

INFORMATION OUTLOOK

CONNECTING INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

SPRING 2024



In the Time of **Syzygy**

Exploring the Solar Eclipse

ALSO INSIDE:

- ▶ **Risk Management for Culturally Sensitive Collections**
- ▶ **The British Library's cyber-attack: disruption and resilience**



SLA

Connecting Information
Professionals

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“Totality”

Solar Eclipse | April 8, 2024

Dayton, Ohio | 3:09PM

Photo Credit: Leslie Steele



ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE:

What an amazing experience to see the wonders of our universe in action! And what a whirlwind to get there! I started planning this trip to see the total eclipse at Niagara Falls back in 2017 and had a vivid fantasy of watching the eclipse over the majestic falls. So, we took the weekend journey to upstate New York, with plans to drive home to eastern Pennsylvania after the eclipse. The weather forecast turned sour for the area, and the day of the eclipse, there was a 70% chance of cloud cover. My family did what anyone would have done and hurriedly left upstate New York in the morning and drove westward. We searched feverishly for the best cloud forecast as we headed west. First, we agreed to go to Erie, then Cleveland, then it was Sandusky, and finally, Dayton, where the cloud cover was 29%. We arrived at a small Mexican restaurant off the highway just in time to enjoy some tacos and watch the eclipse from an old picnic table in the parking lot. I would not trade the experience for anything in the world. There we sat with the restaurant employees and watched the eclipse together in amazement. Both parties spoke different languages, and an older woman cried in prayer; we all sort of bonded there, sitting together. We didn't need to understand each other to understand the connection we had to the universe, and each other, at that moment.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Information Professionals,

My library science world dynamically changed once I entered the SLA global information platform, it gave me an immediate sense of global connectivity with the easy flow of information from every corner of the world through the community networks of SLA spread across the continents.

Being an SLA Scholarship receiver four times, I could attend the SLA International Conferences through the fantastic virtual platform. I am also pleased to conduct effective sessions as a speaker on Academic Research Integrity focused on the recent trends and issues in the research process along with the good research practices, followed by the panel discussion on the topic as a panel member; also, on the Library Service Quality aspects as a speaker and on the WLB for the Women Library Professionals on the SLA ASIA platform and now working on the SLA committees at different levels and enjoying and developing through being connected with the LIS professional members on the fantastic SLA's dias.

The SLA Student's Membership is open now for very meagre charges, I appeal to all the students of the LIS profession to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to interact, explore, evolve, and develop yourself to shape your career in the global information world. As today's world of information is facing tremendous changes and challenges on several fronts and being an LIS professional the need is to align with the organizational objectives by extending the boundaries of work beyond the information delivery for better professional sustainability.



Best,

Prof. (Dr) Mrs. Meenal Oak

MEMBER – SLA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, & MEMBER- ELECTION BOARD SLA ASIA
RECIPIENT – SLA ASIA INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL AWARD (2022)
LIBRARIAN (PROFESSOR-LEVEL 14)
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<https://sites.google.com/mespune.in/prof-dr-mrs-meenal-oak/home>

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WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ATTENDING CONFERENCES IRL?

By Brandy King, MLIS, SLA Fellow

Sometimes when I scroll through my connections on Facebook or LinkedIn I realize that there are people whom I've never met "In Real Life" (or IRL as the kids say). We were introduced long ago through a friend of a friend, or found each other in an online forum, or connected because of a mutual professional interest. Sometimes we've made the move from using text-based social media to connecting over phone or video calls. And sometimes we've even gone on to meet up in person and become IRL friends or colleagues.

When I *have* taken that leap to meeting these people IRL, I rarely regret it. There is a chemistry that can only be felt when you are together in the same space at the same time. Conversations tend to flow more easily, discussions can happen on a deeper level, and you can often get a better sense of the "whole person" when you are physically present with each other.

The pandemic brought with it the widespread adoption of virtual conferences, a shift made with the explicit goal of decreasing personal contact in order to eliminate the spread of illness. Educational content could be delivered effectively and less expensively online while reducing public health risks. There were also major benefits in terms of increasing accessibility and inclusivity for audiences who weren't able to attend in person, along with reducing travel and event costs.

But having attended at least 15 SLA annual conferences IRL since 2005, I was eager to get back to meeting in person in 2022. Because what I've learned over the years is that the educational content of a conference is only one fourth of what I gain when I attend in person. It's the people I've met, the places I've visited and the opportunities I've had opened up to me that remain most vivid in my memory. And that's why I recommend going to SLA 2024 Annual Conference & Expo in Rhode Island this summer.

Whether it was people I met briefly, such as the librarians for Target and McDonalds who were behind me in line for a computer terminal, or people I got to know well, like Elaine Lasda, my conference roomie for a decade, the in-person conversations were the real highlight of every annual meeting. I suggest not only attending educational sessions, but also going to the SLA Business Meeting to learn more about the current work of the Association and ask questions, organizing an informal gathering of people from your alma mater or people who have a common pop-culture interest, and hitting the Information Technology Division's annual Dance Party to meet or hang out with some new friends.

Like most people in our profession, I end up spending most of my work time tied to the computer, and vacations are few and far between. But attending SLA conferences in person has always given me the chance to travel to new locations I would likely have never visited otherwise. In 2008, I went to the top of the Space Needle in Seattle with my six-months-pregnant belly. In 2019 I spent hours taking in the exhibits at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. I highly recommend joining some of the tours that the conference organizers arrange, venturing out to non-chain restaurants to sample local cuisine, and seeing whether area librarians would be willing to give you a personal tour of their workplaces.

At my very first SLA conference in 2005, I made it a point to connect with the Social Science Division. I learned that they were looking for a webmaster and it felt like a great on-ramp to becoming more involved in the Association. That led to opportunities for other leadership roles throughout the years including serving as Division Chair, coordinating social justice-related education sessions for several conferences, and taking on my favorite role to date – Conference Chair for

continued

ATTENDING CONFERENCES IRL continued

SLA 2017 in Phoenix. I always encourage people to look for volunteer opportunities that match their time availability and stretch them in new directions. So whether you present at a poster session, organize a division event, or serve on the board, there are plenty of ways to contribute to the success of SLA and the conference while giving yourself leadership experience.

There's also a lot to be said about your ability to focus on the content at hand when you attend a conference in person. At a time when we are distracted in all directions by email and

social media notifications and the never-ending expectations of our families and workplaces, conferences offer a unique opportunity to spend a few days physically and mentally present with a group of colleagues all focused in one direction.

Reflecting on the multitude of benefits that in-person conference attendance brings, I'm really looking forward to being present with all of you, IRL, in Kingston, Rhode Island this July!

INFORMATION OUTLOOK

Do you
have a story
to tell?

Have you
read a book you
cannot stop
thinking about
lately?

Do you
have new
research to
share?

