attention of our staff periodically through e-mail with bits of information about patents and trademarks, i.e. reminders on search methods on **Cassis**, new regulations or requirements etc. We have over 20 librarians, and as all of us are responsible for a wide variety of subject areas, it often results it seems, in information overload. I start the e-mail with an interesting fact from one of the publications the PTO sends us (top patent earners; trademarks from the 1800's), or something from a magazine article, and once I have their attention, they can't help but read on. I brought back some small souvenirs from the PTO museum (such as an Edison button), and give it as a prize for correct answers to patent and trademark searching. (Who says librarians aren't competitive?)

-Mary Woodward

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Centennial Science & Engineering Library
University of New Mexico

Jackie Shane has replaced Dena Thomas as the Patent and Trademark Librarian at the University of New Mexico. Dena has taken a year of leave to take a position in Ireland. The Centennial Library now offers three dedicated workstations for patent and trademark searching on CD-ROM, plus an additional new Internet accessible workstation for visiting patent and trademark web sites.

-Jackie Shane

Anchorage, Alaska

Z.J. Loussac Public Library, Anchorage Municipal Libraries

The Anchorage PTDL has provided numerous tours of the patent and trademark collection areas. We continue to



provide training for staff and public on the CD-ROM databases stored on the patent and trademark workstation. A "Topic Trail" has been developed to assist with locating patent resources including the most important

Internet web sites. Robert Williams is refining a Microsoft PowerPoint® presentation on patents and trademarks and is working with media specialists to develop a video tour of the patent and trademark collections at the Anchorage PTDL. The video would also provide detailed information about the services the library provides.

Our PTDL is still trying to find funding for a CD-ROM storage cabinet for the Japanese patents which are currently housed in our basement storage facility.

Robert Williams has been appointed to the Alaska Inventors Alliance Advisory Board. The A.I.A. is hosting an inventor's symposium May 15, 1998. Robert will be the keynote speaker for the opening session and will develop information packets for the symposium participants.

Our staff and patrons still marvel at the high level of service provided by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Offices in general, and the Office of Patent and Trademark Depository Library Programs in particular. There would be far less grumbling by constituents if all government agencies were this public service oriented.

-Robert C. Williams

Atlanta, Georgia

Library & Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology

In the past year, we had over 1400 people log in to use **Cassis**. As expected these figures are down from last year. Many of our users are excited to access patents from their homes or offices via the Internet. Even more are clamoring for free trademark searching to be made available that way as well. Most of our users were from Atlanta, and other places in Georgia (including Talking Rock), but a number of other states were represented including: Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina, California and Louisiana. We had people from as far away as Argentina, Australia and Canada as well

To facilitate our patrons' use of the resources on the Internet, I created a series of webpages at <http://www.library.gatech.edu/patents>. They have been well received, and a number of those who have visited our sites have used our ASKus feature (askus@library.gatech.edu) which emails their questions to Julie Stallings. The questions have been pretty typical so far: how can I get copies of foreign patents, are they searchable on the web, will you do this search for me, etc.

Beyond the increased electronic accessibility, our physical facility has improved as well. We got carpeting in our main

work area, retired the World War II style gray metal desks for new faux wood laminated ones, and got new chairs for most staff locations. Our main counter is in the queue to be refurbished as well!

Our staff developed patent related displays for our walls. Lydia Hastey has selected and framed some very colorful plant patent drawings. Tamara Combs has scanned, enlarged, and cleaned up some interesting patent drawings. These include patents grouped by themes. For life after death she chose a patent for "perfusing" a severed head and one for a means to preserve the dead. For fire escape devices she chose springy shoes and a parachute to be strapped to the head and a set of wings. Bedtime patents are represented by an "alarm" bed that springs upright when it is time for the slumberer to arise and a bed that incorporates a piano and a wardrobe in its design. Tamara also selected patent drawings from the Game of Life®. It provides insight into the psyche of its time with squares for "suicide" and "idleness to disgrace."

Members of our department have performed various outreach efforts. Claire Swanson and I have written an article entitled "Patent Information in a Time of Transition" which has been submitted to the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* for their consideration. I presented a program at the Georgia Library Association annual conference. It was co-sponsored by the Documents and the Reference Interest Groups and was devised to make librarians more aware of patent and trademark resources available to them.

I presented patents to a number of audiences on campus. Among them were Industrial Design classes that were interested in improving various hand-held devices, such as blow dryers. History of Technology and Society classes were particularly intrigued by the quintessential mousetrap patents. The gruesome nature of some of the inventions and the intriguing variety of animals considered "vermin" in past times excited their interest. Julie Stallings and I also attended a Brown Bag Discussion on Intellectual Property as it is handled at Georgia Tech.

We have had several departures and hires in the past year. Tamara Combs has been promoted to a position in another department. Claire Swanson has left for new opportunities at the Piedmont Hospital Library. We have added two temporary part-time librarians, Joanne Tobin and Pam Padgett, to help us as we consider the ideal structure for Information Services in the future.



I conclude this report with a couple of tales from the lighter side of this PTDL. While pursuing the question, "Did Bayer® ever patent aspirin?" I learned that Bayer also developed heroin! It was so named for the "heroic" feeling that it gave those who used it. On a heavenly note, Cathie Cannon fielded a question from a client who wished to trademark "Jesus." (We don't know what product he had in mind.)

-Mary-Frances Panettiere

Auburn, Alabama

Auburn University

Auburn University Libraries PTDL, Science and Technology Department, will be participating in an inventor workshop 'The Alabama Conference for Inventors at the Jacksonville State University, AL from February 19-20, 1998. Joan Shedivy and Andrew Wohrley, Science & Technology Reference Librarians from Auburn, will give presentations on Patent & Trademark Search process and services available at Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries.

Several presentations have been made this year to science students, engineering students, agriculture students, architecture and design students, technical writing students, and history students. Instruction on researching patents and trademarks continues to be provided on a one-on-one basis to local inventors from around the region, academic faculty and staff, and individuals from the small business community.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in providing us with the tools, **Cassis** and the USPTO home page, that enable us to serve the clientele that we are able to reach in the region. The assistance of the everyone at the Office of Patent and Trademark Depository Library Programs (PTDLP) is also gratefully acknowledged. The PTDLP staff are always helpful, supportive, and highly competent in answering the many questions that we refer to them.

The Auburn University Libraries PTDL is working closely with a newly formed inventor group in the state, The Alabama Inventors Assistance Network. We are actively involved in the planning stages of the various projects and activities that this network has expressed an interest in engaging in to include: The Alabama Inventors Hall of Fame Project, and Inventor Workshops.

Dr. Stella Bentley, was hired in September, 1997 as dean of the Auburn University Libraries after a search that took slightly over two years. It is good to finally have someone in this position. Stella was formerly an assistant dean for public services at the University of California, Santa Barbara. We expect to have a new administrative team. It is a time for continued change. Organizational changes within the library have been proposed. Some of the change is necessitated by

the continued decline of financial state support for the university and all higher education in the state in general; and is leading to frozen positions, decreased book/journal collections, and program cuts.

Through all this change, however, we expect next year to be just as busy with continued prominence and support of the PTDL patent and trademark search services in our library. We are hoping to be stable enough, despite the changes, to do more outreach to our patent and trademark clientele. We are still hoping to realize our dream of expanding our patent/trademark collections by adding comprehensive collections of foreign patents... and standards.

-Ann Dodd and Claudine Jenda

Austin, Texas

McKinney Engineering Library, University of Texas at Austin

The McKinney Engineering Library (General Libraries) of the University of Texas at Austin is extremely proud to announce its new WEB based patent and trademark tutorials.

Our big excitement this year is the following:

Nancy Green (Reference Coordinator and library Web-master), gave a paper/poster session at the American Society for Engineering Education-Engineering Libraries Division on our Patent and Trademark Web-based tutorial. Nancy has also taken the plunge and is now enrolled in library school.

We applied for and received funding (\$80,000 for equipment and furniture, and \$10,000 for materials) to create a Science and Technology Electronic Information Center (EIC) in the McKinney Engineering Library. This center will provide intranet access to a variety of highly specialized electronic tools including patents, standards, trademarks, as well as access to specific engineering programs like Matlab, Mathematica, etc. This project is also being used as a case study in a Library management class.

We are also involved in a major fund-raising effort in association with the College of Engineering. They are helping us raise money to fund an Electronic Reference Internship within Engineering Library—we hope to name it the Mel Boggis Electronic Reference Internship. This position would work with our EIC. Having never done any development work of this kind—this is a real learning experience and an eye-opener.

Susan taught an all day class called "Patent and Trademark Searching—the Internet and Beyond" for UT-Continuing Education and she will teach a continuing ed class in Indianapolis for the annual convention of Special Libraries on developing and designing web-based tutorial for staff and user training—the examples will be patents/trademarks and phase diagrams.

Plans are a-foot to develop a new tutorial that intersect patent tools available on the web with other library tools. More on this later.

-Susan Ardis

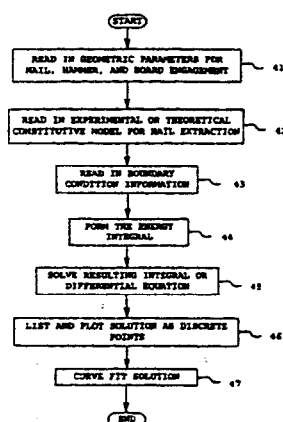
Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham Public Library

It was another busy year at the Birmingham PTDL, as inventors and entrepreneurs from all over north Alabama came to make use of our patent and trademark resources.

One of our longtime patrons, Mr. Wayne Powell, received a patent (5,674,002) for his specially designed hammer. Mr. Powell spent many months searching CASSIS for hammers or other tools with designs similar to his.

5,674,002
**HAMMERS WITH OPTIMAL CLAW SHAPE AND
 METHOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIMALLY
 DESIGNED HAMMERS, CROWBARS, AND LEVERS**
 Talmadge Wayne Powell, 218 Vetavia St., Irondale, Ala. 35210,
 and Evangelos C. Eleftheriou, 3528 William and Mary Rd.,
 Birmingham, Ala. 35216
 Filed Nov. 27, 1995, Ser. No. 562,689
 Int. Cl.⁶ G05B 13/02
 U.S. Cl. 364—148 5 Claims



A group of local inventors, headed by the inventor of the Eggsercizer, Mr. Mark Davis, has formed a non-profit organization called INVENT Alabama. The organization's mission is to provide a support and assistance network for inventors trying to get their ideas developed and introduced to the marketplace. The group hopes to develop associate inventor programs in various cities around the state and to ultimately hold an annual inventor's workshop that would be held in a different city each year.

A large group of members from the organization visited the Birmingham PTDL last September. We gave them a tour of the facility, provided an overview of the patent search process, demonstrated the use of **Cassis**, and showed them how to access patent information on the Internet.

Documents Librarian Rebecca "Becky" Scarborough remains as the Birmingham PTDL representative, as she has since the library's inception as a PTDL twenty years ago. She is ably assisted by staff members Mary Beth Newbill and Cherrye Todd. I, however, will soon be leaving the department. I am transferring from Government Documents to another department within the library.

I will miss working with Becky and the other Government Documents staff. I will also miss working with patent and trademark materials. That has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job over the past eight years. I especially enjoyed the two trips I made to Washington for PTDL Training Seminars. I met a lot of good people from the PTDL and from other PTDLs.

I know my eventual replacement will share my good feelings about the program. If you should have the opportunity to meet, please welcome him or her to the fold.

-Danny Dorroh

Burlington, Vermont

Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont

After years of planning, cooperation and hard work, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont finally became home for the first Vermont Patent & Trademark Depository Library last year. On August 11, 1997, Vermont PTDL celebrated its grand opening at Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont. Larry Goffney, deputy commissioner of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Judith Ramaley, the new president of the University of Vermont, mayor of the city, representatives from the senator's office and inventors attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A patent search demo and a small reception followed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Local TV stations and newspapers carried the news of the Vermont PTDL opening.

We were very fortunate to have a group of three representatives here from the Office of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program for a two-day workshop right after the library grand opening. The workshop attracted librarians statewide. We all learnt a lot. Mande Putnam, Michael White and Dave Morrison did a great job. Thanks.

The new Vermont PTDL is greatly appreciated by our users. To assist the users, we published couple of the handouts guiding users for patent and trademark search. The Documents & Maps Department, where the new PTDL is located, is making every effort to meet the needs of our users.

-Yan Hong

Butte, Montana

Montana Tech of the University of Montana

More technical writing and engineering students are using the patent collection for research this year. A quick search sheet handout on how to get started on the new Windows **Cassis** system was developed to help guide students to a beginning search screen.

