

Technology Programs @ MLA 2005

Plan to attend the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on October 25-28, where you will find a full offering of technology programs to help keep you abreast of new trends and developments. Here is a brief listing; full descriptions will follow in the next issue of *Peer/2/Peer*.

Wednesday, October 26, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

- MeL Digital Update (*sponsored by the Michigan Library Consortium*)
- Nuts and Bolts Behind MLA's New Website

Wednesday, October 26, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

- The UM-Google Digitization Deal — What It Is, How We Got There and What It Will Mean for Libraries

Wednesday, October 26, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

- How is MeL Delivery? How is MeLCat? Come Find Out! (*co-sponsored by the Michigan Library Consortium*)

Wednesday, October 26, 3:45-5:00 p.m.

- Xtreme Makeovers in Technical Services (*co-sponsored with MLA Access, Collections and Technical Services Roundtable*)

Thursday, October 27, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

- Technology in Libraries: Where and How to Get It for Less

Thursday, October 27, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

- Top Tech Trends

Thursday, October 27, 3:45-5:00 p.m.

- RSS: Piping Hot Content for Your Library

Friday, October 28, 7:30-8:15 a.m.

- LTD Annual Meeting Breakfast (*pre-registration required*)

Friday, October 28, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

- Tomorrow's Professionals: Library School Student Projects

2005
Conference
Preview

TechEscape 3.0: Developing Libraries without Borders

by Arjun Sabharwal

Baker College Online Library Services

The Library Technology Division held its spring workshop, "TechEscape 3.0: TTG Tech To Go," on April 15, at the University of Michigan's Stephen M. Ross School of Business in Ann Arbor. Emerging wireless infrastructures and handheld technologies took the center stage as topics vital to library customer service. The keynote address, shorter presentations, and hands-on sessions offered an opportunity for discussions on current practices and future possibilities in libraries.

Keynote speaker Nelson Santos (Scientel Wireless) addressed expanding networks as techno-economic context for government, business, and library operations. The move from local area networks (LANs) to wide area networks (WANs) and from Wi-Fi to Wi-Max standards would allow more content to reach remote users in just a fraction of time and under

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Chair's Chat

Welcome to a new year of MLA activity! July brings a “changing of the guard” on the Library Technology Division (LTD) Board. We said fond farewells and thank yous to Karen Ventura, Andrew Mutch, and Judy Dyki, while welcoming Juliane Morian, Krista Graham, and Sara Memmott. I am humbled to begin my term as Chair after the leadership from the ever-organized and enthusiastic Bob Kelly. Also, continuing as Members-at-Large are Ben Sebrowski, Sheryl Mase and Eric Owen.

The bylaws of the Library Technology Division include these four objectives:

- To provide opportunities for the professional growth of the Division's members through educational forums such as workshops, pre-conferences, and annual conference programs
- To provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas among members of the Division
- To promote cooperation with other MLA units through cooperative program planning and with other professional library associations that are involved in technology
- To encourage the active participation of members in Division and Association programs and workshops

LTD has worked hard to meet these objectives in recent years, innovating new kinds of programs, reaching out to MLS students, and partnering with other divisions. During my term as Chair, I want to continue these successful efforts, but especially work on developing the second objective — to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas among members of the Division. Networking is a sociological phenomenon as well as a technical term! Personally, the greatest benefit I've received from my involvement in MLA activities has certainly been the contacts I've made with colleagues facing the same challenges in their libraries. Do you have some ideas for how to achieve this? I'd like to hear them: knoxs@cadl.org.

Meanwhile, your dedicated Board has already met once and participated in MLA Leadership Day on August 19. We have spent some time creating some “personas” who represent various constituencies within LTD. We've even given them names and will keep them before our minds as we plan programs and activities this year. We are also digesting your feedback on the membership survey, as well as evaluations from recent events, so that LTD programming meets your needs.

We already have a great line-up of programs for the Annual Conference. Check out <http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/development/conference/2005/>. The technology track will include sessions on RSS, tips for buying technology, technology trends, the Google digitization project at UM, MeL updates, MLS student projects, extreme makeovers in technical services, and an introduction to the new MLA web site. And don't forget the LTD Breakfast on Friday morning, a great opportunity to share notes with colleagues from around the state.