We want to hear from you!
Submit your work to SLA's
Information Outlook!

Be a part of our quarterly publication – SLA encourages ALL members to submit content to *Information Outlook*. Show off your skills as an SLA member through this digital publication.

Email submissions to Lsteele@sla.org.





MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Getting to know Professor Jay Bhatt

By Leslie Steele

visible or invisible

**When I find a good book I get lost,
when I am writing something good I disappear,
become one with nature, and I disappear again.**

**In a nice conversation I become a conversation,
in the pouring rain I become a heli,
beauty becomes a leaf of juice, then I disappear.**

**Disappear again in my letters, words and learning with students,
but I also become visible in it.**

**The whole world resides in my mind. Whenever I feel like it ,
I can fly to any corner of the world,
on the wings of imagination, and I disappear again.**



Jay Bhatt

One of the most interesting aspects of human nature is the fact that we are all one soul with many faces. A long time ago, someone said to me that each person you have a relationship with knows a different you than everyone else. What you choose to share about yourself impacts the type of personality and viewpoints others have of you. As I was reviewing my notes to construct this issue's member spotlight, I was reminded of this thought. We are so unique and often we forget that each individual person we encounter has many faces, and most likely, we have only seen one.

The poem above was written in Gujarati and translated by Google Translate. These words were written by SLA's own Jay Bhatt. In Jay's spare time he enjoys reading and writing poetry and hosts a blog, Bansinaad, but many in the SLA Community only know Jay as an analytical engineering librarian and a key figurehead in SLA's Asia, Engineering, and Science & Technology Communities, which he was president of in 2022.

Jay has been a member of SLA since 2000 and has been actively engaged in several communities along the way. He has achieved many accolades during his career including awards from SLA and Drexel University, where he built his career as the Engineering Librarian. He has three master's degrees from Drexel University, including an M.S. in Library and Information Science, an M.S. in Instructional Design and an M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He also earned an M.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

As the Liaison Librarian for Engineering, Jay is responsible for building library collections in engineering subject areas, as well as outreach and teaching information and research skills to faculty and students in Drexel's College of Engineering and College of Biomedical Engineering. He provides individual and small group consultations, instructional sessions and

continued

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT continued

workshops, and online research support for students in on-campus and distance learning programs. He was recently awarded the SLA Science-Technology Community's Ann Koopman Science-Technology Community Achievement Award in 2022, adding to a multitude of awards throughout his career.

Jay has a lifelong passion for trains and is a member of the Indian Railways Fan Club, and often seeks inspiration from space explorers and astronauts. "I watch [the] NASA channel and derive inspiration from their resilience, courage, science and technical knowledge, and determination to explore the universe and infinite space!" says Jay, when asked what inspires him.

In his downtime, along with writing poetry, Jay loves to read. Currently, he is fascinated by the book *Sciences of the Ancient Hindus: Unlocking Nature in the Pursuit of Salvation* by Dr. Alok Kumar. Jay is particularly interested in the connection

between ancient science and its contributions to today's growth in science and technology. To further develop insights into this subject, Jay is also watching this YouTube video: Ancient Hindu Science – Dr. Alok Kumar, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RA9K2jjGQfo>.

"SLA is a simply dynamic, engaging, inspiring, strategic, and innovative organization that has provided me with an immense number of opportunities to learn and engage with a variety of collaborative projects." Says Bhatt, "Through its stimulating interactive platforms, I have been able to exchange and share many ideas for envisioning the future of librarianship through some engaging brain-storming sessions with several active members of these communities. SLA has truly helped me grow and thrive professionally as an engineering librarian, and in the process gain and share knowledge to inspire and educate many new librarians and students worldwide!"

Join SLA Today!



Expand your network and knowledge with SLA!

Representing over 45 countries and 72 communities, for over 100 years, SLA has been the headquarters to network and learn from esteemed professionals across the globe.

- Be a part of a community or multiple communities
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 - Host and attend educational webinar
- Submit content to SLA's digital magazine, *Information Outlook*
 - Expand your career with the SLA Career Center
- Join SLA Connect, SLA's international community forum

IN THE TIME OF SYZYGY¹

By Ruth Kneale

Imagine if you will...

It's 1230 AD. You're a farmer in northern Europe, working your fields in the morning. Suddenly, the sky starts to dim. The birds start singing. Your cows head back to the barn. And the bees seem to be going crazy! Then... a strange darkness falls. The birds and bees go silent, but crickets start singing. And the sun turns into a black dot surrounded by strange waving lights and huge spurts of flame!

Is this the end of the world?

No wonder people panicked, and believed a dragon was eating the sun, or the gods were taking away the light because you didn't show enough respect, or it was time to put the king to death. Seeing a total solar eclipse is a stunning and unnerving experience. And we're about to have one, swiping its way across North America.

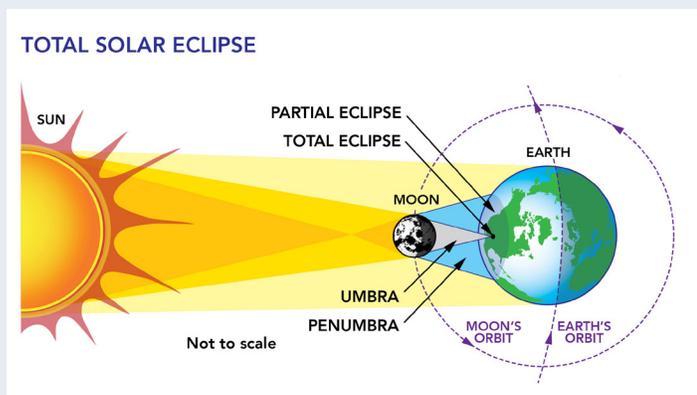


FIGURE 2 | Total eclipses are seen from within the Moon's shadow on the Earth. Credits: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

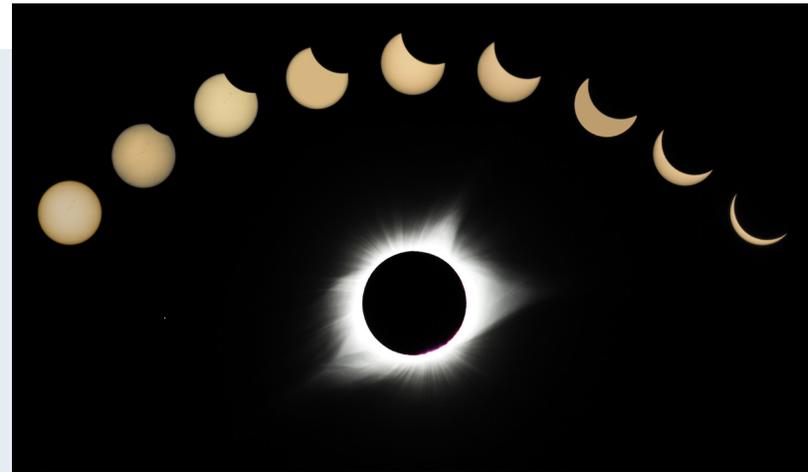


FIGURE 1 | Photo montage of the 2017 total solar eclipse, by Robert Hubbard

What is it?