A 3-credit, "Management of Patents, Trademarks and Copyright" class was taught last summer session to graduate students in the library. This was taught under the business department by Jean Bishop. An undergraduate class is being proposed for next fall semester.

The Montana Inventor's Association met in Butte in January, 1998. Workshops were conducted by the President, Fred Division, and Dr. Susanne Waring of the MSU College of Technology from Great Falls. The group toured the Patent & Trademark Depository Library in the afternoon and were encouraged to start a patent research project.

-Jean Bishop

Casper, Wyoming

Natrona County Public Library

The Natrona County Public Library PTDL has, along with the rest of the library, been remodeled. Patrons now enjoy a reconfigured work area with new carpet and video capability (to view those great PTO productions!). This took place in July when the Information Services/Reference area was also renovated. This past December, the Circulation/Periodical/Fiction/AV area was completely redone with carpet and a beautiful circular Circulation desk (sounds appropriate, doesn't it?). PTDL Representative Jim Nations (also NCPL's Community Services Specialist) completed his first year at the PTDL in January. He regularly does talks for schools, scouts and professional groups on patents/inventing and also space science/technology. Jim completed the library's Web page (<http://www.wsl.state.wy.us/wyld/libraries/natr/index.htm>) with links to all departments, including the PTDL. PTDL usage has increased by 50% over the past year; the depository is used by patrons from around Wyoming. The past year has not produced any huge success stories other than patrons who are glad the collection is available. Most patrons are in the early stages of searching, but Jim always encourages them to report back if they are successful with application or marketing.

-Jim Nations

Cincinnati, Ohio

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

On July 6, 1997, one of the oldest Patent Depository Libraries got a whole new look. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, founded in 1853, has been

a patent depository since 1871. The patent collection had been housed in the Science and Technology Department. In 1997, the Main Library completed a \$44.8 million expansion and renovation along with a reorganization of the library's collection of more than six million items.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County system includes a Main Library in downtown Cincinnati plus 41 branches. The Main Library has over 543,000 square feet of space, and the systemwide circulation is over 12.5 million



items annually.

As a result of the reorganization of the library, two new departments were created, consolidating materials that had been distributed among various subject departments. The Magazines and Newspapers Department brought together 6500 subscriptions into one location. The Public Documents and Patents Department consolidated the library's Government Printing Office depository collection, which is one of the oldest and largest of the selective depositories in the country, and the patent collection. Federal documents and patents now have a higher profile and a staff which, while new, is gaining greater expertise than ever before in using these specialized materials.

The new department has faced many challenges in the past year. The entire collection of patents (23,000 volumes or more than 6200 feet) and GPO documents (258,000 volumes or more than three miles of shelf space) had to be moved from the old building to the new 165,000 square foot addition. This included a move not only across the street via a two story connector, but also on different floors for the patent collections. Most of the collection is kept in closed stacks, but the new staff was given the pleasurable task of filling over 3,000 feet of new, publicly visible open shelves with documents. While the paper patents are still kept in closed stacks, all the *Official Gazettes* and other indexes are accessible to patrons.

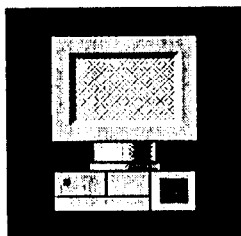
Another challenge has been to train a staff that is completely new to patents since no one from the Science and Technology Department made the move with the patent collection. John Graham is the head of the new Public Documents and Patents Department. Elizabeth Zuelke is the assistant head and patent representative. While both John and Elizabeth had several years of experience dealing with GPO documents, the entire staff were novices when it came to patents. The department's staff include 15 people: five full-time librarians, three full-time library assistants, two part-time library assistants, one full-time and four part-time shelvers. Elizabeth attended the PTO training seminar in 1997 without ever having conducted a patent search and was practically overcome with new information. The entire staff has learned

quickly, however. The department holds weekly staff training sessions on various reference topics to hone their skills. A visit by Wes Gewehr and Mande Putnam from PTO in the fall was especially helpful.

Still, no amount of training can prepare any staff for the types of questions encountered in a patent depository. We've all had to learn together in this process. Some of the more memorable patron questions dealt with the – surprisingly difficult to find – patents for everyday items, such as the Thighmaster®. One patron was surprised to learn that a particular magician didn't hold the patent on levitation. And the staff and the patrons have discovered together that there really isn't a master index to all U.S. patents by inventor name. However, the staff is now adept at dealing with people who want to begin complex searches on their lunch hours, who request to have an envelope to send in their patent application "right away", or who want us to mail them the "patent kit."

Even best intentions and planning can go awry. John eagerly made contact with the local inventor's club in Cincinnati. They invited him to speak and promptly peppered him with complaints about PTO fees and related PTO business. One individual at this meeting decried PTO's fee of \$40 per hour to search their database. Upon closer scrutiny, this inventor really didn't know what this database was called or what it was supposed to do. Nevertheless, most club members did seem interested in what was said, and they've agreed to help publicize our upcoming series of patent programs.

The new home for patents at the library has increased the visibility of a collection that has always been heavily used. The specialized staff can now devote even more time to the needs of patent users.



There is increased space for storage of microfilm and CD-ROMs and additional equipment available to use them. The Public Documents and Patents Department is the first department in the library to have its own home page (<http://plch.lib.oh.us/main/pd>) with hotlinks to government information sources, including PTO. It is the first library department to offer online reference assistance, although we are still waiting for this service to gain popularity with the public.

An important new focus for this department has been increased programming. The department conducts monthly tours and monthly workshops on finding government information on the Internet. Beginning in March, quarterly patent search workshops will be conducted under the series title "The Power of Patents." Representatives from the PTO will be conducting a workshop at the library on June 4. In addition, the department continues to provide services such as faxing or photocopying patents for a small fee, distributing

Copyright forms, and conducting online Dialog searches for trademark and patent questions. The department plans to provide APS searching in the near future.

The department has been very impressed with the amount and quality of support by PTO and PTDL program staff. They are always forthcoming with advice and a quick response to our many questions. This can-do attitude is quite refreshing and really shows the value of a small, tightly focused depository program.

If you ever need assistance or would like further information, please contact either John Graham (513-665-3358 or johngraham@plch.lib.oh.us) or Elizabeth Zuelke (513-665-3359 or ehzuelke@plch.lib.oh.us). The public reference number is 513-369-6971 and public e-mail address is pdpat@plch.lib.oh.us. Elizabeth plans to attend the PTO training seminar in March so perhaps you'll see her there.

-Elizabeth Zuelke

Clemson, South Carolina

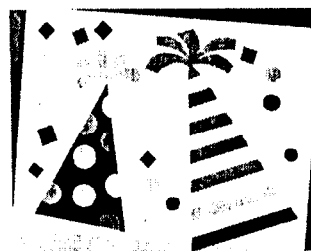
R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

Pretty much business as usual here at Clemson this year. Usage of the Patent and Trademark collection continues to grow steadily. Nearly 100% of our patrons are first time users, so that keeps the reference staff on their toes. We've all settled in to using the great new workstation (that probably means that it's time to change it, right?) I did a little bit of outreach this year by conducting a class on beginning patent searching for the staff at Richland County Public Library in Columbia. They are not a PTDL, but they are very interested in offering good service to their patent and trademark searching patrons. "Third Thursday at 3," a patent searching class scheduled on the third Thursday of every month continues to be popular. And more and more engineering classes seem to have found us! This is a real treat. They are a great bunch of students-interested, motivated, and genuinely interested in the patent process.

-Jan Comfort

Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland Public Library



In March, the Government Documents Department, including the patent collection, moved to its permanent home in the Cleveland Public Library's new addition, the Louis Stokes Wing. It is named for a longtime Cleveland member of Congress who is retiring this year. The new wing sits adjacent to the Main Library building, which is undergoing renovation. Separating the two structures will be a renovated reading garden to include a

fountain designed by Maya Lin. The December 1997 issue of *Library Journal*, p. 57, spotlights the new building. The September 1997 issue of *Architecture* has a six-page color spread on the new building.

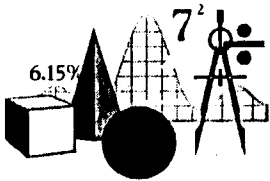
Patrons' reactions have been very positive and the staff appreciates the spacious, flexible a bright new surroundings. The patent microfilm is still on open shelves, however, the improved lighting makes the tiny numbers on the boxes easier to read. We have space for ten Minolta® 605Z reader printers. The second **Cassio** workstation was set up after being boxed for over six months. It is in constant use for copying USAPat.

Attendees at the Ohio Library Council annual conference who visited in October were very interested in patent resources, especially the APS.

-Sig Weinhold

College Park, Maryland

Engineering & Physical Sciences Library
University of Maryland



The University of Maryland continues add programs and courses that emphasize patent information as an important component. In addition to the very successful ENES 100 program, students in several

honors seminars and the GEMSTONE program use patent information as an integral part of their work. To meet this demand, the reference librarians at College Park continue a major classroom instruction program for them. Nearly 1000 students received basic training in patent searching last year. ENES 100 is the foundation class required of every student in the College of Engineering. During 1997, we held patent classes for over 720 students in 20+ classes, including honors sections. In addition, 129 freshmen in the GEMSTONE program a four-year interdisciplinary program focusing on technological innovation and its implications in society, and 94 College Park Scholars also were introduced to patent information.

This was in addition to the many patent and trademark searchers from the community that use our patent/trademark collections. As with other PTDLs, there is a brisk business in trademark searching. College Park continues to get many referrals from the PTO, and since we are close to the Public Search Room at Crystal City, and easier to get to for many, we are able to assist many novice users.

The PTO workstation would be perfect if the slooow printing can be fixed. We have upgraded our other two **Cassio** workstations as well, and searchers have access to two

workstations all the hours the library is open – over 98 hours per week. Our students especially value being able to do their patent assignments late at night.

We are looking forward to refining the Engineering & Physical Sciences Library web site, and to the PTO continuing improvements in trademark searching capabilities this year.

-Judy Erickson

College Station, Texas

Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A & M University

1997-98 was another busy year for College Station PTDL. The year began with two more workshops co-sponsored by Brazos Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC). These workshops held on February 8 and April 5 introduced interested persons in the Brazos Valley to patents and trademarks. From January through May, Brian was one of four speakers at a regular SBDC workshop geared toward small business owners in the Brazos Valley. These workshops will resume in the spring of 1998. My thanks to SBDC Consultant Mr. Mark Gillar who helped put these workshops together for inventors and the business community of the Brazos Valley. Because of his work and these workshops, the local newspaper, *The Bryan-College Station Eagle*, did a front page story on the College Station PTDL collection.

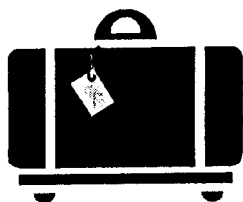
In the fall, Brian began visiting with local elementary and middle school enrichment teachers in the College Station area. On January 16, 120 students from one of the local College Station public schools came to the library to learn about local history and get a brief introduction to patents and trademarks. Brian has also provided the enrichment teachers and school librarians of College Station Independent School District with copies of the National Inventor's Hall of Fame Black Book. This spring he is providing workshops for them to help with their creative thinking classes.

Our two **Cassio** workstations continue to have many users, especially on the evenings and weekends. We are very thankful to have the PTO supplied **Cassio** station. Because we have this workstation and one which we purchased ourselves, we have the ability to let one searcher use the trademark database while the other uses the patent databases on the other station.

As part of recent library reorganization, Brian has now joined the Science and Engineering Librarians. Already word of his ability to help find patent and trademark resources has reached the departments of Nuclear Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Engineering Technology, and other departments on the A&M campus resulting in several repeat customers for our products and services. One of those repeat customers, Mr. Ed Levitas, a graduate student in Management, had nothing but praise for the Automated Patent System (APS).

He used APS to complete work on graduate project dealing with corporate patent ownership. Additionally, Brian receives telephone, regular mail and electronic mail requests for patent and trademark information. To keep members of the A&M community informed about the newest products and services offered, Brian created a listserv newsletter that sent out its first issue in December.

This past summer at ALA in San Francisco, Brian Carpenter, Science Librarian Judy Hart, and Senior Science Librarian Jeannie Miller, presented a poster session "On the Trail of an Invention: Does a Patent Exist for that Idea?" on the use of commercial databases to enhance academic and specialist patent research. My thanks also to Reference Librarian Wendi Arant and TAMU Assistant General Legal Counsel, Susan Spinks, for their help in creating guidelines for legal research not only in the patents and trademarks, but also in any other legal reference materials. Brian and Wendi have just submitted a paper for review on this topic.



As plans begin to take shape for our move to a temporary location during our library renovation, we are looking at the best ways to maintain continuity in serving our public. We looking forward the improvements the renovation will bring and to another busy year at College Station PTDL.