I hope to hear from you soon.

*Sheryl Cormicle Knox
2005-06 Chair
Library Technology Division*

2005–06 LTD Board

Sheryl Cormicle Knox, Chair

Juliane Morian, Chair-elect

Bob Kelly, Past Chair

Sara Memmott, Secretary/Historian

Krista Graham, Member-at-large

Sheryl Mase, Member-at-large

Eric Owen, Member-at-large

Ben Sebrowski, Member-at-large

<http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/units>

LTD TechnoTour:

Behind the Scenes as the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

By Cheryl Burley

Michigan Library Consortium

On July 8, 2005, a group of LTD Members met for an informative and enjoyable tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The group toured the public areas of the Museum to see the permanent exhibits, and then were treated to a “behind-the-scenes” look at the many artifacts that are owned but not on display.

The Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum is part of the Presidential libraries system of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It opened in 1981, and at the request of President Gerald R. Ford, the museum and library/archives were placed in two separate locations. The Ford Museum is in Grand Rapids to support community activities and tourism in his home town, while the library is located in Ann Arbor to support research. Both facilities are considered a single institution, and the Director is well-known MLA member Elaine Didier (MLA President 2001-02).

Our tour of the Museum’s public areas was conducted by Barbara McGregor Packer, Education Specialist for the Museum. She provided information and context about how the artifacts were selected and how the exhibits were arranged. She indicated that President Ford remains in frequent (sometimes weekly) contact with the Library and Museum and visits occasionally.

The Ford Museum has a permanent collection of presidential and cultural artifacts that guide the visitor through Gerald R. Ford’s life and presidency. It is arranged in a series of ten galleries, each with a focus on either a time frame of President Ford’s life, or a focus on a particularly significant historical event.

Several galleries show the various influences and stages of President Ford’s life. From his childhood in Grand Rapids (graduating from

South High) through his days as a University of Michigan “Wolverine,” a picture emerges of an intelligent, engaged, and superbly athletic young man. His first campaign was a run for President of Student Government on the Progressive Party ticket at University of Michigan. He lost to a Republican, but he would not lose another election for forty-five years. After graduation, he declined two offers to play professional football (Lions and Packers), and attended Law School at Yale. While obtaining his degree, he also spent three seasons as an assistant football coach.

Ford joined the Navy to serve in World War II and narrowly survived a typhoon on his ship in the Philippines. In 1948 he married Betty Bloomer, also from Grand Rapids, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives two weeks later. His career goal was to become Speaker of the House, but in late 1973, after many years in public service and achieving the position of Minority Leader, Ford was appointed as Vice President for President Richard Nixon, replacing the embattled Spiro Agnew. Within nine months, Watergate would force the President to resign, and on August 9, 1974, Gerald R. Ford became the thirty-eighth President of the United States in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

The Museum gallery that focuses on the events and Constitutional crisis that elevated Ford to the presidency are very interesting and detail the dilemma the nation faced at that time. A copy of Nixon’s one-line resignation letter is on display (original is now in the National Archives), as are video clips of news coverage

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Full-scale replica of the Oval Office in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

TechEscape 3.0: Developing Libraries without Borders

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more favorable conditions. Santos cited several cities in the U.S. with wireless networks boosting business, government services, and information sharing through private-public partnerships. An investment in such projects would, according to Santos, foster economic growth, new jobs, competition, and a higher standard of living with enhanced library services in turn.

Presentations following the keynote address concentrated on current digital library projects, downloadable audio books, and tablet PCs. Sheryl Mase's (Library of Michigan) report addressed digital projects funded by the Digitization for Preservation and Access Grant, enabling Michigan residents to access digital and print resources via MeLCat's interface. Mase also addressed the *Making of Modern Michigan* project funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services to create a digital collection of Michigan history. These projects currently involve Michigan libraries in sharing their unique collections with scholars, students, and private residents.

Sheryl Cormicle Knox (Capital Area District Library) covered portable digital audiobooks, trends, and competing formats like iPod, MP3, and Sony. Knox related this dynamic to the rivalry between Beta and VHS in the 1980s. Libraries have been cautious yet interested in providing this medium. Due to the absence of

Digital Rights Management (DRM) capabilities to curb unrestricted copying, however, libraries would not offer MP3 files. iPod and Sony formats are amenable to libraries implementing expiration dates, playback, and limited copying. Accessing the digital audiobooks

at the present is possible from library catalogs and via download sites requiring authentication.