A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between us and the Sun at just the right position in its orbit to block all the Sun's light from reaching us. This celestial lineup is called a *syzygy*. Similarly, a lunar eclipse is when we're in the right place to block the Sun's light from hitting the Moon. Believe it or not, they happen about every 18 months! But things have to be lined up just right for it to be a total eclipse; otherwise, if it's even noticeable, it's a partial eclipse - what you'll see is as if the Moon took a bite out of the Sun. But, if you're on the narrow path of totality,² you'll experience something amazing.

Eclipse or not, never look directly at the sun! Always use proper, ISO-certified solar glasses (or welding goggles, if you've got them handy).

continued

¹ Pronounced "SIZ-i-jee." Copernicus, the 13th century astronomer, used syzygy calculations to develop his groundbreaking heliocentric model, which upended all scientific understandings of the universe at the time.

² This is the name of the path of total coverage of the Sun; outside it you'll see a given percentage of totality until you're so far away, you can't see it at all. The width and duration of totality is determined for each eclipse using a lot of mathematics; for the April 8th eclipse, totality was for about four and half minutes in a path about 115 miles wide.

IN THE TIME OF SYZYGY continued



Katie Mack ✓
@AstroKatie

 <-- lunar eclipse

 <-- solar eclipse

 <-- apocalypse

3:40 AM · Oct 5, 2014

FIGURE 2 | *Astrophysicist Katie Mack's visual description of eclipses*

Folklore and eclipses in antiquity

Since prehistory, eclipses were seen as messengers of change – sometimes for good, but most often not. The Babylonians used them to foretell the death of kings; in China, an eclipse signaled divine dissatisfaction with rulers, and dynastic change. In Northern Europe, eclipses in the Middle Ages were associated with the assassination of Dub, King of Scotland and the death of Henry I of England. All across the world, a solar eclipse generally meant something bad for royalty.

However, there are dozens of other interpretations of the Sun vanishing. In Hinduism, an eclipse occurs when a demon tricks the lord Vishnu into giving it the nectar of immortality, and Vishnu beheads it. The demon's head becomes the shadow planet Rahu, which attempts to swallow the moon and the sun. Some Hindus who believe eclipses are inauspicious fast before and bathe in the river afterwards; others aren't worried at all, because all the celestial bodies live in the belly of the god Ganesha, who will protect them from any negative outcomes. In Islam, for many, eclipses are a time for prayer and spiritual contemplation. Despite his son dying on the day of an eclipse, the prophet Muhammad encouraged his followers to devote the day to worshiping God, and

remembering His goodness. For the Diné, or Navajo, eclipses are a time of great admiration and stillness, to “show reverence and respect for the sun and the Earth.”³ They fast, and do not work or sleep; most offices, schools, and places of work in the Navajo Nation will close during an eclipse, out of respect.

Archaeoastronomers believe Neolithic peoples tracked astronomical phenomena very closely; in Ireland, a prehistoric geometric rock carving may be the earliest recording of an eclipse 5,354 years ago (3340 BCE).⁴ Another contender is a clay tablet found at Ugarit, in modern Syria, calculated at 3 May 1375 BCE. By the 8th century BCE, the Babylonians were keeping detailed eclipse records, and Chinese astronomers were predicting them by the 4th century BCE.⁴ Native Americans recorded them in petroglyphs, and Mayans kept extremely detailed records of eclipses and other astronomical events in their hieroglyphs.



FIGURE 4 | *5,000-year-old carvings at Loughcrew in County Meath, Ireland. Credit: Martin Brennan and Jack Roberts.*

continued

³ <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/05/world/cultural-traditions-solar-eclipse-scn-cccl/index.html>

⁴ <https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/first-solar-eclipse-in-the-world>

⁵ <https://www2.bao.ucar.edu/education/solar-physics-timeline/1223bc-200bc>

IN THE TIME OF SYZYG^y continued

Modern understanding and discoveries

With mankind's continued fascination with the heavens, and the invention of the telescope, eclipses began to be understood much more. Johannes Kepler first tried to give a scientific description of a total solar eclipse in the 17th century (he didn't quite get there, but he was close!), but Edmund Halley was the first astronomer to really begin demystifying them. Since then, scientists have used eclipses to learn a great many things, such as the distance from the Earth to the Moon, the discovery of helium, and confirming Einstein's theory of relativity.

So what happens during one?

Experiencing a total solar eclipse is so much more than just experiencing darkness...at least, for humans. As the eclipse begins, you might notice a very minor drop in light, but within 90% of totality is when the light really changes. It gets darker, yes, but it's an eerie kind of darkness, more akin to the quality of light when a storm is approaching. Animals seem to respond in varied ways. Scientists are currently attempting detailed observations of animals during the 2024 eclipse to follow-up on behaviors witnessed during the 2017 total solar eclipse. Anecdotal reporting at the time included birds demonstrating their regular night-time and morning behaviors, one right after the other, giraffes galloping around their enclosure, and tortoises all looking heavenwards as light returns.⁶

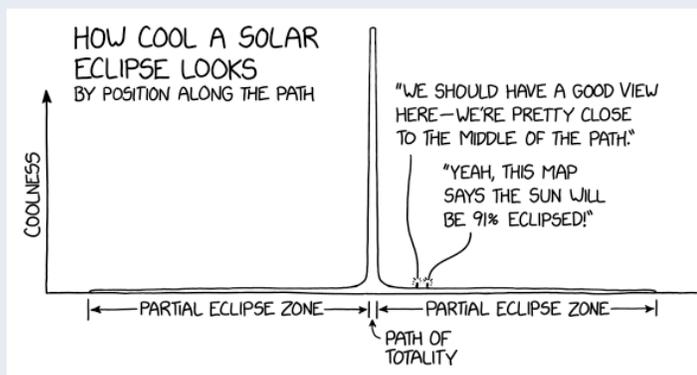


FIGURE 5 | *Eclipse Viewing*; credit XKCD

Additionally, colors will start to look a little different. Our perception of color is defined by how much light hits our eyes; bright and dim light activate our eyes differently. During sunrise or sunset our eyes adapt slowly, so we don't notice these color changes, but during an eclipse and its sudden light level changes, we do. It's called the Purkinje effect, and it's seen in reds and greens – reds will suddenly seem much darker and muted, and greens will appear much brighter and vibrant.⁷



FIGURE 6 | *Baily's Beads* seen 2 July 2019 from CTIO. Credit: CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/D. Munizaga

While using proper eye protection, and I can't emphasize that enough, there are plenty of other wild things to watch out for. Immediately before and after totality, as the moon moves that last tiny bit, there will be a flash of what's called the "diamond ring" effect, when the Sun is blocked except for one blazing spot. Another cool effect is a phenomenon called Baily's Beads – what look like droplets of light around the Sun. In reality, what you're seeing is the jagged landscape of the Moon, blocking or allowing light to reach us. Please remember, It is not safe to view Baily's Beads or the diamond ring effect without proper eye protection.

continued

⁶ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-do-animals-respond-to-a-total-solar-eclipse/>

⁷ <https://www.iflscience.com/scientists-suggest-wearing-red-and-green-during-the-eclipse-here-is-why-73648>

IN THE TIME OF SYZYGY continued

But what we're all waiting for is totality, in all its breathtaking glory. This event has been dubbed the Great North American Eclipse, and an estimated 50 million people will be in the path of it. It can be hard to express the wonder and amazement that hits when it happens.