-Brian Carpenter

Concord, New Hampshire

New Hampshire State Library

Reorganization

1997 was a busy year for the Concord PTDL. A new department of Electronic and Government Information Resources was created to assume the management of the Government Documents, including the PTDL Program, and the State's Web Page as well as all other electronic information resources and services.

A separate PTDL web page was created to assist remote users in obtaining information about Patent and Trademark policy at the State Library as well as general Patent and Trademark searching information. The Patent Depository page receives between 100 and 200 hits a month. While users must still come to the library to do a complete search this method of information delivery permits users to do preliminary searching and gain some understanding of the process.

Programs

A number of presentations and training sessions were held during the year. In March a presentation was given, at the State Library, to a class from the Franklin Pierce Law Center

explaining the PTDL Program as well as the Patent and Trademark search process.

In May, as part of the theme of "legal information", at the New Hampshire Library Association spring conference in Lebanon, NH a program was presented giving an overview of the PTDL program.

Again in June the summer class at Franklin Pierce Law Center returned for a training session and the St. Paul's School advanced summer school class was given a class in Patent and Trademark searching.

In November the New Hampshire Municipal Association met in Manchester and a program entitled "Libraries: Gateway to Government Information" was presented which included the PTDL program.

-Diana Degen

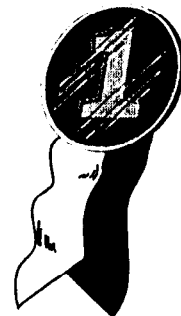
Dallas, Texas

Dallas Public Library

As relative newcomers to the Internet, our library system spent a lot of last year involved in the dual challenge of teaching the public how to use it, and learning how to incorporate it more fully into our reference service. This also meant establishing reasonable guidelines for Internet use (people have forgotten all those good things they learned in kindergarten: little things like how to share). The library began early on to schedule Internet training classes each Sunday afternoon. These sessions focused on fun topics and were well attended.

We got a pat on the back from the *Dallas Observer* when they named us the "Best Local Government Agency" (our new computer system brought expanded access to citizens from all economic levels) and "Best Hangout for the Computer Illiterate." They stated that our Internet Sundays found "...clueless neophytes being led through all the basics of Internet access by remarkably patient librarians."

Hey, we're patient because we've all been clueless neophytes at some point in our lives.



We worked with *Fox 4 TV/Good Day Dallas* in August on a short segment they were preparing on local inventors. In addition to inventors we already knew about like Jack Kilby and Tomima Edmark, we used the Automated Patent System to create a list of Dallas inventors with addresses and patent titles. Most of the inventions pulled up were serious stuff, but there were a few potentially quirky ones: Head Mounted Work Light; Gotcha Ball Toy; Eye-shaped Headlight Bucket for Motorcycle; Apparatus for Monitoring the Integrity of a Personal Protective Barrier (Do I want to know what that one is?); Reflective Pet Vest; and Golf Bag Cooler

In November, Jim Petruzzi (one of two patent attorneys who developed the interactive software package called PatentPRO™) presented a workshop at the library on how to draft a patent application. Jim turned out to be an interesting and personable speaker, who walked us through the patent drafting process, fielded questions easily and still managed to keep the program on track. Attendees gave the session high marks. Although PatentPRO™ was purposely not the focus of our session, I'd be curious to hear what the PTO thinks about this product. It seems to have a good, logical flow for a beginning user.

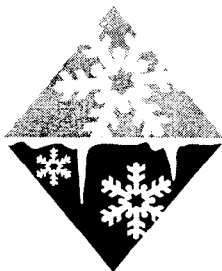
For the last couple of months, we've been having fun pulling together a display featuring African-American inventors. The way was eased a bit with help from the friendly folks at the National Inventors Hall of Fame. We were also fortunate to already own an appropriate poster purchased from the Patent & Trademark Museum, as well as having access to lists of inventions included in the video *From Dreams to Reality* and in books like *Black Inventors from Africa to America* (by C.R. Gibbs).

And finally, what does everyone think about the move in Congress to extend copyright an additional 20 years? It will be interesting to see how much political clout big companies like Disney have in the political process. I guess Disney doesn't realize there is a reason copyright monopolies don't last forever. It's called the public domain, and it was part of the original contract.

-Johanna Johnson

Denver, Colorado

Denver Public Library



Let snow, let it snow, let it snow. You would think 26 inches of snow, in less than 24 hours, would be enough to keep people in their homes. However, in October, the Denver Public Library, had customers knocking at its doors to attend one of its recent patent searching workshops.

Unfortunately, the workshop had to be canceled because of the extreme snow.

We are proud of the response our patent workshops are getting from the general public. With the increase in the number of individuals applying for patents each year, we feel our workshops are an invaluable service. Because of this we recently decided to go to a format of holding them on a monthly basis. It will be interesting in the coming months to see how well our new format works. Especially if El Nino dumps another 26 inches of snow. Wish us luck!!

-Danny Walker

Detroit, Michigan

Great Lakes Patent & Trademark Center
Detroit Public Library

1997 was another banner year for the Great Lakes Patent and Trademark Center (GLPTC), marked by significant increases in reference and sales transactions. Reference inquiries increased by nearly 28%, while sales of products and services showed a solid increase over last year by 53%.

Outreach continues to be a major focus for GLPTC, as we are committed to reaching a wider audience. The Center contributes a monthly column to *The Entrepreneur Network*, a monthly publication distributed to inventors and entrepreneurs throughout Michigan and Ohio. New brochures highlighting products and services were created and distributed to PTDLs and Michigan libraries. Forms accompanying each mailing made it possible for each library to order additional copies for literature displays. The response has been encouraging! Another mailing was targeted for Michigan attorneys, and included order forms as well as brochures.

GLPTC's web site (<http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/glptc/>) has proven to be a very effective source of advertising, enabling us to reach customers far beyond our local area. We recently converted our order forms to the Adobe Acrobat PDF format, so that our customers will be able to view and print the forms online. A noteworthy addition to the web site is a searchable database of African-American patentees.

Continuing our outreach efforts, presentations were given to numerous organizations this past year, including the Michigan Patent Law Association, The Library Network, Southeastern Michigan Business Assistance Consortium, Michigan inventor/entrepreneur organizations, intellectual property firms, and local universities, colleges and high schools.

Last October, GLPTC and the Wayne State University Law School sponsored Patent and Trademark Law Week in Detroit. A full day seminar featured speakers from the U.S. PTO and was attended by over 100 local attorneys and law students. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI), the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) held public hearings during the week at several locations, including the Detroit Public Library. This represented the first time BPAI and TTAB hearings have ever been held outside of Washington, DC, providing a fascinating glimpse into the appeals process.

Finally, technological change at GLPTC continues at a rapid pace! Videoconference lines were run to several meeting rooms in the Detroit Public Library, which will enable us to hold videoconference lectures and workshops in several locations. Newly installed fiber optic cable from the Internet

Lab to GLPTC will provide access to the Internet and the USAPat CD-ROM server.

-Carla Reczek

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Broward County Main Library

Reorganization

The Business, Law, and Government Department is one year old and counting. However, the Main Library is still undergoing transformation. Yet to be merged is the Fine Arts Department, which will become a part of the Reference and Information Services Department

Also happening in 1997 was our workroom reorganization. It has been expanded by about one-third, and is completely different. Chris Marhenke was one of the major players in this project, and has done an excellent job. Everyone is quite pleased with their new offices.

Small Business Resource Center

Just on the horizon for 1998 is the new Small Business Resource Center. They began construction the first week in February 1998, and seem to be building at a rapid pace. Many patrons expressed interest in this Center. There will be reference materials on all aspects of starting and running a small business, including intellectual property. Also, these materials will be in a variety of formats, including CD-ROM. As part of the Center, there will be rooms available for patrons to meet with small business counselors. The plans sound absolutely wonderful, but more on this next year.

1997 Highlights

- A successful and exciting Invent Broward 1997-98. 337 invention models from 18 Broward County area elementary schools were brought in for display at the Main Library, and over 300 people attended the Invent Broward reception.

- Chris Marhenke has given several presentations this past year. He gave 2 presentations to Library Science classes (University of South Florida and Florida State University). One was a government documents class and the other a Business reference class. He also gave a presentation at the Fall Federal Depository Library Council meeting held in Clearwater, FL. The presentation was entitled "Patent & Trademark Depositories and Federal Depositories: Crossing Paths."

- We are continuing to chip away at the gaps in our patent backfiles.

- We have recruited the Inventors Society of South Florida to be one of the information providers on the Internet through the SEFLIN FreeNet.

- Plans are underway for a cooperative effort for a combined PTDL home page for both the Miami and the Fort Lauderdale PTDLs.

- Throughout 1997 we have had 6 new people hired to fill our vacant reference positions, and 2 new people hired to fill our vacant paraprofessional positions.

Overall, 1997 has been a very busy, yet very exciting year. We're all looking forward to a wonderful 1998!

-Eileen Pernicone

Grand Forks, North Dakota

Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota.

Much of 1997 was spent recovering from the flood in April. Our **Cassis** workstation and reference materials were moved to higher ground and remained dry because the wall of sandbags kept the water two feet from the front door. The flood brought many changes, both positive and negative. Many people expressed interest in tracing the intellectual property history of items found while "mucking out" basements and attics. One patron had a copyright question about some sheet music owned (and perhaps written) by his grandfather. The sheet music had gone ignored until he rediscovered it in his attic. The six-week shutdown of our library resulted in a loss of revenue. Some of the losses have been recovered since we began charging \$5.00 for each patent and trademark scan on September 1.



The Pasta Party on the Prairie held in August was a splendid success and offered a chance for people to relax and have fun near the river which had been so unkind just a few months earlier. Scrumptious pasta dishes from Lola's, a restaurant specializing in northern Italian cuisine, were the focus of the celebration. Photos from that party will be featured in *Life* magazine in March or April of this year.

Jean attended workshops on Internet research, creating a web page, Excel®, and proposal writing. This semester she will participate in a weekly meeting of the Proposal Writing Group and attend a grant writing workshop at the end of January.

For the fourth year, Jean presented a session at the one-day business workshop, Marketplace, in Bismarck in January. As always, the receptive audience members were eager to share ideas about past successes. Newcomers to the patenting process were full of questions and submitted information for database scans.

The availability on online patent searching has some patrons acting independently to research their ideas. However, our updated web site generated trademark searches from Colorado and California.

Despite the flood recovery work, we have had a wonderfully productive year and look forward to the joys that 1998 will bring.

-Nancy Mulhern and Jean McCrowell

Honolulu, Hawaii

Hawaii State Library

Charles King, Librarian, attended the PTDLP Training Seminar XX in March through a generous continuing education grant provided by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii.

In April, the Hawaii State Public Library System's outsourcing contract with Baker & Taylor was terminated and the litigation began.

We held a one day open house in September to introduce the new **Cassis** workstation. Lynne Kobayashi, Librarian, recently promoted to another section in the Hawaii State Library, compiled pathfinders for patent and trademark searching using the Windows interface and coordinated a display of products patented by Hawaii inventors. The display included anthurium plants in full bloom and a basaltic termite barrier with live termites which were provided by the University of Hawaii Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development. These offices provide assistance to local inventors. Anthuriums constitute a large share of Hawaii's cut flower industry. Solutions to Hawaii's termite problem benefit the local construction industry and homeowners.

Rebecca Bishop, Librarian, began a temporary assignment in September with a crash course in patent and trademark searching using the new **Cassis** workstation during the open house and continuing education courses on other PTDL resources.

Jan Tawarahara, Section Head Librarian, wrote an article on PTDL resources which was featured in the October issue of the Hawaii State Public Library System newsletter, *Ho'ala News*. Ho'ala is a Hawaiian language word which is translated as "awakening". We hope the article opened the eyes of a few people.

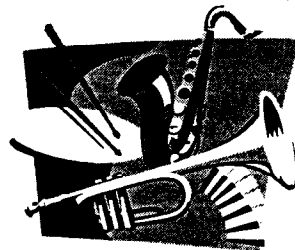
-Jan Tawarahara

Houston, Texas

South Central Intellectual Property Partnership at Rice University (SCIPPR)

Call on SCIPPR! This year the South Central Intellectual Property Partnership at Rice University was born! We are honored to become the third partnership library. Former PTDL rep Barbara Kile is managing this project. She has been busy this year working with area attorneys and inventors, meeting with PTDL visitors, soliciting charter partnership

memberships, drafting the partnership proposal and business plan, and coordinating the construction of space for partnership services. We are planning to open for partnership business in June of 1998 with a grand opening scheduled for the fall. Stay tuned!