Holly Hibner and Derek Engi (Salem-South Lyon District Library) offered a fascinating presentation on the tablet PC. The device combines Centrino (built-in wireless)

technology and handwriting recognition to enhance mobility and convenience that reference librarians and network administrators can truly appreciate. The benefit of this technology has

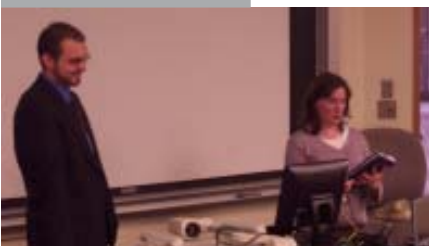
a positive impact on libraries because it improves quality of service with more individual attention and less frustration

— not to mention a boost to professional image among young users, according to the speakers.

After lunch, three hands-on sessions allowed participants in small groups to look at the devices discussed in the earlier presentations as well as the TLN (The Library Network) Mobile Lab (featuring wireless technology used for training and demonstrations) and discuss features and uses with the speakers. The groups rotated after fifteen minutes at each of the stations. Emerging technologies usher in a new era for libraries meeting demands for remote access, convenience, mobility, and high speed. With an exodus of library users favoring the convenience of the Internet and schools “stretching” beyond the campus, some technology solutions may no longer just be a matter of luxury, but a tool for survival. ■



Bruce MacDonald, from *The Library Network*, demonstrates the *Mobile Wireless Computer Lab*



Derek Engi and Holly Hibner from the Salem-South Lyon District Library show the wonders of tablet PCs.



LTD Chair Bob Kelly and Board member Sheryl Mase present Randal Baier (center), from Eastern Michigan University, with the coveted Door Prize at the Tech To Go workshop.

Michigan eLibrary:

What's up with MeL? Plenty!

Statewide resource sharing is alive and producing speedy results with the MeL Catalog, or “MeLCat,” and MeL statewide delivery. MeLCat started with 22 libraries and is projected to expand to 550 libraries over the next five years. It is a multitype and multisystem catalog, including public, academic, school and special libraries with a variety of integrated library systems in use. Records are loaded into a shared union catalog, and Innovative Interfaces’ InnReach software facilitates a circulation-based consortial borrowing system. By the end of August 2005, there will be 53 participating MeLCat libraries.

For a list of participants, see <http://elibrary.mel.org/screens/participating.html>; for information on how to join, see <http://michiganlibrary.org/catalog/participation.html>

The “preview release” of the new MeL gateway will soon be replaced by “version 1.0” that features the components of the Michigan eLibrary in an easy-to-use fashion, along with federated searching, powered by Innovative Interfaces “MetaFind” software. Users of the gateway are able to run their search terms against the MeL resources of their choice, whether MeLCat, full-text magazine and newspaper articles, digitized resources, indexes, ebooks, and/or Internet resources. The native interfaces for commercial databases are also available to the user, as desired.

Keep your eye on <http://mel.org>!

The Michigan Statewide Digitization Task Force was chartered by the State Librarian to coordinate digitization projects across the state and assure easy access to these valuable resources through MeL (see http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18835_18896-121750--,00.html). Ten Michigan libraries recently were awarded \$965,000 in special state-appropriated grant funding to digitize materials that will be made available via MeL next year. These projects, along with the Making of Modern Michigan, already available through MeL, preserve and provide access to valuable historic resources.

The Library of Michigan currently holds a contract with the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) for the implementation and support of MeLCat. Pending the Governor’s Administrative Board approval, we will have another contract with MLC for continued support and training for the MeL databases. We are currently looking into a revised timeline for issuance of the database renewal RFP. The statewide databases, costs of the MeLCat and gateway software, and all associated contracts for MeL are currently funded by federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) dollars.

We will hold a press conference and media launch this fall at the Library of Michigan in Lansing to announce all of the new features of MeL, highlighting the success of MeLCat, statewide delivery and digitization efforts. Libraries will be able to order and/or reproduce their own marketing materials for MeL via the <http://michiganlibrary.org> website.