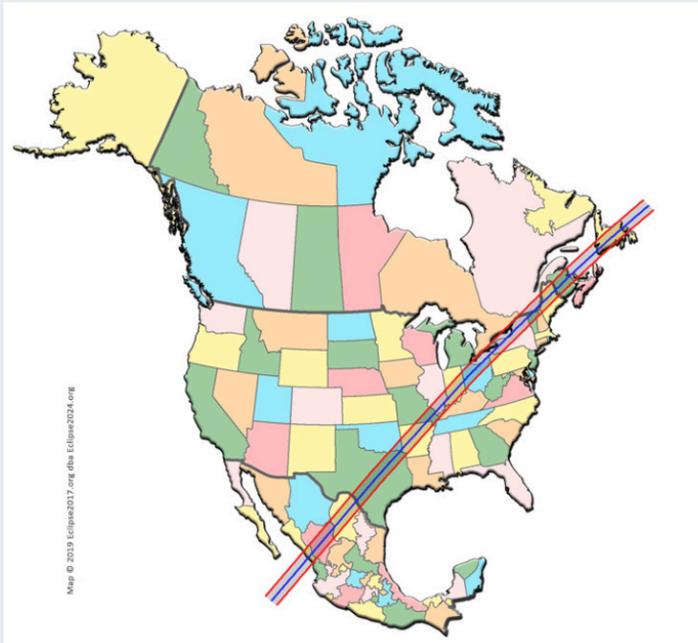


FIGURE 7 | *The eclipse path through North America, via eclipse2024.org*

When the Sun itself is covered, it allows us to see the coronasphere – the upper parts of the Sun's atmosphere – where we can see escaping particles that form streamers in the solar wind. One thing scientists have discovered is that the corona is easily 500 times hotter than the photosphere (the surface of the Sun). And they're baffled, as they haven't discovered an explanation why. If we're lucky, we can also see reddish flares and prominences with the naked eye; they're eruptions of material from the surface, either into space or into loops that fall back to the surface in graceful arcs that reflect the magnetic fields the Sun generates. This eclipse comes during a time called the solar maximum; the Sun follows a roughly 11-year cycle of activity, and when it's high, there are more sunspots, flares, and prominences. There were several flares and a massive prominence during this event, able to be seen by the naked eye; for some context, that prominence was 4-5 times the size of the Earth.⁸

⁸ <https://bsky.app/profile/philplait.bsky.social/post/3kpn7ft4bq2r>

⁹ <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/nasa-research/>

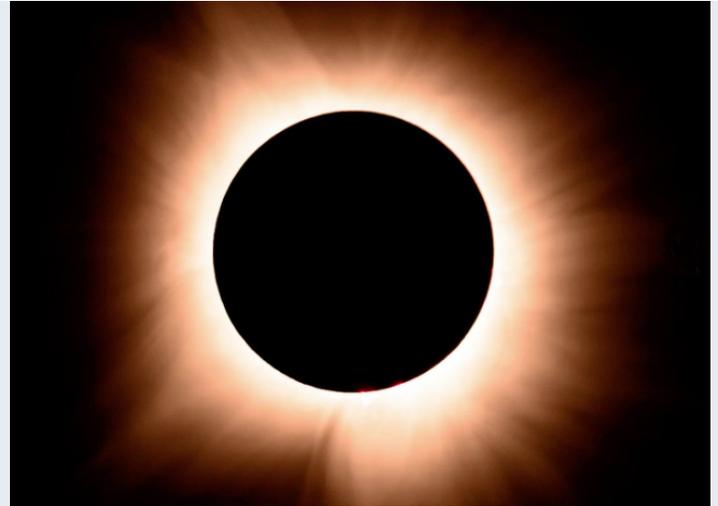


FIGURE 8 | *Detailed View of a Solar Corona from the 2024 eclipse. Josh Edelston/AFP*

Having the photosphere blocked also helps us understand how solar winds impact our own ionosphere – an upper layer of charged particles in our atmosphere – and how that can impact our lives. These conditions are known as “space weather,” and understanding it is extremely important, as it can interfere with satellites, GPS, cell networks, radio communications, and power grids.⁹

To the Future

For millennia, humankind has been shocked, stunned, and awed by eclipses, especially total solar ones. They fire up our imagination, cause reverence, and bring people together from all walks of life to witness. They also allow us to discover more about our star and the many ways it impacts our lives. It's time to start planning: the next total solar eclipse is August 12, 2026, in southern Europe and Greenland!

Donate Your Glasses to Eclipse Glasses USA

Eclipse Glasses USA is accepting donations through August 1 so they can be sent to Latin America for school-aged children to view the October eclipse.

You can send the glasses to:
Eclipse Glasses USA, LLC
P.O. Box 50571
Provo, UT 84605

IN THE TIME OF SYZYGY continued

Other Resources

- *A Historic Undertaking: Finding Syzygy in the 14th Century* | <https://astrosociety.org/news-publications/mercury-online/mercury-online.html/article/2019/07/12/a-historic-undertaking-finding-syzygy-in-the-14th-century>
- *Why eclipses are important* | <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/nasa-research/>
- *How hot is the sun?* | Space
- *Three times scientists learned something from solar eclipses—and three times they were tricked* | <https://www.science.org/content/article/three-times-scientists-learned-something-solar-eclipses-and-three-times-they-were>
- *How Do Animals Respond to a Total Solar Eclipse?* | Scientific American
- *Purkinje Effect: Scientists Suggest Wearing Red And Green During The Eclipse – Here Is Why* | IFLScience
- *Baily's Beads* | Wikipedia
- *Beyond totality: Rare phenomena to watch out for during the solar eclipse* | <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/01/world/total-solar-eclipse-phases-scen>
- *The April 8 total solar eclipse will bring weird sights, sounds and feelings* | Space
- *Motif-index of folk-literature; a classification of narrative elements in folktales, ballads, myths, fables, mediaeval romances, exempla, fabliaux, jest-books, and local legends* | HathiTrust Digital Library
- *What Folklore Tells Us About Eclipses* | Smithsonian Magazine
- *Total Solar Eclipses Worldwide – Next 10 Years* | timeanddate.com

5th Annual SLA Midwest Virtual Symposium

June 7, 2024 9am – 2pm CST

Co-hosted by: **The SLA Midwest Community**

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas/Western Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota and St. Louis Metro area.