Our free patent search training classes continue to be popular. In 1997, we offered 43 classes to more than three hundred participants. The vast majority of the searchers in these classes are independent inventors. Over

the past year we have developed our ties with the Houston Inventors Association, in part due to our shared interest in the partnership. Amy Spare is a card carrying member of the Houston Inventors Association and regularly attends their meetings. Government Information Librarian, Esther Crawford, and Amy have done outreach in area public schools and have served as judges at invention conventions. We also offered a class on patent searching on the Internet to two high schools in the Rio Grande Valley: the Science Academy of South Texas and the South Texas High School for Health Professions. Amy taught this class in our campus OWLink lab through live teleconferencing. Over 150 students participated in this class.

Esther has also done wonders creating and maintaining our web pages, making the latest intellectual property web pages available to users. We added a new terminal to the patent and trademark search room that is reserved exclusively for accessing intellectual property sites on the web.

On a more personal note, this year we celebrated staff member Fannie Haynes' twenty-fifth year working in Government Publications. Fannie has done a lot of every thing in the department: reference, cataloging, processing, teaching patent search classes, and keeping us smiling. Her commitment to public access is exceptional. Many patent and trademark searchers ask for her by name. We look forward to working with her for another twenty five years!

-Amy Spare

Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas State Library

This last year was definitely an odd one. I was off work for 9 weeks, so I'm not sure if I remember everything that happened, and Mary was off for 6 weeks. Hopefully, between the two of us we can get this report written. Mary was on the automation committee (yes, we are finally joining the 20th century as we go into the 21st century!) which took up a lot of her time (and patience).

Mary was a speaker at a workshop co-sponsored by the Arkansas Small Business Development Center: "Protecting

Your Ideas: Patents, Trademarks & Copyrights". Mary showed the USPTO Video on Patent searching and got a lot of positive feedback. Two inventors who used the library also spoke and gave us rave reviews! One used a Patent attorney and one did not. They are both doing very well and on the way to actually making money!!

The ASBDC has several workshops on intellectual property planned for the year in various parts of the state. They always include the PTDL in the program.

Rob Williams (Anchorage, Alaska PTDL) was in the state visiting family, and we were able to have a very enjoyable visit with him. He spent the afternoon at the library talking with the other reference librarians, Ola and Mark.

Because Trademark searching continues to grow, we are planning a workshop just for Trademarks this year. Since more than half of our PTDL patrons are Trademark searchers, this seems to be an appropriate topic. Our patrons seem very happy with the service.

-Deborah Hall

Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles Public Library

1997 was another dynamic year for the Science, Technology and Patents Department.

We have had changes in staff assignments, including the transfers of Manuel Bueno, Library Assistant, and Ruth Seid, Senior Librarian, to branches. Gregory Clark is our new Library Assistant, and Helen Haskell is the Acting Senior Librarian. Cheryl Soriano is a new twenty-hour a week clerk who works at the Patents Desk, as does Mr. Clark.

Elizabeth Arreola is an intern sponsored by the Patent & Trademark Office's Office of Civil Rights. Manager Billie Connor is supervising Ms. Arreola's work. She has been especially active in outreach programs, recruiting future engineers and computer scientists to the PTO from local colleges and universities, as well as doing outreach programs to local school children. She has also worked with the public users of intellectual property at LAPL. She will be assisting in the PTDL Office's booth at the Foro Binacional de Bibliotecarios to be held in March in Riverside, CA. Her bilingual skills are very helpful at LAPL.

Staff once again participated in Innovation Convention in Pasadena over the Labor Day weekend. Attendees always respond very positively to a booth where the representatives are not selling a product but are offering a free resource.

On January 15 and 16, LAPL co-hosted a seminar presented by the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association. This was the second consecutive year, and it was a great success.

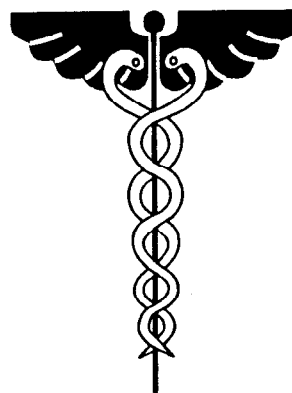
Ms. Connor attended the mid-winter meeting of the Special Libraries Association. She is the secretary of SLA's

Science and Technology Division and President-Elect of the Southern California Chapter.

We now have 6 terminals in the public area which feature LAPL's Virtual Library. This includes the catalog, periodical indexes, and free Internet access. Patrons sign up to use these terminals for half-an-hour at a time.

Physically closer to the Patents Desk are 3 new computers with menus listing **Cassis** and the PTO and IBM patent databases. Our patrons have expressed enthusiasm for this easier access. We charge ten cents per page per printout.

Ikon Office Solutions is an independent photocopy service located in the Library. They began operations in the Autumn and handle all photocopy requests within the Library system.



One of our success stories is Dr. James Bannon. In the past, Dr. Bannon would run into the library, sometimes straight from work wearing "scrubs," to research his second patent. He now has 2 patents, a trademark, and a new business to his credit. We currently have a small departmental display of his patents.

-Helen Haskell

Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Free Public Library

Louisville Free Public Library's 9th year as a Patent and Trademark Depository Library was fraught with change and challenge. Our Patents/Trademarks and Faxing Clerk, Sethena Bronaugh, had to have a ruptured disc repaired, and the Reference Department had to scramble to fill her orders. This year we generated 7,175 pages of copies of patent and trademark materials.

Beverly Marmion, who had previously maintained the Patents/Trademarks Collection, passed that particular baton to Rae Shepherd-Shlechter. Fortunately, Beverly was an excellent teacher and conservator supreme, and the collection appears to be quite tidy, and by George, intact!

Rae tackled her first patents gifts project (thank you, Mandy, the pain has somewhat abated) thanks to the help of the PTO and the help of Judy Thomas, the Government Documents Clerk. We sent out some 35 boxes of materials, with a particularly juicy set of bound OFFICIAL GAZETTES (1950-1965) as the highlight of the offerings. In Judy, Beverly, and Sethena's honor, we are currently building a shrine out of bronzed, superceded U.S. PATENT CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS (very tasteful).

Since this summer, Rae has taken over the monthly patents and trademarks workshop at the Main Library. So far, no rotten tomato projectiles to report. It ain't Vegas, but it ain't half bad. It must be noted that the OFFICIAL PATENTS LIBRARIAN, Charles Brown, is still very actively involved in program development, so you can keep blaming him for all the difficult stuff, and send all the bon bons to Rae. Charlie and Beverley did a great job of revising our patents/trademarks brochures in time for the March 1997 PTDL Conference. Speaking of advertising brochures, we are now officially strutting our stuff on LFPL's very own web page: <http://members.iglou.com/loulib>.



Currently, we are madly planning for our gala 10th anniversary as a member of the PTDL Program, and we would like to thank all the PTDL staff for their support in this special program. A special thanks to Marie Moisdon from the Broward County PTDL

for all the information she sent us about their 10th anniversary celebration.

One final note: Kudos to Claudia Fitch and our Automation Department for getting us through a year of stolen CDs, balky microdaxes, and inkjet cartridges that just won't work right. In regards to the disappearing CDs, we cut the back out of a set of three drawers and hung them on the modular table unit supporting the CASSIS Workstation. We placed the three component parts in drawers and locked the drawers. So far, it seems to have stopped the disappearing CD problem.

This is the postscript, I promise. I can't forget the fine efforts of the Business Reference Staff, who have the honor of fielding most of the patent and trademark reference questions. Stay healthy, everybody, we need every member of this great team to GET THE JOB DONE. That's all.

-Rae Shepherd-Shlechter

Madison, Wisconsin

Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Madison PTDL at the University of Wisconsin's Kurt F. Wendt Engineering Library was fortunate in receiving a visit from Wes Gewehr in October 1997. The exchange of information on the future of patent information dissemination was valuable. Shortly after Mr. Gewehr's visit, we were notified that there were no more restrictions on networking the PTO's CD-ROM search products. As a result the Patent Bibliographic, Class, and Assist CDs and both Trademark CDs are networked across UW-Madison

campus libraries. During the year, we have added the IBM Patent Server and the web-based Patent Bibliographic and AIDs Databases to the campus's Electronic Library menu. Both databases also can be launched from MadCat WebZ, the web version of the campus on-line catalog.

On the bibliographic instruction front, Amy Kindschi and Sarah Calcese, the patents/reports librarians, taught patents-related sessions for courses in the College of Engineering, the School of Library and Information Science, and the College of Agriculture and Life Science. Patent searching workshops were held in October for the public, in November for Wendt staff, and in January for campus reference librarians. Electronic "Quick Guides" to the patent CD-ROM databases were written and made available from the campus Electronic Library menu and a hand-out comparing the PTO CD databases and the various web-based patent databases was compiled to help library users choose which database would be most appropriate to their searching needs.

In the summer, we implemented a voice mail/menuing system in an effort to handle those questions that patent patrons ask over and over (where can I park? what are your hours? how long does a search take? do I need an appointment?). The new system seems to have streamlined our phone requests and patent appointment procedures.

-Sarah Calcese

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee Public Library.

This has been an interesting and busy year at Milwaukee Public Library. New technology developments in Netscape®, the Internet and Telnet has led to an increase of user demand in all departments. This past October, our library system initiated a home page on the World Wide Web. Address: <http://www.mpl.org>

Patent use continues to be strong, and trademark searching has almost doubled during the past 2 years. The new equipment is an asset for us in providing the proper patent and trademark searching assistance. The paper copy quality is good, but we would welcome a faster printing capability from USAPat.

For the past 2 years, the Science & Business Department has been asked by SCORE to present talks to small business entrepreneurs on the business resources at MPL. We use this opportunity to tell the audience how patents and trademarks can help them in their entrepreneurial pursuits. Also, we have developed an in-house Business Breakfast presentation that highlights our many subject resources, including patents and trademarks. This year we are planning some presentations solely on our patent and trademark collection.

This year marks the beginning of our renovation planning for the relocation of the Science & Business Department. We

will be uniting with the Periodicals room to form one department. One of the major challenges we face in this electronic age is the interface of Internet access as a communication link to government full text resources, such as patents and trademarks.

Although staffing concerns and heavy demand for public services made 1997 a very challenging year, the Milwaukee PTDL has succeeded in maintaining a high quality of public service - our top priority.

-Ted Cebula & Chris Morrow

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center

Minneapolis Public Library had the usual busy schedule of outreach presentations, many of them on patents. We did twenty-six "How To Search Patents" lectures right in the library's patent collection, one to an audience of forty, which was a real challenge as the space comfortably accommodates about eight. We also did presentations for inventor groups, college and university students, and a trademark primer for artists & musicians. Patents & Trademarks were also prominently featured in a library display on our array of small business resources. The patent & trademark presentations are so much fun: wonderful, attentive groups. Here's to more in 1998.

-Thomas Smisek

Morgantown, West Virginia

Evansdale Library, West Virginia University

We recently became APS subscribers. We are also now on the web and find it especially useful to give the web site address to patrons calling from within the state but some distance from the library. Some find that their needs are met by using the resources available on the Internet. Others still visit the library for more in-depth searching later. In October I gave a presentation to the West Virginia Library Association. Many of the attendees acknowledged receiving inquiries about patents but few had attempted doing any searches. After my demonstration, many librarians expressed interest in helping patrons begin a preliminary search on the web. Several GPO Depository librarians said they planned to select PTO materials.

-Natalie Rutledge

Moscow, Idaho

University of Idaho Library

1997 was once again an eventful year for the Patent and Trademark Depository operations at the University of Idaho. We lost three reference librarians between June and December, two of whom were strong participants in providing service to the community and the state. One of

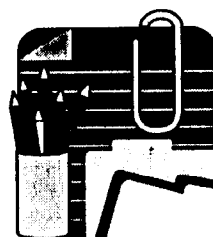
these vacant positions has been filled by adding two half-time librarians to the staff. The other two positions are still vacant.

We continue to see an increase in the use of both the patent and trademark **Cassio** discs, and at the same time, we are seeing an increase in the use of the WWW based files. Some of our off campus patrons use the web based files to review related patents after we provide a list of patents matching their selected patent classes and sub-classes. Most people find the web based *Manual of Classification* difficult to use because of the limited display of lines of text.

We are continuing to use both of the **Cassio** work station, and we have the USAPat software installed on two of our general purpose CD-ROM workstations. As has been reported by many other PTDLs, we encourage patrons to print USAPat on these general workstations because they print so much faster than the CASSIS workstation. We have instituted the policy of charging a flat fee for printing large patent and trademark listings.

We have installed shelving near the **Cassio** workstation in our "Patent Reference Area" for one of the two sets of USAPat discs that we receive. The second set that we receive as a Regional GPO Depository Library is kept in closed stacks as a backup. We have also purchased a microfilm reader printer which reads the film and digitizes the information for printing. This results in a much sharper copy from the microfilm images than has been possible in the past.

