



Global Headquarters
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TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Tom Rink, Division Cabinet Chair
DATE: August 1, 2009
RE: Proposed Taxonomy Division

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors authorize the creation of a Taxonomy Division.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- A few members began discussing/exploring the need for a taxonomy/meta data division in late 2008 and talked to a number of people before the Leadership Summit in Savannah to see if there was interest.
- In exploring where an overlap may already exist, two divisions seemed to address this issue in part: the Knowledge Management Division and the Information Technology Division.
 - The current scope note of the Knowledge Management Division makes mention of using “taxonomies and ontologies” in organizing knowledge repositories.
 - The Technical Services Section of the Information Technology Division has a scope note that includes “issues and training on meta data development.”
 - Aside from these two obvious divisions with some minor overlap, no other divisions have expressed any concerns whatsoever. Several have suggested support such as the Solo and Pharmaceutical Divisions.
- In April 2009, an announcement was made to the leadership list regarding the possible formation of a new division. An informal survey of the IT and KM divisions was conducted in spring of 2009, which identified over 80 people interested in membership and over 25 people willing to volunteer. This was considered encouragement to proceed.
 - The organizers of the proposed division contacted both the IT and KM Divisions, beginning in early 2009, to discuss amending their scope notes as current SLA rules would require, to remove overlap with the proposed new division.
 - Both the KM and IT divisions had this topic on their board agendas in June, 2009.
 - The KM Division is willing to revisit and amend their scope note to remove the mention of taxonomies and ontologies if the proposed Taxonomy Division gains the required number of signatures and is approved by the Board.
 - Following their board meeting on Saturday, June 13, four members of the IT Division board came to the scheduled organizational meeting for the proposed taxonomy division on June 14. After some spirited discussion, a resolution was reached whereby the proposed Taxonomy Division would remove the words “meta data” from their division title and scope note to avoid the conflict with the existing IT Division scope.
 - A meeting for anybody interested in organizing this new division was scheduled at the Annual Conference in Washington, DC, on Sunday afternoon (June 14, 2009, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM). Although it was not in the printed program, the meeting was attended by 16 prospective division members, the four IT board members, the Division Cabinet Chair and Chair-Elect, and Linda Broussard, SLA Chief Community Officer. In addition to the discussion with the IT Board, the group discussed the proposed scope note. The draft scope note was amended, and those present agreed that it was a suitable scope note for the new division.

- Margie Hlava and Janice Keeler volunteered to serve as the first Co-Chairs of this division if formed. The entire proposed slate of officers has been submitted (see page 5 of the Attachment).
- The petition was circulated at the conference and online. 219 members and about a dozen non-members have petitioned for the creation of a Taxonomy Division and have indicated that they will join this division.
 - 55 signed at conference.
 - 164 signed online (including two who also signed at conference).
 - 2 signed online with anonymous e-mails that could not be validated (and did not respond to follow-up e-mails).
 - 17 lapsed, inactive or dropped members signed the petition.
- See the attached petitions starting on page 6 of the Attachment. (Only 100 signatures are required for the Board of Directors to consider the formation of a new division.)
- Staff has audited these petitions and 219 are valid members of the association. Additionally, there were 12 signatures of nonmembers.
- The scope of the Division is to address ways to organize and structure information so that content is accessible and useful. It offers a practical context for exploring issues and sharing experiences related to planning, creating, and maintaining taxonomies, thesauri, authority files, and other controlled vocabularies and information structures. The division encompasses traditional and emerging cognitive approaches to organizing information, and the full range of settings in which taxonomies are applied. Areas of interest include:
 - Strategies for planning and creating taxonomies. For example: identifying and articulating the need for taxonomies; demonstrating and communicating their value; analyzing existing vocabularies to inform the creation of new ones; and selecting technologies and tools to support them.
 - Implementation, maintenance, and use of controlled vocabularies for all types of information and all relevant contexts, such as support for search and navigation.
 - Standards, governance, and management of taxonomies and other controlled vocabularies.
 - New and emerging approaches to organizing information, such as the semantic web, ontologies, folksonomies, and tagging, including relationships between user-generated tags and formal controlled vocabularies.
- The standard governing document has been submitted (see the Attachment, pages 2-5). Since this is the first and original governing document and has merely modified the name and scope note from the "Model Divisional Governing Document," it does not need to go through the Bylaws Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Based on the 219 initial members, the allotment for 2010 will be \$2,628.00 (\$12.00 per member). Revenue would be impacted by current members who wish to affiliate with this new division in 2009 at \$18 each, and/or add this as an extra division for 2010. Those who chose to change to this new division from another one in 2010 will have no impact on overall SLA revenue but may affect any dropped divisions a bit.

The division organizers followed up with the inactive members who signed the petition. Five have since renewed their membership. Although we cannot say their renewal was due to just the new division, it may have been a factor.

A division focused on "taxonomy" will attract new members who are interested in this topic who have not otherwise aligned themselves with SLA previously. Six non-members signed the petition in Washington and specifically indicated they will join SLA upon formation of the division. Hopefully there will be many more.

The division plans to market to non-SLA members, and points to significant numbers of taxonomists who may not all be current members of SLA. For example, there are 140+ people on the Taxonomy Tuesdays list in Washington, D.C., and 995 global members of the Taxonomy CoP discussion list.