Event Overview

Join the SLA Midwest Community for an innovative and informative Virtual Symposium featuring sessions presented by leaders in the Library and Information Specialist industry. The day will begin with a Keynote Speaker, Networking Breaks, Educational Program and Lightning Rounds.

Sessions Topics

- Case Studies In Data
- Practical uses for Library Data
- Data Visualizations
- Special Libraries & AI
- Taxonomy & Knowledge Management
- New Careers in Special Libraries
- Advocacy for Special Libraries
- Negotiation Skills

Attendees

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FUN THINGS TO SEE AND DO

around South Kingstown, Rhode Island

By members of the SLA New England Community:

Kathy Berger, Kelli Costello, Ann Cullen, Evelyn Hernandez and Amelia Looby



*Sunset in Newport, Rhode Island
Photo by Evelyn Hernandez*

The SLA conference this year will be held at the University of Rhode Island (URI) campus in South Kingstown, RI, which is a 30-minute drive south of Providence. Kingstown is near some great beaches, so in July expect summer traffic when driving. While South Kingstown itself is fairly small, there are a number of interesting sites within a short drive. Below please find a list of some recommendations.

South Kingstown Sites

- **Peace Dale Public Library**, 10 min. from URI | This building is on the Rhode Island Historical Society list.
1057 Kingstown Road
Wakefield, RI 02879
www.southkingstownri.com/785/Our-Buildings
- **Kingston Free Library Branch** | The building presently occupied by the library was originally built as a county courthouse in 1775 and served as one of the five original state houses when the General Assembly rotated its meetings between 1776-1791. The exterior was altered in 1876 in the Victorian style.
www.southkingstownri.com/facilities/facility/details/Kingston-Free-Library-25
- **The Towers, Narragansett** | Historic building
35 Ocean Road
Narragansett, RI
17 minutes from URI and right next to the Narragansett Town Beach
www.thetowersri.com/
- **Beaches near South Kingstown**
www.southcountyri.com/media/beaches

continued

FUN THINGS TO SEE AND DO continued

Museums/Historical Sites

- **Tomaquag Museum** | Rhode Island's only museum entirely dedicated to telling the story of its Indigenous peoples.

390 A Summit Road
Exeter, RI 02822

www.tomaquagmuseum.org

- **Babcock-Smith House Museum**

124 Granite Street
Westerly, RI

<https://babcocksmithhouse.org/>

- **Mystic Seaport Museum**

40 min. drive from URI

<https://mysticseaport.org/>

Other Historic Sites

- www.southcountyrri.com/things-to-do/lighthouses-museums-and-historic-sites/

Restaurants

Other than some coffee shops and pizzerias, there are few options near the URI campus, and getting to most restaurants will require a 10-15 minute drive. Also, please be mindful that it will be high season in this summer beach area so you might want to make reservations. If restaurants don't take reservations, they will be first come, first serve, so expect to wait in line. Here are a few options to check.

- **Caliente Mexican Grill**

Reasonably priced and near the URI Campus, potentially in walking distance.

99 Fortin Road

South Kingstown, RI

www.mexicangrillcaliente.com

- **Two Ten Oyster Bar**

A seafood restaurant on the waterfront. It is a bit higher priced due to location and the type of cuisine. 5.9 miles from campus.

www.twotenobg.com

- **The Coast Guard House**

Another excellent waterfront primarily seafood restaurant with a higher price point. 6.4 miles from campus and 17 minute drive.

www.thecoastguardhouse.com

- **Trio**

Reasonably priced restaurant with a bit of everything. They have outdoor seating and are located in the same area as the Coast Guard House, 5.1 miles from campus.

www.trio-ri.com

- **Maker's Mark Hobbit House**

At The Preserve Resort & Spa, a 16 minute drive from URI and will be on the higher price point but is supposed to be a unique experience. Nestled into hillside boulders, this Hobbit House themed restaurant is surrounded by lush landscapes with tree trunks incorporated into the architecture.

1 Preserve Boulevard

Richmond, RI

www.thepreserveri.com/resort-spa/dine/makers-mark-hobbit-house

Breweries & Spirits

- **Whaler's Brewery** | 10 minutes from URI

1174 Kingstown Rd.

Wakefield South Kingstown, RI 02879

- **Tower Hill Brewing** | 12 minutes from URI

25 Village Sq. Dr.

South Kingstown, RI 02879

- **Tilted Barn Brewery** | 15 minutes from URI

One Hemsley Place

Exeter, RI 02822

- **Sons of Liberty Spirits Co.** | 10 minutes from URI

1425 Kingstown Road

South Kingstown, RI 02879

continued

FUN THINGS TO SEE AND DO continued

Newport, Rhode Island

There is a lot to see and do in the charming small city of Newport. Normally a 30-minute drive crossing the scenic Jamestown and Pell Bridges, be prepared that summer traffic could add time to your trip.

- **Newport Mansions** | There are different ones, and you can pay to see one or more than one, depending on your available time. There is also a “Gilded Age Trolley Tour including Breakers Mansion Admission” through Viator. Some of the major mansions include: The Breakers, Elms, Marble House, and Rosecliff.
www.newportmansions.org
- **Touro Synagogue National Historic Site** | This beautiful neoclassical building was built in 1759. It is the oldest synagogue in the United States and a national historic park site.
www.tourosynagogue.org
- **Redwood Library and Athenaeum** | Founded in 1747, this is the oldest library in continuous use in the United States.
<https://redwoodlibrary.org>
- **Banister Wharf** | Waterfront shops, restaurants and bars at America’s Cup Ave. Ocean views and access to boat trips and ferries. Seasonal ferry to Providence is also available.
www.ripta.com/providence-newport-ferry
- **Walk Thames Street** | The main street in Newport offers a wide variety of shops and restaurants.
- **International Tennis Hall of Fame**
194 Bellevue Ave.
Newport, RI, 02840
www.tennisfame.com
- **Cliff Walk** | A public access walk along rock cliffs that combines the natural beauty of Newport’s shoreline with the architectural history of many of the city’s Gilded Age mansions.
www.cityofnewport.com/en-us/city-hall/departments/public-services/tree-parks-open-space/cliff-walk

Websites with Additional Information

- **URI South Kingstown Campus | Things to Do Guide**
<https://web.uri.edu/gradconference/travel-lodging/things-to-do/>
- **South Kingstown Driving Tour**
<https://www.southkingstownri.com/450/South-Kingstown-Driving-Tour>
- **Transportation Information**
www.southcountyri.com/plan-a-trip/transportation/
- **Travel Guide**
www.southcountyri.com/plan-a-trip/visitors-guide/
- **U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI**
Campus History Tour Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DY_VJvnpc_s





RISK MANAGEMENT

for Culturally Sensitive Collections

Özge Gençay Üstün

As an Emergency Preparedness Consultant for the “Ready – Or Not” Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project (funded by the State of California), I assess risks to California’s archives, libraries, museums, Native American organizations, and historic houses. The consultations often challenge the organization to think about and discuss its lack of disaster preparedness for their collections. Simply stated by Robert Waller: “The goal of preservation is to convey a collection from one point in time to a future time with no unnecessary damage or loss.” Culturally sensitive collections, both in libraries and museums, are no exception to risk management practices. I would like to discuss their inherent nature in terms of access and handling, and highlight the risks that culturally sensitive collections may face.