These copies are produced by library staff.



Once again we have participated in the Idaho Small Business Development Centers' "Inventors and Entrepreneurs Fair" in different regions of the state. This year the Fairs were held in Lewiston and Idaho Falls. We present information related to patents and trademarks, show them how to identify appropriate patent classes and subclasses, and, when possible, we provide them with a patent listing from **Cassio**. The local groups arrange for space and hardware, we provide the staff and resources. This is always an interesting weekend. The inventors that we work with are almost always independent inventors who have interesting ideas for new products. This year we also introduced the USPTO and IBM databases as well as other web-based sites related to patents. We also introduced the new Government Liaison Services trademark information file.

One of the things we try to do in each of our presentations is to make people aware of the correct use of trademarks and the TM and ® symbols. One result has been that some of the advertising agencies and public relations firms have expressed an interest in subscriptions to the TMREG and TMPEND CD-ROM files so they can do their own trademark searching without calling us in Moscow to complete the checks for them.

-Donna M. Hanson

New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library in New Haven, CT was designated a Patent and Trademark Depository Library this past October 1997. With the closing of the Science Park PTDL a few years ago, Connecticut had no services available within a close distance. Patrons had to make the long trek to Providence, Amherst, Boston or New York. We are looking forward to alleviating this as we work toward becoming operational possibly this summer or early fall.

Organizing this new service has been a great privilege and adventure. Some of the things we're working on right now include clearing out our old Special Collections Room, organizing a move of approximately 100 boxes from Science Park to our library, getting the computer up and running, training staff, purchasing our backfile and updating our microform equipment. (All of this as well as learning the collection!) The staff at the USPTO have been a wonderful source of knowledge and support, which makes me happy to be a part of such a network of libraries. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you at the seminar!

-Janet Zigadto

Newark, Delaware

University of Delaware Library

Tom Melvin, at the University of Delaware PTDL, is putting the finishing touches on a comprehensive web page for patent information. The "page" is actually a collection of separate pages that each deal with an aspect of patent information. There is a section on conducting a search, how to use the different search tools, Internet resources and their limitations, **Cassis** file descriptions, plus some links to information provided on the USPTO home page. Each of these separate pages is accessed through a main menu that lists each of these choices. A separate page for trademark information is also available.

The USAPat set has been very popular with our patrons, and was especially useful in light of the delay in receiving the microfilmed copies of the patents. We are still running the Windows version of **Cassis**; there have been no major problems with this setup, and it seems best to leave well enough alone.

-Tom Melvin

Newark, New Jersey

Newark Public Library

The Patent and Trademark workstations have been in great demand since the merger of the Business Information Center and Sciences Division to create the Business, Science & Technology Center in January 1997. We are utilizing **Cassis** to answer many business-related questions. For example, a patron with only a trademark from an old pump was in need of parts, and we were able to locate the current trademark owner. We have also enjoyed great success in locating company addresses for patrons as well.

We are seeing an increasing number of families coming in together to do trademark and patent searches for their small businesses.

During the year 1997, Interlibrary Loan Services received over 1,000 document delivery requests for patents. USAPat discs are the principal source for retrieving current patents in particular.

"Institute for Teachers", an outreach program, is held approximately six times a year to inform local educators of our collections and services.

The Newark Public Library's web site has been redesigned, and the Patent and Trademark Depository Library page is located at <http://www.npl.org/Pages/Reference/ptdl.html>

-Yoshiko Ishii

Orono, Maine

Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine

The PTDL did extensive promotion of its services throughout the year. It exhibited at the 1st Bangor Business Convention last March, at the Second Annual Blaine House Conference on Small Business in September, and the Tenth Annual Women's Business Development Conference in October, both held in Augusta, and at the Coalition for Women in Trades and Technology Conference in November, held in Portland. As a result of such statewide outreach, and given the growing demand for intellectual property information in general, the PTDL gets busier each month. Scheduled appointments, walk-in traffic, and telephone inquiries continue to increase, along with requests for presentations and instructional sessions.

Maine's PTDL representative, Michael White, joined the Patent and Trademark Office staff as a fellowship librarian in July. At the PTO, Mike focuses on trademark issues and is liaison to the Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks. Mike's updated listing of state trademark information is available on the web at <http://libraries.maine.edu/mariner/oro/subjectguides/social/statetm.htm>

During Mike's absence, Marianne Kapfer is serving as patent and trademark librarian at the Maine PTDL. Most

recently at The University of Iowa, Marianne's background includes intellectual property, government information, and law.

-Marianne Ryan Kapfer

Reno, Nevada

University of Nevada-Reno Libraries, Business & Government Information Center

The highlight of our year as a Patent & Trademark Depository Library was a visit from the PTDL staff in early December. Amanda Putnam, David Morrison and Michael White presented a public seminar titled "Accessing Patent and Trademark Information." The seminar was comprised of presentations on the scope of intellectual property, particularly patent and trademark information, and related databases available in the UNR Libraries' Business and Government Information Center. Their presentations were excellent and, I believe, a benefit to those attendees who have used our services in the past or may do so in the future. Approximately 35 individuals attended, including the university's intellectual property counsel and many members of the Nevada Inventors Association. Dave, Mande & Mike stayed on for a second day to conduct staff training and discuss issues related to our library's relationship with the PTO.

Our department web pages include a number of links to patent, trademark & copyright related information. I would be interested to receive feedback concerning the organization and content of the pages, which are available at:

<http://www.library.unr.edu/~bgic/>

-Patrick Ragains

Sacramento, California

California State Library

The Government Publications Section (GPS) of the California State Library, which includes all PTDL collections and services, moved in November 1997 from its downtown Sacramento location to a temporary location six miles away. This was in preparation for a major seismic retrofit of the Library and Courts Building, home to many of the State Library's offices and public areas.



On the morning GPS reopened at its new location, PTDL patrons were waiting. The temporary site is a new building in an industrial park. It is spacious, has excellent lighting, and perhaps most appreciated by many patrons, has free parking right outside the door (as opposed to downtown, where parking, which is not free, can sometimes be difficult to find).

The same reference and fax numbers for PTDL services have been retained, as have e-mail addresses. The temporary street address is 4201 Sierra Point Drive, Sacramento, 95834; however, mail should continue to be addressed to the State Library's permanent address.

The seismic retrofit project, including the return of staff and collections to downtown, is scheduled to be completed in early 2000.

-Tom Andersen

St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis Public Library

Patent and trademark questions comprised 14% of Business, Science and Technology's (BST) reference questions in January 1998, so those materials continue to be very high use.

St. Louis Public Library's home page (spl.lib.mo.us) now has a directory of the *Inventions and Patents of African Americans - 19th and 20th Centuries*. It is arranged alphabetically by invention and was researched and compiled by Mrs. Velma Martin, a librarian in BST, from a range of books and magazine articles which are given at the end of each list. For questions on how to access the site, please contact Webmaster@spl.lib.mo.us

As part of a series of Business Reference Training sessions, the PTDL representative did 4 presentations on intellectual property to colleagues from the library's various departments and branches. The aim of the training was to apprise coworkers of the types of intellectual property and of some of the department's resources for their own information, and so that they can make appropriate referrals.



Patent and trademark resources in BST were featured in the January 1998 issue of *Check It Out*, the monthly newsletter sent to approximately 54,000 SLPL cardholders in St. Louis City and County. This includes households and businesses, so it meant broad exposure for us. Also in January, the PTDL representative attended a meeting of the Inventor's Association of St. Louis and gave a brief plug for the patent and trademark materials at SLPL. More than 50 people from all around the St. Louis metropolitan area attended this meeting.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to express much appreciation to colleagues in the PTDL Program Office, the Information Dissemination Organization Office, and at the PTO for the knowledge and contacts gained during my fellowship. They are a great group of people (at work and at play), and the experience is one I would highly recommend!!

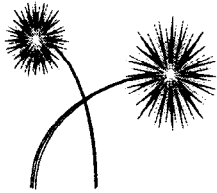
-Carol Giles

Salt Lake City, Utah

Marriott Library, University of Utah

1997 was a busy year for the Salt Lake City PTDL which is located in the Government Documents Division of the Marriott Library at the University of Utah. As many of you may know, our "real" PTDL representative, David Morrison, has been serving a fellowship with the Patent and Trademark Office during 1997. David has a long history with the Marriott Library, and his expertise with patents and trademarks has been sorely missed in his absence.

I am certain that many of our division's patrons will be glad to see him return in May. But a few things have changed while David's been away.



Thanks to the Marriott Library's new 240,000 sq. ft. addition which opened in the fall of 1996, most collections and divisions in the library were relocated during 1997. The

Government Documents Division was moved from its second floor location to a more visible and busy first floor location just steps away from the new west entrance. Our once somewhat quiet reference desk has become a major information hub in the library. We now have much more room for our documents collection and space for our computer workstations, including the APS and two **Cassis** workstations. We have also been able to consolidate our patent and trademark materials into a more efficient and patron-friendly shelving arrangement.

The entire collection was moved in less than three weeks. Interruption of service to our patrons was minimal. We posted many advance notices throughout our division regarding the pending move for our patrons, and moved the **Cassis** and APS workstations on the final weekend of the move. The additional space and improved lighting in this new location has benefited our staff and our patrons who don't have to feel like they are sitting on top of each other, and they have more space for their stuff.

We continue to fine tune signage and collection placement in our new location, and work to improve our expertise and service. We will be joined this year by at least one new librarian when Maxine Haggerty, a veteran of 25 years with the Marriott Library, retires in March. Maxine has helped literally thousands of patrons with patent and trademark searches during her tenure as a documents librarian. We will miss her ready knowledge of government documents and her strong commitment to public service. Best wishes in your new endeavors, Maxine.

-Jan Robertson

San Diego, California

San Diego Public Library

San Diego PL's three **Cassis** workstations have been busy this year. A survey of types of reference questions answered in our department revealed that intellectual property questions are the largest single category of queries handled by our staff.

We are fortunate to have a local patent attorney who volunteers at SDPL every two weeks for an informal question and answer session for local inventors and would-be inventors. He has also presented two half-day workshops for us. Another local attorney presented a workshop on invention marketing.

Famous/noteworthy San Diego patents for the year? How about my husband's: 5,675,411?

BROAD-BAND SPECTROMETER WITH HIGH RESOLUTION

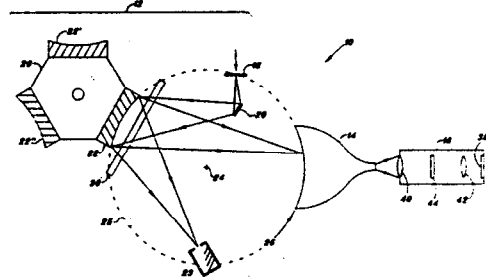
Neil H. Brooks, San Diego, Calif.; Sergey N. Tugarinov, Troitsk, Russian Federation, and Nicolae N. Naumenko, Minsk, Belarus, assignors to General Atomics, San Diego, Calif.

Filed May 10, 1996, Ser. No. 647,623

Int. Cl.⁶ G01J 3/20; 3/02

U.S. Cl. 356—328

20 Claims



This year San Diego Public Library will be represented at the training seminar by Gary Klockenga, our documents librarian.

-Nora Brooks

San Francisco, California

San Francisco Public Library

As the new PTDL librarian (Art Cheroske and I switched departments at the end of July – he went to Business & Technology, and I came to Government Information), I have spent these first 9 months:

- getting acquainted with **Cassis** and Patent & Trademark rules & tools.
- reorganizing, labeling & creating signs for our Patent & Trademark Center (collection beautification).

Thanks to Martha, Mande & Michael at the PTO, not to mention all the PTDLers on PTDLA-L, I have been given

immediate and generous help no matter how foolish my questions, and so I have managed to stay out of too much trouble. Thanks especially to colleagues at SCI[3] who gave me valuable training and pointers.

I've revamped our web site & added several new links.

Current projects:

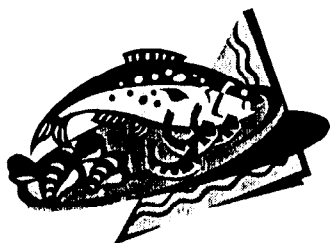
- 1) outreach to local IP attorneys & inventors' associations
- 2) training other department librarians
- 3) developing search tools & handouts for patrons.

I can't complain that there's too little work!

-Ella Hirst

Seattle, Washington

Engineering Library, University of Washington



Is it really time for the Seminar already?

