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TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Nancy A. Sansalone, COO/CFO
DATE: 03 June 2008
RE: HQ Technology Update

AMS Update

Since January, HQ has made significant progress in the implementation of the membership database/association management system.

A technology company, ITAG, has been re-engaged to work between Euclid, the AMS vendor, and SLA and ITAG is able to identify original mistakes made by the vendor which have caused multiple errors and problems for SLA. This relationship is working superbly and documentation and 'failed' items are being removed from the list of problems.

Membership reports are now working, being run, and reported to the units. Unit Membership Chairs are receiving lists of new and lapsed members.

The data integrity clean-up is nearing completion. Membership, committees, and units are being compared to the old database and current batches. Duplicate records from the old membership database were identified and immediately corrected.

The unit CLAS system is in testing. We have found bad data and system bugs and are making the corrections on an individual basis. Testing will continue and our hope is to be able to report a more definite launch for CLAS at conference.

The financial conversion was completed in May. Many functions in the financial module were not scripted correctly, had bugs, or were not turned on for SLA to use. These have been corrected.

Training, now that the system is functioning properly, is being scheduled for June for the sales team specifically, and other staff who need a refresher.

HQ is more positive about the system now and staff are putting in 110% to get all of the data tested and trusted before opening up to the units.

New Blog Newsletter Format and RSS Reed Reader

In mid-April, HQ revamped all its various "specialty" SLA Connections e-newsletters into a blog. Each blog is updated regularly and feeds the latest posts to an email which members receive weekly. The new weekly SLA Connections email is a compilation of the previous week's posts and allows SLA

to provide members with more news and information, in a more timely fashion. Each blog is also accessible on its own, so members no longer have to wait for a delivered email in order to be up to date on all SLA happenings. Members can use the SLA Feed Reader to set up notifications to alert them to new posts on any SLA blogs as well as other related content, pre-populated news sources, or their own personal preferred sources of information. The SLA Feed Reader is available to all members as an exclusive benefit. Members of SLA can access the reader and the content through the "Resources" tab on the SLA home page. To view all of SLA's Blogs please visit:

<http://www.sla.org/content/community/blogs/index.cfm>

Social Networking

At conference, we will announce the launch of the SLA Innovation Laboratory. This project is being formulated by a group of member volunteers who will be demonstrating and talking about the Lab in their booth in the INFO-EXPO at the SLA Marketplace.

We will also launch SLA's Learning 2.0/23 Things Project which is part of the Innovation Lab. There is already a members-only Wiki set-up for the project which models the way SLA works - collaborative learning. Learning 2.0/23 Things encourages all of our members to explore many of the features SLA offers for free or through Click U.

During the conference members will see the beginnings of SLA's Second Life presence which is being created collaboratively by another team of volunteer members. The site has been started, as well as a blog. The SLA Second Life workgroup will be seeking more volunteers for their project. We can expect a few events over the next year in Second Life. For more information, the June issue of *Information Outlook* contains an article by the group. <http://www.sla.org/io/2008/06/552.cfm>

For the conference, there is an SLA2008 Twitter group set up for attendees, who can join by using their phone, laptop, or PC. Find the group at <http://twitter.com/sla2008>. It is a great opportunity to learn this tool.

HQ has just announced a video featuring President-elect Gloria Zamora which is available to any/all SLA groups, especially Chapters and Divisions, to use for their events. It is available via PAL, VHS or DVD.

HQ has developed three options for unit leaders to make their own business cards and have placed the information in the Leadership Resources section of the SLA Web site.

Click U offers Click U Live! sessions on social networking to members. "Social Networking Tools: Hands-on Learning" was held 21 May and "Best Practices for Wikis" is scheduled for 11 September. Watch for other sessions on social networking brought to you by Click U.

Click U offers CE sessions on social networking at conference. They are: The Embeddable Web: Web 2.0 and New Ways of Sharing Information; Zero to Wiki in Half a Day; and Toolboxes for Info Pros.

There are currently more than 900 members in the SLA Facebook group.

SLA members in LinkedIn are currently more than 500 individuals associated with Special Libraries Association.

SLA Past President Rebecca Vargha is currently working with a group of member volunteers and staff to build SLA's Wikipedia architecture and presence.

HQ develops and provides Wikis and blogs for all groups on a simple request basis. Details are on the Web site. <http://wiki.sla.org/dashboard.action>.

SLA now has three accounts on TypePad and hosts approximately 40 blogs from chapters, divisions, commissions, and other member-driven entities. By far, the most active unit blog on an SLA account

is the IT Division's Blogging Section, which has logged nearly 40,000 page views since it launched in December 2005. The IT Blogging Section is often highlighted in the new SLA Connections blog.

During conference, HQ added an electronic message center to the Cyber Connection area so that attendees can leave electronic messages for each other, rather than paper messages.