Culturally sensitive collections in museums, as defined by the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), include ancestors and cultural belongings sacred to Native Americans. They can also include items that are culturally restricted to specific people or genders in Native cultures. In special collections libraries, which are not managed under NAGPRA, sensitive cultural items are archival collections that contain sensitive and sacred information solely for the eyes of the Native and Indigenous culture bearers. These archives consist of Traditional knowledge that is not protected by intellectual property laws as defined by the World Intellectual Property Organization. The Western institutions holding these cultural collections have come a long way since NAGPRA, gradually developing a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to create a space for Western and Indigenous ways of knowledge to come together, understand, and solve problems. We now have the understanding that handling and providing access to these archival materials require special policies and protocols developed together with the Native American communities. Before delving into these initiatives, I would like to talk about physical risk management of collections.

For museum objects or archival materials, well-known risks to collections can be physical forces, fire, water, pests, light, ultraviolet and infrared radiation, incorrect relative

humidity and temperature, theft and vandalism, pollutants, dissociation, or custodial neglect. To mitigate these risks, simply developing and implementing policies and procedures for collections care is often the most cost-effective risk mitigation strategy an organization can pursue. In addition, an all-hazards approach to regional risk assessment, i.e., natural risks in such as floods, wildfires, tornadoes, etc., can help an organization anticipate what it needs to be prepared for. An organization will minimize the effects of most disasters once it has a written disaster plan with risk assessment, mitigation, response, and recovery procedures that are also discussed and understood by the staff members.

Aside from the above, there are other risks associated with culturally sensitive collections. First and foremost, these collections have been separated from the source communities, the very people who created them. There is already a loss of Intellectual Property and Traditional knowledge along with cultural appropriation and misuse of these collections. Broken connections and loss of collaborations with the source communities and stakeholders present prominent risks. There are clear differences between the Western way of knowledge and the Traditional knowledge, i.e., skills and practices developed, sustained, and passed on from generation to generation within a community. Non-Native organizations with Native American archives and cultural belongings have the responsibility to handle these sensitive collections respectfully and to give access to researchers only when appropriate. As a cultural heritage professional, I believe preservation of these collections will be most accurate, meaningful, and enhanced when it is informed by the source communities. At the same time, it is the cultural custodians’ responsibility to give access to these communities to help them continue with revitalizing their cultural and spiritual identity. Furthermore, working together, cultural heritage organizations have so much to learn and benefit from each other to understand the nature of tangible and our relationship to the material culture around us.

continued

RISK MANAGEMENT continued

The relationship between Native American source communities and Western collecting organizations may be at risk when non-Native researchers are given access to these culturally sensitive collections without the organization developing protocols together with the source communities. Moreover, applying the same access protocols to both non-Native and Native American researchers can be hurtful for the source communities. In short, we need to work together to preserve and enrich the world's cultural heritage. Collaborations are necessary for the thoughtful care and meaningful access of these culturally sensitive belongings.

One such initiative is *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials*, hosted at Northern Arizona University. In 2006 a group of Native American and non-Native American archivists, librarians, museum curators, historians, and anthropologists gathered to identify best professional practices for culturally responsive care and use of American Indian archival material held by non-Native organizations. Twelve years later, the Society of American Archivists endorsed the Protocols and now has a Native American Archives Section (SAA-NAAS) acting as a membership forum to bring together archivists working with Native American collections. It hosts protocols and digital heritage sections with webinars to “educate archivists on the complexities and beauty of Native American Archives” and motivate their work for these Native collections. One example is called the Repatriation Meets the Protocols Workbook. Archivists work with museum professionals, source communities and stakeholder groups on ever evolving protocols about how to work with Native American archival materials held in non-Native collections that are under NAGPRA.

Another initiative is *Standards for Museums with Native American Collections*, developed at the School for Advanced Studies in Santa Fe, NM. This is a guide to all aspects of work within museums holding Native collections, including archival collections. The standards are not specifically intended for NAGPRA items but have been written for any non-Native institution with Native collections. According to the document, risks and safety associated with Native visitors and staff have been briefly discussed as: “cultural sensitivities, protocols, and historic trauma associated with museums that

could affect an individual's well-being. Additional risk may include the loss of cultural knowledge related to deterioration of collections items and archival materials. By acknowledging and addressing these risks, museums can create a welcoming and safe place for Native communities, staff, and visitors.”

One such acknowledgment is American Library Association's seventh draft of *Librarianship and Traditional Cultural Expressions: Nurturing Understanding and Respect*. The document addresses the responsible management of traditional intellectual property found in libraries' holdings. The same goes for the guidelines developed by Alaskan library directors at a workshop sponsored by Alaska State Library. The culturally responsive guidelines are developed to serve Indigenous peoples with a culturally appropriate service for Alaska Public Libraries.

Lastly, I would like to mention Miriam Clavir and John Moses's *Caring for Sacred and Culturally Sensitive Objects*, a Canadian source for museums that archivists in the US may also benefit from. The document defines and gives examples of sacred and sensitive objects, respectful care of both tangible and intangible attributes of collections through partnership, traditional care, and policies and rights. The common denominator is respectful communication and collaboration through thoughtful partnerships. Building relationships can take time but will finally find its own course for the greater good.

DISCLAIMER: For the sake of respectful terminology use, the words Native, Indigenous, Traditional, Tribal have been used as they were used in the source documents.

continued

RISK MANAGEMENT continued

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BOOK REVIEW

By Elizabeth Boniface

The SLA DMV community's non-fiction book club discussion on *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*, by Joshua Hammer met on Thursday March 14, 2024.

People liked the book because the characters were well developed and strong willed, and learning about the history of the manuscripts, the information in the manuscripts, and the social conditions of the Islamic people under the Jihadi rule was interesting. The suspense kept readers on their toes. Learning about the history of Timbuktu and other cities and differences between rebels and Jihadis was fascinating. Participants thought it was interesting that they wanted a digital library for the manuscripts without having a physical library first.