The PTDL collections and services keep chugging on their merry way here at the Seattle PTDL. The various patent searching web sites

are tremendous hits here, too. Students doing class assignments that don't require extensive in-depth searches are particular aficionados of the Web databases.

I am continuing to teach an "Introduction to Patents & Patent Searching" class as part of the regular group of Engineering Library instruction sessions. I offer 2 sessions a quarter which attract a mix of on- and off-campus patrons. I have also done patent-based instruction sessions for several Library School classes as well as for Engineering courses.

During June 1997, members of the PTDLP staff were able to attend the Annual Special Libraries Association (SLA) Conference that was held here in Seattle. It was actually sunny for most of the conference!! Prior to exhibiting at the conference, Mande Putnam, Jim Arshem, Cynthia Banicki, and Dave Morrison and I presented a "Patent & Trademark Information" workshop here in the UW Libraries. The session was a great success. Attendees were local librarians: academic, special, public, community college librarians, as well as information brokers and library school students. Many of these colleagues refer patrons to us, and some only had a vague idea of what kind of patent and trademark information is available and how to utilize it. I want to express once again, my appreciation and thanks to the PTO folks. I hope to do a similar workshop again.

We were able to secure funding for replacing missing or broken patent microfilm reels. We bought over \$2,000.00 worth of replacements from Derwent. It really filled in some gaps. Our next big purchase (provided we receive funding) will be a new microform reader/printer. We would like a digital reader/printer or a digitizing reader/printer, so we're

keeping our fingers crossed. Our 2 machines are creaking along, but are very out of date. We are also exploring fee-based printing options, which are an issue not only for printing from USAPat, but also for e-journals.

For 1998, we will be getting ready for Engineering Open House sponsored by the College of Engineering. This event focuses on K-12 students and their teachers and parents, as well as alumni. We usually feature some aspect of invention, innovation or intellectual property in our exhibit and/or demonstrations.

On a personnel note, we have a new librarian at the Engineering Library, Pamela Zilius-Careaga.

-Christina Byrne

Springfield, Illinois

Illinois State Library

Workshops and presentations have included those given to the Illinois Library Association Government Documents Roundtable librarians, North Suburban Reference Librarians, an annual federally funded statewide Institute for smaller public library administrators (many either without professional librarianship backgrounds or just beginning careers), and workshops sponsored by the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs given through their Small Business Development Network Centers. The statewide School Library and Media Resources Association also used the PTDL for a special pre-conference "draw" at their annual meeting. The annual Illinois Library Association meeting was held in Springfield this year. The PTDL participated in the Reference Fair. There was also participation in the Dept. of Energy/U of I conference. (A thanks to Jennifer Paustenbaugh for her good training of a former Oklahoma faculty member now at Illinois.)

Visiting groups have ranged from state legislators bringing school children to their state's capital from various points around the state (by the bus load) as reward for good grades and good citizenship, through local continuing elder hostel type groups, philanthropic groups—even our directors' parents.

Several patrons have achieved their greatest desire this year. One, with 7 patents issued and more under examination, and another patron with 3 issued, are busily doing additional research in some really sophisticated area of robotics. These sort of over shadow those poor guys with just one. There's nothing like the grin on the face of any these people when they come in and show me their presentation copy and find the announcement in the OG.

Some interesting uses of the collection: we have been working with the renovation/preservation architectural firm working on John Deere's home built in the last quarter of the 19th century. (Thanks to both Dave and Cynthia for rifling the examiners' desk drawers.) Another slightly more complicated use, but with all the work done here, was by a

local Amish owned firm. This firm is well known, internationally, I learned, for the production of horse brasses. Most of their equipment is 19th century, no longer available even for cannibalization. They are rebuilding the machinery using bits and pieces, relying on the original 19th century equipment patents in our collection.

Equally interesting was being able to help with the research for the construction of a covered bridge on the Old National Trail as a county-state-federal highway improvement. The patent being used was initially issued in 1830 to an army engineer named Long. 1990s' engineers are developing this "pattern" for use on a highway carrying modern semis and other traffic.

As part of the Illinois State Library's program of publicity of its services for businesses, the PTDL was used for sound bites. About 20 different 15 to 30 second sound spots telling our story were made. I'd love to hear one of them but forgot to ask how to find them!

Last but not least is a Feb. 4, 1998, video conference. While this deals with copyright, it used materials from our special Intellectual Property collection and one of "my" attorneys is a resources person. It's this tie-in that leads me to mention it as a PTDL activity. The audience signed up is fairly extensive with downlinks in Australia, England and a fairly large number of states. The "packet material" this time was an ISL web page with pertinent links to a selected number of web resource pages instead of paper.

-Jane Running

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University

The PTDL at Oklahoma State University has undergone some changes over the past year. In July, we bid a fond farewell to Billie Curry, OSU Patent & Trademark Librarian. For those of you who remember Billie, she is doing well and thoroughly enjoys the good life known as retirement. Also, Holly Seery, Library Assistant, left August 1. Holly was promoted to a Library Technical Assistant (LTA) Position in the Humanities/Social Sciences Division in the OSU Main Library and is actively pursuing her M.L.I.S.

I began my position as the new head of OSU's PTDL on July 14. In most recent history, I was a medical librarian at St. John's Regional Health Center (Springfield, Mo.). In ancient history, I was a Library Technical Assistant in the OSU Government Documents Department.

Ben Labow began work as Library Assistant in early September. Ben recently moved back to Stillwater following graduation from New York University. Besides his duties in the Patent & Trademark Library, Ben is the drummer for his sister's band-Jenny Labow (CDs available at most major record stores).

Rounding out the staff, Linda Leising, Senior Library Technical Assistant, is approaching the end of her second year at the Patent & Trademark Library. Please visit the staff page of our web site to "see" our crew. (<http://www.library.okstate.edu/dept/patents/staff.htm>)

In the past few months we have given a new look to all the bulletins and flyers distributed by our office. We redesigned our handouts to achieve a professional and consistent appearance that promotes both Oklahoma State University and the PTDL program. Among the most popular of these is the newly created information sheet which addresses "Preliminary Patent Searching on the Web." Several web sites are listed, along with some guidelines as to their advantages and limitations.

We are very proud of our newly expanded web site at <http://www.library.okstate.edu/dept/patents/patents.htm>. Our local patrons seem to be especially pleased that the list of Registered Oklahoma Attorneys/Agents (<http://www.library.okstate.edu/dept/patents/okattys.htm>) is searchable by city. Though very few attorneys/agents have taken us up on the offer, we have made links to their web sites and email addresses on this directory.

We especially enjoyed a recent visit from Gayle Gunderson and Jo Gregg of the PTDL at Wichita State University. It was both fun and beneficial to spend a day sharing ideas and comparing notes on our services.

Increasing the visibility of the OSU Patent & Trademark Library is a continual challenge. Recent promotional activities included: a mass mailing to each Chamber of Commerce in the state; presentations to inventors groups, student groups and public library audiences; and articles in several newspapers. The newspaper articles have been especially fun and challenging to create.

Each month I interview an Oklahoma inventor who has recently been awarded a patent. The ensuing news item describes the invention, examines some of the challenges and successes encountered along the path to the patent, and is usually accompanied by a photograph. The article is carried in our local paper, *The Stillwater NewsPress*. We have come to expect increased patron activity immediately after each article is published. The publication of these articles provides terrific exposure for both the inventor and our library. Other newspapers in the state have expressed an interest in running the stories, especially when the featured inventor lives in the vicinity of the paper.

I recently had the opportunity to present a paper at the Southwest Popular Culture Association Annual Conference in Lubbock, Tex. The paper was entitled "Mapping Popular Culture: Patent & Trademark Libraries as a Repository of American Life." The presentation was well received by attendees. Many commented that they were not aware of the

existence of PTDL collections. Those in attendance were introduced to a potential new resource for scholarly study.

-Julia Crawford

Sunnyvale, California

Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention & Ideas

The last year at Sci³ can be declared "The Year of the Seminar." We held close to 50 seminars ranging from the basics of patents and trademarks to videoconferences on the new patent rules. The highlight was a two-day seminar entitled, "Washington and the West." Several PTO officials, including Commissioner Bruce Lehman, traveled to our area. Along with some local practitioners they presented two information-packed days on the current workings of the PTO and the latest information on patents.

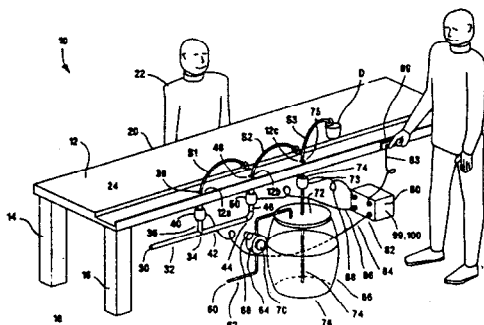
Our searching, foreign patents and certification document delivery saw a huge increase. We received some new hardware from the PTO. X-Search is now available for federal trademark searching. We also have a high-speed CD-ROM jukebox tower for USAPat discs.

We welcomed three new staff members. Julia Schult is an experienced librarian and has become an expert trademark searcher. She is an avid Morris dancer. Aeden McDonnell is our office assistant and has done fantastic things with our web page (www.sci3.com). She is a professional Celtic harpist. Paulette Brown, our newest staff member, is a clerk in the production area and has quickly adapted to the frantic pace.

As for funny stories...One of our librarians heard a slightly inebriated individual laughing while searching on **Cassis**. What could be so funny about patent #5,678 617? It's "A method and apparatus for making a drink hop along a bar or counter!" It gives a new dimension to the new, useful and non-obvious requirements.

-Janet Berkeley

5,678,617
**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING A DRINK
 HOP ALONG A BAR OR COUNTER**
 Robert Kuykendal, and Ronald Deichmann, both of 1136
 Washington, St. Louis, Mo. 63101
 Filed Sep. 11, 1995, Ser. No. 526,368
 Int. Cl.⁶ B67D 1/00
 U.S. Cl. 141—392 56 Claims



Tempe, Arizona

Daniel E. Noble Science & Engineering Library
 Arizona State University

The past year was a busy year at the Tempe PTDL at Arizona State University's Noble Science and Engineering Library. PTDL Rep. Tom Turner gave a presentation entitled "Patents and Trademarks 101: How to Help Business People and Inventors" at the Arizona Library Association's annual conference in November. In the fall, he also gave specialized classroom instruction on patent searching to a bioengineering class at ASU and a presentation on using the PTDL collection to the Arizona Inventors Association. In January Tom presented his AzLA program to librarians from Phoenix Public Library and the local Area Reference Librarians Association.

In December, Motorola Corporation's local Semiconductor Products Sector once more gave a generous donation to the Tempe PTDL to allow it to continue to offer APS at no charge to all patrons.

®



An exhibit entitled "1 to 10,000: A Celebration of the Patenting of Plants" began a three month display in the Noble Library in January '98. The exhibit by Patent Library Specialist Diana Pfaff and Tom Turner acknowledged the recent milestone of the 10,000th plant patent by providing a variety of plant patents over the years and showing how each one is distinct or an improvement. The exhibit answered basic questions regarding the whole plant patent process and featured recent newspaper and magazine articles on controversies surrounding the patenting of plants. Not only were the first and the ten thousandth plant patents displayed, but plant patents of local interest were displayed—such as the patent for the turf that will be used in Phoenix's new major league ballpark.

Following a service mapping study by the Noble Library Science Reference Department which pointed out that the PTDL collection, though heavily used, had multiple service points throughout the Noble Library which made access to information confusing to patrons, ASU Library Administration approved a plan whereby the service points would be reduced to two—a 650 square foot dedicated Patent & Trademark Search Room and a separate, existing Microfilm Room. The move, which began in January '98, consolidates all printed materials, two **Cassis** workstations, one APS

workstation, and ready reference materials into the Search Room, which will have a staffed help desk weekdays from 9 to 4, with the main Science Reference Desk providing assistance to patent patrons on evenings and weekends. The new search room will have a second **Cassis** workstation devoted to trademarks, a media cubicle where first time patent searchers can listen to the introductory PTO videotape, and partitions between workstations to promote privacy. A customer survey will gauge the effectiveness of the changes.

The web address for the Tempe PTDL has changed. It is now www.asu.edu/lib/noble/ptdl. The pages have been updated, and new graphics have been added.

-Tom Turner

Toledo, Ohio

Toledo/Lucas County Public Library

The highlight of 1997 for our PTDL was a series of events called "Inventing Toledo: Past, Present, Future," which took place in February. Lou Falasco and Cynthia Banicki from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office were featured at the Inventors Council of Toledo meeting, which boasted 50 attendees. The following day we hosted a seminar for local patent attorneys and were able to obtain Continuing Legal Education credit for the event. 22 attorneys heard from Lou, Cynthia, and Lois Boland, who gave a speech.