Stay tuned to MeL!

Sheryl Mase
Library of Michigan

Behind the Scenes at the Ford Museum

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of many key hearings and events. The display that generates the strongest visitors' reactions (for and against) details President Ford's decision to pardon Nixon. He wanted to lead the nation out of a crisis and restore public confidence, but the decision met with criticism.

Other museum galleries include a full-scale replica of the Oval Office with the furniture (some original) that was in place during Ford's presidency, a nearly full-scale replica of his Cabinet Room with four interactive exhibits particularly geared for high school tours, and a display of some of the many gifts given to the President and First Lady. Several exhibits focus on Betty Ford, including a video of a *60 Minutes* interview with the First Lady on several controversial topics. Betty insisted that the museum include the whole interview because she hasn't changed her mind on any of it!

There is also a small sampling of the hundreds of Bicentennial memorabilia that were given to the President in 1976. The White House received just about anything red, white, and blue during the celebration – from quilts to dolls, stamps to lunch boxes, flags and more flags, and even decorated cakes (which had to be discarded due to insect fears!).

One exhibit focuses on the two assassination attempts on President Ford, and even includes the gun which Squeaky Fromme used (barely saved from meltdown when someone purging an evidence file thought to call the museum).

Another gallery focuses on President Ford's

international diplomacy activities. One of the more stunning displays is a helicopter and alongside it, the staircase used to evacuate people from the top of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in April 1975. Behind it is a large photograph of the evacuation. Madeleine Albright arranged for the staircase to be displayed here.

A most interesting and entertaining gallery is actually the first one visitors see, which was added during a museum renovation in 1997. Barbara explained that over time, they found an increasing number of young visitors did not have a context for the "culture" of the 1970s (time marches on!). An exhibit was added to feature and attempt to explain that time period. Music and video clips ranging from Lawrence Welk to The Beatles play, sports and news events are featured, and one can view many interesting artifacts of everyday life, from electronics (8-track tapes) to clothing (even a blue leisure suit!).

Another gallery exhibits campaign memorabilia and provides information and context for the 1976 Presidential elections. Campaign buttons ("Betty's Husband for President"), information about the Carter-Ford debates, and the President's daily diary/calendar are also on display. President Ford lost that election (his second-ever loss), and after twenty-eight years in Washington, Jerry and Betty retired to Rancho Mirage, California, and Vail, Colorado. President Ford turned 92 on July 14, 2005; Betty is 87. And an aside about Betty: as a young woman, she was a dancer and studied under Martha Graham in Vermont.

In addition to the galleries, the museum has space for holding classes, an auditorium, a gift shop, and lovely grounds and gardens adjacent to the Grand River. The museum hosts one or two traveling exhibits per year. The current exhibit is "Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers," organized by the Smithsonian Institution.

After our tour of the many public galleries, Jamie Draper, Museum Registrar, provided a look at the storage and cataloging areas of the museum. Jamie explained that they are the smallest of the presidential museums, housing only 12,000-13,000 artifacts. They receive about a hundred artifacts per year through donations. They have some photographs and

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LTD members attending the TechnoTour pause for a group photograph.

Hosting Video Game Tournaments at Your Library

Did you miss this fantastic workshop last spring? It got rave reviews! Don't miss it again: Friday, September 9, at the Chippewa River District Library in Mt. Pleasant. More information is available at <http://mla.lib.mi.us/development.htm>.

Gaming is an \$11 billion business and a fundamental component of teenage life. Hosting video game tournaments at your library builds community, demonstrates your library's relevance to a different audience (young adults, teens, and especially males), and allows libraries to bring content directly into users' hands.

See first-hand how Ann Arbor District Library Information Access Systems geeks worked with the teen services librarians to bring video gaming tournaments to the community. You'll learn all of the technical details as well as how to replicate the program at your library – whole hog or on the cheap! – and take notes on arguments and justifications for your director. Brought to you by the MLA Teen Services Division, with support from the Library Technology Division. ■

Behind the Scenes at the Ford Museum

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documents, but hold primarily 3D artifacts, or video and audio media. Most of the presidential documents are housed at the Ford Library.