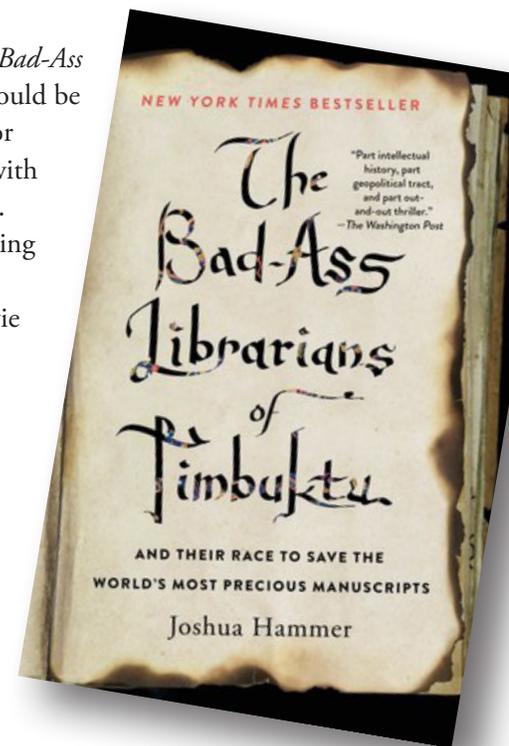
However, many had trouble following the book because it went from essay to essay without a coherent structure. Sections about Abdel were followed by sections about the manuscripts and then sections about the war. There was also a lot of exposition that did not need to be there. The map at the beginning of the book was hard to follow without knowledge of the geography. The editing and organization of essay order could have been improved.

This book ties into risk management because it's hard to know how to preserve ancient documents. It's different than knowing that a modern collection is getting brittle. When you're discussing wars and potential wars, the concept of risk management is: how do you plan for that? If your collection gets flooded or there's a fire, that's easier to plan for. Saving the manuscripts was harder to plan for because Abdel didn't have an index for his holdings and had to rely on his own internal knowledge. Abdel also had to prioritize immediate

needs like saving manuscripts from termites, so he did not have time to create an index or formulate a long-range plan. From the start he had no sense how it was going to evolve. He only realized later that he needed to split it out and hide it in people's houses. He didn't know he'd end up with metal chests and canoes. He was too busy juggling immediate difficulties to know what would happen next. He knew the manuscripts needed to be saved but didn't know how to save them at first, so figuring that part out was a risk for him. The part where Abdel has to purchase manuscripts also relates to risk management because he has to be strategic about it, and he improved at it over time.

Abdel was taking lots of risks by continuing to forge ahead with each potential issue. He was also taking risks by leading the charge to save as many of these manuscripts as he could with the help of some good people. When manuscripts are destroyed, civilizations get lost, so it is worth taking a risk to save them. Abdel thought it was worth it to unearth them and figure out these stories.

Participants thought *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* would be a good adventure movie or documentary, especially with the excitement at the end. Overall, it was an interesting read, and it would be interesting to see if a movie comes out about it.





CYBER SECURITY

The British Library's cyber-attack: disruption and resilience

Seema Rampersad, SLA Europe

On Saturday, 28th October 2023, I was the Duty Officer managing the services in the Reading Rooms and therefore made my way to work at the British Library for the start of the day. The night before, I had sent an email from home very late and it would prove to be my last interaction with our technology for several weeks. As I arrived at work there was panic and confusion over a major technology outage, and we were not entirely sure what the full implications were at the time. The previous summer we had experienced some technology issues, and I presumed this incident was related to that problem. I couldn't even send an email or call colleagues on the telephone using the British Library's computers. Thankfully, with the help of my colleagues and staff who knew how to operate without the library's technology, communicated with me via their smartphones on how we could resume service and open our Reading Rooms despite this challenge. With our website down, we were able to only communicate with our customers and readers verbally or via X (Formerly Twitter). The Wi-Fi was also down so it really was back to basics. The rest of the day passed without a lot of complaints, but I was on edge until we closed as I would have had to deal with any issues without having the answers for the technology problems. At least our readers were physically safe whilst I was on duty. However, I knew this would be an ongoing crisis for my colleagues returning to work on Monday and that we would have to be prepared for the days ahead.

It wasn't until the third day without technology that we heard from our Gold Leadership Team that this was in fact a ransomware cyber-attack and we were unlikely to get back to normal for not weeks, but months. The initial disruption in hardware and software continued for weeks with no access to the British Library website or intranet. Our personal and customer computers were taken away to be fixed and new software and security updates were installed on our British Library assigned laptops. We had to go into crisis communication mode for those early weeks with staff and

teams while still providing service. Some of the most used forms of communication were in-person staff briefings, email communications, and updates in the corporate Knowledge Matters blog.

The website eventually resumed in December with access to our catalogue and essential service points and information. The one most significant aspect I miss is the electronic resources for our end-users, and collection items retrieval from our site in Boston Spa. We are still a long way from pre-cyberattack content, data, and technology ability as we were so integrated; we are still unable to print from our staff profiles and while Wi-Fi access has resumed, it is in a temporary capacity compared to prior to the cyberattack. There seems to be a lot of work-arounds in our workflows and we are still apologising to customers who are unaware of the current situation. In the Business & IP Centre, we have continued to run most user services such as workshops, reference enquiries, one-to-one meetings, training, and projects, but we still miss our end-user access to electronic resources and databases.

As the cyberattack is so large-scale and the impact enormous, there has been a lot of media coverage and articles written on the attack. The media coverage made the general public aware that one of the most regarded national institutions was under threat with a ransomware attack by the group for payment within a deadline to the value of £600000 to be paid in Bitcoin. We were also aware that we had to inform staff, ex-staff, and customers of the threat of a ransomware attack especially with regards to their personal data. There were remedial measures put in place and we increased our awareness of some of the risks for data to be leaked on the dark web. Throughout this time, the British Library has been advised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NSCS) and other cybersecurity staff. In addition to being a national

continued

CYBER SECURITY continued

institution, I am sure there has been a thorough investigation and assessment on the steps that are required for recovery from the cyberattack. At the beginning of this year, staff were informed of the plan and programme for recovery as well as given an outline of what to expect in the next 18 months. It was at this briefing that the issues of the legacy systems and technology infrastructure were disclosed and the new opportunities for the library to 'build back better' or accelerate some of the new technological developments that were on the cards for our strategy to 'Modernise the Library'. The Rebuild and Renew Programme was launched with more clarity on some of the work that the library implemented in time to build back better prior to the cyberattack.

"The people responsible for this cyber-attack stand against everything that libraries represent: openness, empowerment, and access to knowledge."