Another big moment for our PTDL came in June when the last 6 years of utility patent microfilm arrived to finally fill a long-standing gap in our collection. We now have a complete run of utility patents since 1871!

Our new **Cassis** workstation was installed on January 6. It is very helpful to have a second **Cassis** terminal available, though the inability to lock the CD-drives has caused more than a few headaches.

Lisa Hoenig put much effort this year into launching public APS training. She prepared training materials over the summer, with assistance from the Detroit and Sunnyvale Partnership PTDLs. Unfortunately, there was very little response to the public APS offering; only two people asked to be trained. Since October, when they took the course, neither of these trainees has returned to search APS. No one registered for the following month's training sessions, despite a pitch for the service at the Toledo Pat

We continue to plan for the renovation and addition to the Main Library; ground-breaking will occur in the Spring of 1998. Our PTDL collections will be housed in a merged Business-Technology-Sciences Department once the construction is complete.

-Lisa Hoenig

University Park, Pennsylvania

Pattee Library, Pennsylvania State University

In 1997, the Penn State University Libraries broke ground on the Paterno addition to Pattee Library. The dust and noise of construction started early in the Summer. As of this writing, the concrete and steel skeleton of the new building is nearly complete. We look forward to the grand opening, about two years from now, when the Patent and Trademark Depository Library and other units will move into new space. In the meantime, the planning and preparation for that day isn't quite so romantic. We've had to squeeze into our crowded library more closely than usual in order to accommodate construction activities. Resources and services are being provided in new ways during this interim period, with the result that we bump into each other, literally, a lot more than we would want to do on a permanent basis.

In spite of the confusion and inconvenience, patrons still come to the library, find resources, ask for help, and do the things they need to do. This certainly includes patent and trademark searchers, who continue to contact us by telephone, electronic mail and in person. Interest in developing new products and services in central Pennsylvania has remained steady over the years. We see this interest manifest in frequent use of the new workstation provided by the PTO, and in use of our microfilm patent collection. A Small Business Development Center was recently established on the Penn State Campus in response to the increasing demand for information and assistance for new and growing businesses in Centre County and surrounding areas. Mechanical design students and MBA students also want to know about and use our patent and trademark resources. Obviously, this demand is not going to go away for a long time.

I have to go now. The folks designing the interior of the new addition are here. They want to meet in five minutes, and we haven't decided where to put the water fountain!

-Kevin Harwell

West Lafayette, Indiana

Siegesmund Engineering Library, Purdue University

In addition to the normal patent and trademark searching activities, the West Lafayette PTDL at Purdue University has made a considerable impact on the Schools of Engineering and Technology. Classroom instruction and assignments on patent searching are integrated into required and optional courses in the Schools of Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Chemical Engineering. The three classes are ME 263-Introduction to Mechanical Engineering Design [250 students, required], MSE 240-Processing and Properties of Materials [30 students, required], and CHE 597B-Chemical Process Industry [55 students,

optional]. Students build on what is learned in the initial class and use their knowledge for later classes in the same curriculum.

Trademarks are part of a large assignment for up to 175 students in MET 102-Production Drawing. This required course is taught by the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering Technology from the School of Technology. Students receive a lecture for the assignment and get hands-on experience searching for trademarks.

-Charlotte A. Erdmann

Book Review

Marks of Excellence: The History and Taxonomy of Trademarks

Michael White, Orono, ME - PTDLF Fellowship Librarian

Trademark design books that focus on specific eras, countries or products are fairly common. The popular series of inexpensive paperbacks published by Chronicle Books, including titles such as *French Trademarks: the Art Deco Era*, *Trademarks of the 40's and 50's*, and *Character Trademarks*, can be found in the graphic arts section of most bookstores. A quick glance in the collecting & collectibles aisle will reveal even more titles covering marks used on furniture, pottery, dolls, knives, silverware and other household objects. These books are fun to browse and useful for identifying specific trademarks but too often offer little explanation of their origins, symbolism or value.

Per Mollerup's *Marks of Excellence: the History and Taxonomy of Trademarks* (Phaidon Press Ltd., London, 1997, US\$75) is an expansive survey of trademarks richly illustrated with 400 color and b&w images. Mr. Mollerup is the founder of Designlab, a Scandinavian consulting firm specializing in visual communication, information design and corporate identity. *Marks of Excellence* is available in the U.S. from Chronicle Books. <www.chronbooks.com>



Mollerup organizes his topic using a complex taxonomic tree, a model which seems non-intuitive to anyone except serious students of graphic design. Most readers will probably want to skip his analysis of linguistic and

graphic relationships. However, all readers will appreciate the grouping together of visually and thematically-related trademarks which makes possible an easy understanding of their purpose and effectiveness.

In the introduction, Mollerup reviews the history of trademarks including their origins in heraldry, guild marks and branding. The first section organizes trademarks by graphic appearance, e.g. letter marks, name marks, abbreviations, picture marks, etc. The second section

examines trademark motifs such as bells, lions, maritime devices, mythology and stars. The final section looks at the evolution of well-known trademarks, trademark families, international variations of famous marks and non-graphic marks such as the Coca-Cola bottle and BMW's automobile grill. The book's comprehensive index insures quick access to specific categories of marks and individual trademarks.

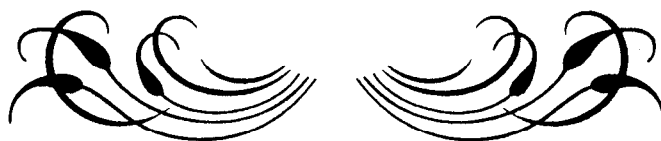
Many of the selections are accompanied by brief explanations of their symbolism and history. Naval devices such as anchors and buoys represent safety and security; trademarks depicting ships suggest adventure and discovery. The Guinness harp trademark, based on the ancient O'Neill harp and used by the Guinness breweries since 1862, was adopted as the official symbol of Ireland in 1922. However, the young republic was soon forced to reverse the harp in order to avoid copyright infringement.

Some of Mollerup's connections are speculative. For instance, he suggests that Kodak, a fanciful mark coined by photographic entrepreneur George Eastman around 1888, resembles the sound of a camera shutter opening and closing (click-clack). Another popular story claims that Kodak was selected because it was easy to pronounce in many languages. However, Kodak's official web site states that Eastman invented the word "out of thin air" after trying many combinations using his favorite letter, K. <www.kodak.com>

Marks of Excellence is a work intended for design students and professional graphic designers, but anyone interested in trademarks will find it a useful reference tool and a visually entertaining introduction to the subject. Its hundreds of illustrations and anecdotes will help novices to understand trademarks and appreciate their myriad forms. Numerous examples of how companies display their trademarks on products, packaging and literature may also help pro se applicants comprehend the PTO's trademark specimen requirements. The unconventional displays depicted may inspire creative designers to rethink their trademark designs. *Marks of Excellence* succeeds on many levels by combining the pragmatic characteristics of a catalog, the visually appealing qualities of an art book and the in-depth background of a scholarly text.

Marks of Excellence: the history and taxonomy of trademarks
Per Mollerup
London: Phaidon Press Ltd., 1997
US\$75

Chronicle Books
85 Second St.
San Francisco, CA 94105
1-415-537-3730



Intellectual Property News

All the Really Important News Concerning Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks

Brian Carpenter, College Station, Texas

Nike Halts Production of New Logo

Nike® came up with a cool looking logo for a new line of shoes recently. The logo (which according to Nike resembled flames) was supposed to enhance the Nike name. They got more heat out of this than they bargained for. It turns out the logo inadvertently spelled out the name for God in Arabic. According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the logo inappropriately used Arabic script. Nike quickly withdrew the logo and apologized for the misunderstanding.



®

Source: USA Today, Money, Moneyline, April 10, 1997 1B

Radio Shack® Attacks an Internet Shack



RadioShack

®

Radio Shack® forced Auto Shack to become Auto Zone™. Now, it has turned its attention to the burgeoning Internet. It seems Radio Shack is worried that its customers will wrongly identify Bianca's Smut Shack™, an adult web site, with the electronics store chain. Bianca's webmasters have vowed not to bow to what they consider corporate strong arm tactics. To this end, they have asked other web sites to join their cause by renaming themselves with the name Shack or adding the term as part of the name of their web site. The incident raises some important issues. Just how much information does a web site have to include to infringe upon another's web site?

Just a word from the trademarked phrase? Even if that word is considered a common term? Although the Bianca

web masters may eventually agree to change their site, this incident adds fuel to the controversy about just what problems web masters face in terms of intellectual property issues.

Source: Salon Magazine, Media Circus, May 23, 1997 <www.salonmagazine.com>; "Smut Shack Defenders Make Waves", Wired News, Wired Magazine, May 23, 1997 <www.wired.com>

Downsizing and Intellectual Property: Workplace Loyalty

Dow Chemical® company recently learned a hard lesson. Trade secrets are not just tangible objects; they can be intangible ones as well. The corporate giant recently settled out of court with General Electric® over GE's hiring practices which included hiring young professionals away from Dow. The focal point of this suit was a 32-year old Dow engineer who worked with high-tech plastics. While in the past this kind of lawsuit was rare, law experts note that this is not so anymore. The reason for these cases? Our highly technological world that now makes it very easy for trade secrets to slip through corporate security into the hands of competitors. The presence of e-mail, faxes, and other technological advances have become a double-edged sword.

Also helping to spur this information drain along is the push to eliminate middle management and place information access into the hands of lower corporate employees. With the signing of the Economic Espionage Act last fall by President Clinton, more of these cases will undoubtedly appear. The best defense against this corporate intellectual drain is stricter control over trade secrets and open and ethical employee hiring policies.

Source: Micheline Maynard and Del Jones, USA Today, Money, April 10, 1997, B1-2.

BOOM! These Are the Kind of Warheads Your Kids Can Eat



®

Ah, summer, and kids' thoughts turn to . . . what is the latest gross or weird thing they can find? This summer the rage was Mega Warheads®, a powerfully sour pill that, though bitterly sour, was the thing to try. Mega Warheads follows a long line of strange candy including Pop Rocks® and Candy Cigarettes that rely on uniqueness in visual appearance or taste to lure in its customers. Warheads, according to its discoverer, Peter De Yager, relies on a "secret cocktail of acids" beyond the usual assortment of artificial flavorings and additives. Some worry that the warlike theme of the candy's name could be harmful. But in reality, probably whatever they are called, kids will eat'em up. At least, until the next fad comes along.

Source: USA Today, Money, J. Taylor Buckley, June 11, 1997, 3B.

Federal Regulators Go After Fraudulent Invention Corporations

We've all heard their commercials or seen their advertisements "tell us about your invention and we'll make you rich!" Well, the federal government has had enough of the organizations. On Wednesday, July 16, it was announced that federal regulators and state attorney generals had been given the green light to go after these companies. The government in its statement on the move, noted "thousands of entrepreneurs had been bilked out of more than \$90 million." Among those bilked by these companies includes Garland, Texas engineer/inventor, Ray Harrison. Harrison's invention was a device that turns pickup beds into campers. Due to his problems and problems experienced by other inventors, the FTC and state attorney generals will seek to bar several of the most notorious of these companies from continuing to do business.

Source: USA Today, Money, Jayne O'Donnell, Thursday, July 24, 1997, 1B.

Barbie® Says "Oh no! I'm Being Sued!"

After Mattel® filed suit against MCA® for the rock band Aqua's song, "Barbie Girls" citing unsavory language and sexual themes associated with the famous female doll, one would have thought the toy company's troubles were over. Not so. MCA has filed a counter defamation suit against Mattel claiming the Toy Giant subjected the music company to "hatred, contempt, and ridicule that caused lost profits." No court date has been set for this clash of the titans.

Barbie

®

Source: USA Today, "MCA Countersues Mattel", Life, People, November 12, 1997 2D.

Design People: Pay Attention . . .

We've all thought it at one time or another when using a supposedly high-tech device "who the @\$%#& designed this crazy thing?" Well, you are not alone. Many people are aggravated by bad design whether it's for a web page or the supermarket debit credit card system. According to Ben Shneiderman, an expert on human computer interaction, bad design in computerized systems and databases leads not just to people's stress levels—it also contributes to time wasted by workers, and lower productivity. Among those high tech designs that are lauded for their design: The Yahoo® web site [excellent presentation of lots of information], the Macintosh® computer [really is intuitive], Lotus® Organizer [easy to use], and automated bank teller machines [simple and almost foolproof to use]. Those that earned raspberries: voice activated computers [slow and cumbersome], Microsoft Word® [71 icons on the first screen], and supermarket credit and debit card payment systems [confusing]. One downside to the better designed products, the more testing done, the more expensive the system is. This really is a case of "you get what you pay for."