The storage area is new, part of a museum addition built two years ago. It is a very large, climate-controlled warehouse space which is kept at 66 degrees Fahrenheit and 44% humidity. The room has dozens of numbered metal cabinets, each about the size of a large refrigerator, with glass windows and several shelves in each. Artifacts are stored inside these, and we could see many autographed footballs, baseballs, and other sports items, such as President Ford's golf bags, trophies, and helmets. Other cabinets hold many more Bicentennial items (which make up the largest number of items in the collection), campaign materials, personal gifts to the President and First Lady, and a collection of Betty Ford's dresses.

There is a very interesting assortment of artifacts on open shelves in the storage area. These range from one of the largest wicker baskets in the world (it appeared to be about ten feet in diameter by six feet tall) to a gold-plated full-size bronze statue of a Wolverine. There is also an area with floor-to-ceiling sliding art racks that have numerous paintings, posters, and other flat objects hanging from them. In addition, there is a caged area – the “vault” – where they store high-valued pieces (and occasionally unruly interns).

All of the museum artifacts have been photographed and cataloged into collection management software (iO, an updated version of SNAP! from Willoughby Associates) and are tracked by accession number. Many details about the objects can be recorded, such as location information, description, source, etc. They are beginning a project to standardize data entry with the other presidential libraries, but until recently each museum and library used their own systems and protocols. There are presently no digitization projects underway at the Ford Museum, but there are some ongoing at the Ford Library as part of wider NARA digitization efforts.

Tour participants found the visit to be very informative and entertaining. We extend our thanks to our hosts Barbara McGregor Packer and Jamie Draper for sharing their time and expertise, and to Elaine Didier for helping with the arrangements. We hope to have a future LTD TechnoTour of the Ford Library in Ann Arbor. For those who were unable to join us, we hope you will have an opportunity to visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in the near future! ■

Thanks to Departing LTD Board Members

Thank you to the following departing Library Technology Board members for their service to you and MLA:

Andrew Mutch: Past Chair:

Andrew's long involvement with MLA and LTD includes being awarded the 2000 Walter H. Kaiser Award. Under his three-year guidance the LTD Board moved forward with an improved website, gained a greater understanding of the finances of MLA, and laid the groundwork for a Library Technology Award. Andrew's perception and insight on technology, its impact and new developments substantially enhanced the LTD Board discussions. The LTD Board wishes Andrew well as he continues to work at the Waterford Township Library and remains involved in MLA.

Karen Ventura: Secretary:

Karen served the LTD Board ably as a Member-at-Large (2002-2004) and Secretary in 2004-05. During this same time she represented LTD on the Fall Conference Program Committee. Her tireless efforts and impressive planning and organizational skills resulted in LTD providing quality programming, seamless presentations, and rave reviews. Karen is taking some well-deserved time off, and we anticipate her active return to MLA and LTD in the near future.

Judy Dyki: Member-at-Large:

Judy Dyki introduced the LTD board to her quiet and competent brand of enthusiasm. Aside from bringing her perspective as a special library representative, Judy was the driving force for completing each issue of the *Peer/2/Peer* LTD newsletter. Her reminders and queries kept us on our toes to be sure we got the content to her. Once in her hands, she crafted the content and provided it to our publisher (Larry Neal in this case) who mounted it on the web. Graciously Judy has agreed to continue receiving and editing the newsletter content for the next year.

Thank you to all of the above past board members above for the tireless efforts, commitment to quality, and willingness to drive to LTD Board meetings in spite of the weather each month. They are the reason, along with your support, we have such an active and dynamic division within MLA. The LTD Board wishes Andrew, Karen, and Judy the best of luck in the years ahead... and don't forget you never really leave — LTD you just change jobs.

*Bob Kelly
2005-06 Past Chair
Library Technology Division*

LTD Board Welcomes Newest Members

The Library Technology Division Board is pleased to announce and welcome the new members who joined the Board this summer:

✓ **Chair-Elect:**

Juliane Morian, Head of Electronic Services, Clinton-Macomb Public Library

✓ **Secretary/Historian:**

Sara Memmott, Web Site Coordinator, University of Michigan-Dearborn Library

✓ **Member-at-Large:**

Krista Graham, Electronic Services Coordinator, Central Michigan University Library

We look forward to their new energy and fresh ideas for developing exciting and thoughtful programming for LTD members.



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