—ROLY KEATING, CEO, THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The Chief Executive Officer, Roly Keating, has always been very vocal on the impact on our services, access to the collection, discovery, research, and the whole mission for sharing the world's knowledge held in the British Library. There is a great blog post on the impact entitled *Knowledge Under Attack*. I also felt annoyed that this attack had impacted one of the most open libraries in the world, and in the sharing of knowledge and information for our many customers, partners and friends! However, it did highlight a couple of our vulnerabilities: lack of infrastructure development, and lack of investing in dedicated professional staff. There are some uncomfortable readings in the review report, several learning points, and other insights on how one can protect their own investments and risk management in these areas. The review highlights "Although the security measures we had in place on 28 October 2023 were extensive and had been accredited and stress-tested, with the benefit of hindsight there is much we wish we had understood better or had prioritised differently. With that in mind, this section identifies a number of early lessons from this attack which may be helpful for others as they consider their own investments and risk management in these areas."

As an active library and information professional, I have always been aware of information security. I also helped host some information security related events in the past for SLA

Europe, and as part of the Workplace Preparedness Council when we created a template for business continuity where our research mentioned cyber security as one of the threats libraries and research organisations may encounter. One of the other review recommendations is:

"Practice comprehensive business continuity plans: Business continuity plans for the total outage of all systems need to be practised regularly, in addition to those relating to individual systems and services."

With this heightened professional upskilling with SLA and my previous employers, I had looked at the time to see if a Business Continuity Plan was public for the British Library. Due to the sensitive nature of the content, the plan is not public. However, this does not prevent local departments and services from having plans for business continuity in place. Hopefully, more people will see the importance of these plans and workplace preparedness for crisis management. In some aspects, the cyberattack has had its own challenges for our digital access as we continue to have limited access. Compare this to the recent pandemic in 2020-2021 where we could not get to the physical building, but we still had digital access. These recent crises should warn us that we can never predict but we can certainly prepare and plan for emergencies and future online and physical challenges.

At the MLA|SLA Conference 2023, I also attended a session wherein the panellist presented on 'Cyber-crime and Information Content' of an attack at their university. The cybercriminals were after personal databases, unique research, and intellectual property. It did make me sit up and listen as I realised that criminals will try to attack anyone regardless if you are a research organisation or a bank! Much more so a national institution like the British Library as I was soon to find out a few months later. Ideally, I think as information professionals and good citizens, we should try to protect ourselves and our organisations from these inevitable threats as we live digitally. I have since told my friends that this threat can happen to anyone with data breaches or security risks from our local council, national passports, banking systems, retail, etc. It is obviously terrible when these events happen in our normal lives but it should also be an opportunity for

continued

CYBER SECURITY continued

us to promote digital literacy, compliance, good information governance, and security. It makes great financial and economic sense to invest in personal and organisational information security and professionals!

Six months on from the cyberattack, we are still not back to 'normal' in many aspects as we await the return of hardware, a fully functioning online presence, and the rebuild of legacy infrastructure. The hardest part is having to spend extra time catching up on the things I can't easily do whilst in the office or going the extra mile to meet with customers to discuss their research needs and how we can give content and information with these challenges. It has been exhausting at times as we are constantly in a state of change or flux and though I am used to change - we are having to implore all our change management strategies and resilience. It seems we were only just beginning to get back from the ripple effect of the pandemic and now we are getting used to new challenges in the office and library. It is not a normal day in the office. This has brought about high levels of anxiety and new well-being challenges for staff, customers, and stakeholders as with Public Lending Rights payments. We are certainly a research organisation and the cyberattack has prevented us from doing important work and business for academics and entrepreneurs. I have recently hosted tours from three university groups and partner organisations for projects. We are showing users around virtually and in person but we are still restricted on what we can access.

There is an element of regret that this has happened to us at the British Library. I also am personally annoyed that I am slower in fulfilling my tasks, and our users might not have access to the information they require in person near or far. The 18-page review of the Cyber Attacks aims to share our lessons learnt and encourages you to also be aware of the impact that this has on us; hopefully, you too can mitigate against cyber-attack or criminality. I implore you to be conscious and proactive as an information professional in your role as custodians and curators for specialised libraries, collection management, information, research, data, knowledge, insights, and other high-value assets in your organisations. Together we can empower and enlighten each other to face these threats now and in the future. And despite the disruption and challenges with the cyberattack at the British Library there are several new opportunities to learn and grow from this experience. The insights and learning certainly can make us more aware of dangers but we can develop strength and resilience and good old-fashion knowledge from the experience. The old wise adage resonates now...every cloud has a silver lining.

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ASLP CELEBRATING ITS 70 YEARS

Contributed by: Maria Teresa M. Cabance | SLA Asia Director II (2024) | ASLP President (2023)

With inputs: Joseph M. Yap | SLA Asia President (2023)

The Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines, Inc. (ASLP) celebrated its 70th anniversary on January 16, 2024, with the theme “*ASLP @70: Charting New Frontiers.*” This milestone signifies seven decades of dedication, hard work, empowering lifelong learning, and unwavering commitment to the library profession.

ASLP is the second-oldest national library association in the Philippines. It started with the inaugural meeting held at the D&E Coffee Shop in Escolta Street, Binondo, Manila, on January 16, 1954 (Cabañero & Tann, 1980). From a membership composed of only government agency librarians, it has grown to include librarians working in special libraries, both in academic and private institutions.

The first elected president was Ms. Consuelo M. Damaso, a University of the Philippines Librarian, at the Institute of Public Administration. Since then, sixty-three (63) presidents have led the association.

ASLP plays a pivotal role in advancing the profession and enhancing the knowledge and skills of its members. It catalyzes professional growth, promotes continual education, and provides a platform for networking and knowledge-sharing. The association has also been a strong advocate for inclusivity and accessibility in libraries and has actively participated in promoting the importance of information literacy and the role of libraries in supporting lifelong learning.

As ASLP commemorates its 70th anniversary, we reflect on the achievements and challenges that lie ahead. It has actively collaborated with government bodies such as the Professional Regulation Commission to formulate the 2007 standards and amended and revised the 2016 standards for special libraries in the Philippines. The digital revolution has brought about both opportunities and complexities. The global pandemic highlighted the resilience and adaptability of libraries in navigating these unprecedented times.

The 70th anniversary of ASLP is a testament to the passion of special librarians in the Philippines. The dynamism of its members resulted in the successful implementation of three major international conferences such as the International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL) 2013 in Manila, ICoASL 2023 in Cebu, and KohaCon 2017 in Manila. It is a celebration to recognize its members’ achievements and their contributions to special librarianship.

As ASLP marches into the future, it pledges to continue its mission and advocacy of promoting excellence in special librarianship. It will continue to provide professional development opportunities to its members, adopt emerging technologies, foster collaboration, and advocate for the recognition of special libraries. The association stands poised to embrace the future with confidence and determination. With the commitment of its members, combined with their willingness to embrace change, ASLP will ensure that special libraries in the Philippines continue to thrive for years to come and remain partners in driving progress and development in the Philippines.

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