Source: USA Today, TechExtra, Life, Elizabeth Wiese, November 17, 1997 6D.

Tell Us Something We Didn't Know . . .

You've seen the evidence in your library. You heard about it in the Commissioner's report at the last conference. Now the media has the story. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of patent applications filed in the United States . . . and its causing problems. According to Edward Kazenske, acting Associate Commissioner for Patent and Trademarks, over the last two years applications submitted have grown 17 percent a year. Forces cited for inciting this "brain boom" as termed by PTO Commissioner Lehman, are a strong economy, favorable court rulings, extended patent protection for software, and increased knowledge through the world wide web about the importance of intellectual property. However, the sword cuts both ways; with the increase in filings also comes backlogs—especially in light of the recent trend of downsizing which has hit the PTO as well as other government agencies. Patents are not the only area of intellectual property affected; the Library of Congress is also struggling with its own boom. An even more unpleasant boom may be just around the corner; the Copyright Office is testing an electronic registration system that is expected to greatly expand the number of their applications sent in.

Source: Bryan-College Station Eagle, Technology, Maud S. Beelman, October 26, 1997 C4.

Amistad – The Court Battle

Is it plagiarism or creative license? That's what a Federal Court will decide soon. Barbara Chase-Riboud claims that the new Spielberg movie, *Amistad* is a rewrite of her novel *Echo of Lions*. On December 8th, the week of its premiere, federal judge Audrey Collins said an injunction against showing the movie could not be done due to the money already invested in its premiere. Ms. Chase-Riboud has filed a \$10 million dollar copyright infringement suit against Spielberg and his movie studio Dreamworks. Though the *Amistad* case is attracting a lot of attention, this is hardly the first case of disputed ownership. Other famous movies that resulted in copyright lawsuits include *Coming to America*, *Crimson Tide*, *Backdraft*, *The Terminator*, *Die Hard*, *Home Alone*, and even *Citizen Kane*. The producer of *Amistad*, Debbie Allen, claims she had no prior knowledge of *Echo of Lions* when she bought the rights written adaptation of a shipboard slavery revolt that occurred off the coast of Cuba in 1839. David Frazoni originally wrote the screenplay. The trial will take place next spring or summer.

Source: Paul Harvey: News and Comments, KORA-FM 93.4 Radio, December 5, 1997 and USA Today, Claudia Puig and Andy Seiler, December 9, 1997, 1-2A.

Telling the fake from the real

It seems the trustees for the estate of Princess Diana have had enough of the strange and sometimes downright bizarre things that are being touted as keepsakes for the memory of the Princess. The estate and lawyers for the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund have applied for a trademark on likeness of Lady Diana Spencer, also known as the Princess of Wales. The British Patent Office has received 26 photographs of the Princess depicting different moments in her life. If the trademark is approved, the estate says it will be ready to begin policing before year's end. So far, spokesmen for various organizations who have created memorabilia in tribute to the princess have no comment.

Source: USA Today, Karen Thomas, December 3, 1997, 23A.

And...THIS JUST IN

A Patent for the Web?! You've Got to be Kidding

Just when you thought it was safe to surf and create your own web page, looks like someone wants you to pay even more for that privilege. In the tradition of Compton who tried to say they patented multimedia, E-data Corporation has filed suit against several technology companies stating their 1985 patent covers the exchange data over the Internet. If found to be valid, the patent could change the face of the Internet.

I've Got Those Internet Domain Blues Again

The Trademark Office may have yet another headache on their hands. A Colorado-based

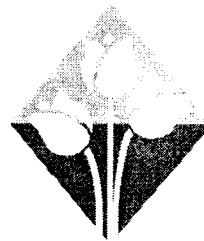
nonprofit Christian ministry, Compassion International, has asked a California charity group to

relinquish all rights to the Internet domain name Compassion.net Another web site, compassion.org, which has also been threatened by the same group, has created a protest site to let the public monitor the outcome of this case. Stay tuned.

Source for both: Internet World, Legal Briefs, James Evans, January 1998, 20.

Plumeria Blossom's Scent Fades

Maybe it was due to slow sales; maybe it was due to something else. Whatever the case, the company which had trademark protection for their plumeria blossom scented yarn, let the trademark lapse. According to Michael White, Patent and Trademark Fellowship Librarian at the USPTO, the holders of the



only fragrance to receive a trademark, failed to renew their registration for the mark. Plumeria blossom mark was granted on March 26, 1991. As of this date, no other fragrances are listed as having trademark protection. There is however, a pending trademark—for lemon scented copier toner.

Source: Michael White, Trademark Fellowship Librarian, 1997-98, PTDLP@USPTO.GOV via the PTDLP-L Listserv, January 13, 1998, 1:28 pm.

The Year 2000® Trademark

No, it's not a variation on the Year 2000 bug, but it can cause you big problems if you use it without permission. Following in the footsteps of the group which trademarked "Class of 2000" a New York promotional company has trademarked the term "Year 2000" and is threatening legal action against anyone who uses the term without their permission. This action has set the stage for legal battle of biblical proportions as various promotional firms both inside and outside prepare to challenge the legality of this mark.

SN 74-502,995. BEN ELIAS INDUSTRIES CORPORATION.
NEW YORK, NY. FILED 3-21-1994.

YEAR 2000

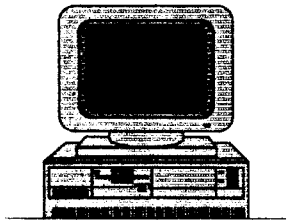
FOR MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, NAMELY PANTS, JEANS, SKIRTS, SHORTS, DRESSES, JACKETS, VESTS, COATS, TIES, SUITS, T-SHIRTS, SHIRTS AND SWEATERS (U.S. CLS. 22 AND 39).

Source: USA Today, Money, Del Jones, January 21, 1998, 4B.

Brian's Interesting Web Sites

Weird and Wonderful Patents

<http://www.lightlink.com/bbm/weird.html>



The title says it all. A site filled with those interesting inventions we are always hearing about from our fellow librarians. Created by the law firm of Brown, Pinnisi & Michaels, PC, Ithaca, NY.

Wacky Inventions Page

<http://colitz.com/site/wacky.htm>

Updated monthly, this site contains some of the most unusual and bizarre patents that have been granted by the USPTO. Created by the law firm of Michael L. Colitz

Trademark Infringements

<http://www.muchmusic.com/muchmusic/cyberfax/trademark.html>

For those interested in information about the trademark infringement fights in cyberspace. This site leads to actual copies of actual famous/infamous web sites and the lawyer letters they received. Notice: some of these sites could be deemed offensive, so link to them at your own risk

Syndicated Cartoonists by title

<http://www.cagle.com/prolinks/library/syndTITLE.asp>

An unofficial site for the listing of links to many of today's popular cartoon artists (e.g., Jim Davis, Garfield) by cartoonist Darryl Cagle. It lists most of the most popular cartoonists personal web sites. Very helpful if you want to get in touch with the cartoonist.

Cartoon home page

<http://www.inet1.com/Toons/true/>

Darryl Cagle's official home page. This is where you can find a link to the unofficial cartoon index list. Uh, that is, if his address hasn't changed.

Standard Disclaimer

And last, but not least, a standard disclaimer to cover every possible problem...

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Apply only to affected area. May be too intense for some viewers. Do not stamp. Use other side for additional listings. For recreational use only. Do not disturb. All models over 18 years of age. If condition persists, consult your physician. No user-serviceable parts inside. Freshest if eaten before date on carton. Subject to change without notice. Times approximate. Simulated picture. No postage necessary if mailed in the United States. Please remain seated until the ride has come to a complete stop. Breaking seal constitutes acceptance of agreement. For off-road use only. As seen on TV. One size fits all. Many suitcases look alike. Contains a substantial amount of non-tobacco ingredients. Colors may, in time, fade. We have sent the forms which seem right for you. Slippery when wet. For office use only. Not affiliated with the American Red Cross. Drop in any mailbox. Edited for television. Keep cool; process promptly. Post office will not deliver without postage. List was current at time of printing. Return to sender, no forwarding order on file, unable to forward. Not responsible for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect, error or failure to perform. At participating locations only. Not the Beatles. Penalty for private use. See label for sequence. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Do not write below this line. Falling rock. Lost ticket pays maximum rate. Your canceled check is your receipt. Add toner. Place stamp here. Avoid contact with skin. Sanitized for your protection. Be sure each item is properly endorsed. Sign here without admitting guilt. Slightly higher west of the Mississippi. Employees and their families are not eligible. Beware of dog. Contestants have been briefed on some questions before the show. Limited time offer, call now to ensure prompt delivery. You must be present to win. No passes accepted for this engagement. No purchase necessary. Processed at location stamped in code at top of carton. Shading within a garment may occur. Use only in a well-ventilated area. Keep away from fire or flames. Replace with same type. Approved for veterans. Booths for two or more. Check here if tax deductible. Some equipment shown is optional. Price does not include taxes. No Canadian coins. Not recommended for children. Prerecorded for this time zone. Reproduction strictly prohibited. No solicitors. No alcohol, dogs or horses. No anchovies unless otherwise specified. Restaurant package, not for resale. List at least two alternate dates. First pull up, then pull down. Call toll free number before digging. Driver does not carry cash. Some of the trademarks mentioned in this product appear for identification purposes only. Objects in mirror may be closer than they appear. Record additional transactions on back of previous stub. Unix is a registered trademark of AT&T. Do not fold, spindle or mutilate. No transfers issued until the bus comes to a complete stop. Package sold by weight, not volume. Your mileage may vary. Thank you, please drive through. Huh..huh..huh.

This supersedes all previous notices.

Courtesy of Hagop Barsamian and Craig Vodnik, Nuclear Engineering Graduate students, Texas A&M University, E-mail: hicup@trinity.tamu.edu

Intellectual Property Editor's Note

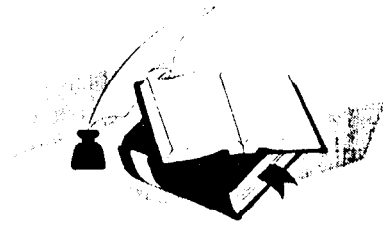
Seen an intellectual property news article in the paper or saw/heard one on television? If so, send me the article or the information about the radio/television news report. If you do, I'll make sure it gets into print and you'll get credit for it. Send it to Intellectual Property News c/o, Brian Carpenter, 3200 Callie Circle, College Station, Texas 77845.

Editor's Note

Thanks to all who contributed news reports, meeting minutes and articles to this edition of the *PTDLA Newsletter*. This *Newsletter* appears once a year, so it is very long! ☺ I received a few things that I hope to include next year.

My many thanks to Brian Carpenter for his outstanding Intellectual Property News section. Some items he submitted will appear next year.

-Christina Byrne

**Membership Information - Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association****MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 20, 1998
 TO: PTDL Training Seminar XXI Participants
 FROM: Lisa Hoenig, PTDLA Treasurer
 SUBJECT: PTDLA Membership and Dues

1998's annual PTDL Training Seminar, opening March 22, will mark the beginning of the 1998/99 membership year of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA). As Treasurer of the Association, I welcome you to join this very special organization for PTDL Representatives.

For those of you who may be new to the PTDL Program, regular PTDLA membership is open to any interested person employed at a Patent & Trademark Depository Library. Regular members may vote on PTDLA business, and may hold elective offices or appointive positions. Affiliate membership is open to anyone associated with the PTDL Program who is not eligible for regular membership. Dues for membership remains a bargain just \$10 per year.

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

You'll find a membership form for 1998/99 on the following page. It may be photocopied and distributed to anyone who may not have received this mailing. Please send the completed form, along with your dues payment, to the PTDLP Office in Washington.

Thank-you! I hope to see you at the Seminar!

PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (PTDLA)

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND/OR TRAINING SEMINAR XXI FEE

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

The PTDLA helps defray costs of the Annual PTDL Training Seminar by collecting a registration fee. The money collected will be deposited in the PTDLA treasury and applied toward the total seminar bill. **This is a mandatory fee for all attendees.** For those attendees who work in PTDLs, the fee includes your annual PTDLA membership dues. Dues cover membership from the current Seminar to the end of next year's event. Only individual memberships are permitted; there is no provision for institutional or group memberships

If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please direct them to Lisa Hoenig, PTDLA Treasurer, at the Toledo/Lucas County Public Library (OH) by telephone (419/259-5214) or e-mail (hoenig@tlc.lib.oh.us).

(Detach and Mail)

PTDLP TRAINING SEMINAR XXI FEE & MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

EITHER (Check one) ☐:

PTDLA MEMBERSHIP DUES:	\$10.00 and
SEMINAR FEE FOR PTDLA MEMBERS:	<u>\$20.00</u>
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