

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Rebecca B. Vargha

Employment: Librarian, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2001-present; senior research specialist, information research, Nortel Networks, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2000-2001; research and information analyst, library coordinator, SAS

Institute, Cary, NC, 1994-2000; adjunct faculty, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, 1996-1998; associate librarian, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, 1980-1994

Education: MLS, North Carolina Central University, 1980; BA, English literature, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1979

SLA Chapter activities: For the North Carolina Chapter: archivist, 2004-present; communications team leader and editor, bulletin, 2000-2004; chair, South Atlantic Regional Conference III committee, 2003-2005; member, task force on funding, 2001-2002; member, nominating committee, 1998-1999; SLA winter meeting task force-logistics/local arrangements, 1994-1995; president-elect, president and past president, 1989-1991

SLA division activities: For the Museums, Arts and Humanities Division: chair, 1994; chair-elect, 1993; chair, strategic planning, 1987-1991; chair, government relations, 1986-1988; also member, Education, Information Technology, Leadership and Management, and Physics Astronomy Mathematics divisions

Association-level activities: Chair, student and academic relations committee, 2004-present; member, student and academic relations committee, 2003-present; faculty advisor, SLA student group, University of North Carolina, 2001-present; chair, SLA scholarships committee, 2002-2003; member, SLA scholarships committee, 2000-2003; chair, division cabinet, SLA board of directors, 1997-1998; chair-elect, division cabinet, 1996-1997; member, SLA awards and honors committee, 1997-1998; member, SLA endowment fund grant committee, 1997-1998; chair, networking committee, 1995-1996; chair, conference planning committee, 1991-1993

Other professional activities: President-elect, LAUNC-CH (Librarians' Association at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill), 2003-2004; LAUNC-CH Conference Committee chair, 2002-2003

Honors: Member, Beta Phi Mu-Epsilon Chapter; North Carolina SLA Meritorious Achievement Award, 1994

Presentations: "Walking the Web Effectively: Making the Most of Your Time on the Internet," Cumberland County Library Staff Development Day, 2003; "Information Resources on Negotiating," North Carolina Chapter SLA meeting, 2003; "Survival of the Fittest: How to Get Help for Your Library," Solo Librarians Division, SLA Annual Conference, 2002; speaker, TRI-LIBS meeting, 2002; CIIT Centers for Health, "Tales from the Trip: A Conference Smorgasbord, SLA Conference Report"; North Carolina Leadership Institute, taught sections on time management, team building, and motivation

Articles: "NPR Librarian Visits Carolina," *Windows*, Spring 2003

What would be the focus of your presidential year?

My focus would be membership, with a specific emphasis on recruiting new members, retaining current members, and enhancing communication. We are uniquely positioned as an association to offer continuous revitalization for our current members through a wide range of options, including virtual seminars, meetings (local, regional, and annual), communities of practice, publications, and continuing education. SLA conducted the Member-Get-A-Member Campaign (2004), and my plan is to take membership recruitment to the next level. As a team, we could implement a graduated membership campaign. I would encourage our organization to set a goal of recruiting 150 new members (first year), 350 (second year), and 500 (third year). Together we can recruit a net increase of 1,000 total new members for our network of information professionals.

What do you think are the areas of greatest growth and opportunity for SLA?

It is people who make this organization powerful. In terms of professional development opportunities, SLA is poised as the learning organization creating valuable professional development opportunities for members and making a difference in our daily lives. By partnering with e-learning organizations, we can leverage technology to customize learning opportunities and content for members on a proactive basis across an extended enterprise. The advantages of e-learning are numerous, including convenience, flexibility, scalability, measurable outcomes, interactive interfaces, and the creation of global knowledge communities. Learning opportunities will be readily available.

What role do you see for SLA in an international environment?

We need to deepen and broaden our membership base globally. SLA can make a visible contribution beyond physical boundaries, with strategic partnerships to expand our global outreach. As information professionals, we share a set of core values. Our membership organization is at a pivotal crossroads, and decisions we make now will greatly impact our global community for interaction, cooperation, and growth. Recent upgrades in our practices to more efficiently serve a global community include the option to pay membership dues with non-U.S. currency and to provide more effective access to our Web site in languages other than English. These customizable features on our Web site are just the start of our innovative journey to bridge time, culture, and geographic distance among SLA members globally.

The mission of SLA is to promote and strengthen its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. What does this mission mean to you?

With a creative blend of tools, we have on-demand educational opportunities for our members. By leveraging content, technology, and valuable face-to-face time, we can maximize every opportunity to stay at the top of our profession. Within the SLA competency framework ("Competencies for Information Professionals of the 21st Century"), we can effectively measure and size our skills. Advocacy means: 1) promoting our profession; 2) proving our value; 3) effective public relations; 4) visible participation; 5) shaping information policy; 6) agile organization. Networking is the No. 1 benefit most members expect when joining SLA. Indeed, membership has its privileges and our peer network is terrific. We have a global information community with participatory involvement and a true exchange of ideas. SLA members are our greatest strength.