Prepared by: Tom Rink

Reviewed by: Ann Sweeney, Linda Broussard

ATTACHMENT

Special Libraries Association
TAXONOMY DIVISION

PROPOSED GOVERNING DOCUMENT Page 2
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS Page 5
PETITION SIGNATURES Page 6

Submitted for Board Consideration

August 13, 2009

by

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TAXONOMY DIVISION GOVERNING DOCUMENT

August 13, 2009

NAME AND MISSION

The name of this unit is the Taxonomy Division, Special Libraries Association.

The mission of this Division shall be that of the Special Libraries Association.

The scope of the Division is to address ways to organize and structure information so that content is accessible and useful. It offers a practical context for exploring issues and sharing experiences related to planning, creating, and maintaining taxonomies, thesauri, authority files, and other controlled vocabularies and information structures. The division encompasses traditional and emerging cognitive approaches to organizing information, and the full range of settings in which taxonomies are applied. Areas of interest include:

- Strategies for planning and creating taxonomies. For example: identifying and articulating the need for taxonomies; demonstrating and communicating their value; analyzing existing vocabularies to inform the creation of new ones; and selecting technologies and tools to support them.
- Implementation, maintenance, and use of controlled vocabularies for all types of information and all relevant contexts, such as support for search and navigation.
- Standards, governance, and management of taxonomies and other controlled vocabularies.
- New and emerging approaches to organizing information, such as the semantic web, ontologies, folksonomies, and tagging, including relationships between user-generated tags and formal controlled vocabularies.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Division shall be those members of the Association who elect to affiliate with the Division.

The Association's Board of Directors shall define the classes of members.

Division membership falling below 25 members for more than one Association year will be reported to the Division Cabinet Chair.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive board ("board") with a minimum of four members shall have the authority and responsibility to manage the Division's property and to regulate and govern its affairs. A majority of board members in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board.

No member shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

Should the office of chair become vacant, the chair-elect shall assume this position for the remainder of the term. All other board vacancies, including a vacancy in the office of chair-elect, occurring before the conclusion of a departing member's term will be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

OFFICERS

The chair, subject to the executive board, shall have general supervision and control over Division affairs.

The chair-elect shall have duties as specified by Division Recommended Practices and the needs of the Division.

The secretary shall keep an approved record of all meetings of the Division and board and sign legal documents jointly with the chair.

The treasurer shall have custody of the Division funds.

The Division may elect additional officers as specified by the Division Recommended Practices, and the needs of the Division.

MEETINGS

The Division annual business meeting shall be held during the Association annual conference. At least one business meeting shall be held during the term of office of each elected board. Adequate notice of meetings shall be provided to the membership.

COMMITTEES

The board may establish committees, which shall be responsible to the board.

The board may authorize funds for committee expenses.

No Division member may serve on any one committee for more than six consecutive years.

SUBUNITS

Subunits may be established and disbanded by the Division, according to Division Recommended Practices.

FUNDS, CONTRACTS AND PROPERTY

Funds for Division expenses shall be derived in part or in whole from the Association as an allotted share of the annual dues paid by Division members.

Any agreement, contract, or obligation entered into by the Division, including the purchase of property such as office machines, filing cabinets, computer equipment, etc., shall have advance approval of the board. Any agreement, contract or obligation must be

in compliance with Association liability limits as prescribed in Division Recommended Practices.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A Nominating Committee for each election of members to the board shall be appointed by the board. Nomination of candidates for each office and the election of candidates shall be determined by the Division Recommended Practices.

DISSOLUTION AND MERGER

The Division may petition the Association Board of Directors for dissolution, or for merger with another Division, by vote of its membership in accordance with the Division Recommended Practices.

COMMUNICATIONS

Divisions shall institute suitable mechanisms to facilitate communications with and between its members regarding Division activities, affairs, issues, and other matters.

DIVISION REPRESENTATION AND AFFILIATION

Division representatives to joint committees and meetings of other societies having objectives allied to those of the Division and of the Association may be appointed by the chair.

AMENDMENTS

This governing document may be amended by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the members present at any Division meeting. Revisions in, or amendments to, the Division governing document, shall be reviewed by the Association Bylaws Committee, prior to presentation to the Division membership.

Approved by Division Cabinet Chair: August 6, 2009

Approved by Board of Directors: August 13, 2009

Effective Date: September 1, 2009

**Special Libraries Association
TAXONOMY DIVISION
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair – Marjorie (Margie) Hlava, Access Innovations, Inc.
mhlava@accessinn.com, 505-265-3591

Chair-Elect – Hannah Rubin, Library of Congress
HRUBIN@crs.loc.gov, (202)707-2471

Past Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Mary Chitty, Cambridge Healthtech, Needham MA
mchitty@healthtech.com

Treasurer – Janice Keeler, NERA Economic Consulting
jkeelersla@sbcglobal.net, 312-573-2813

OTHER OFFICERS

No other officers have been designated at this time, but this first year will be spent determining what other roles will need to be filled. Dozens of petitioners have indicated an interest in serving. Building the rest of the team should be fairly easy and additional officers will be reported as the positions are filled.

**Special Libraries Association
TAXONOMY DIVISION
PETITION SIGNATURES**

August 1, 2009

PETITION: We, the undersigned members of the Special Libraries Association, do hereby petition for the organization of the Taxonomy Division of the Special Libraries Association. We desire to participate in the activities of the proposed division. The temporary co-chairs will be Margie Hlava, Access Innovations, Inc.; and Janice Keeler, NERA Economic Consulting. The proposed scope note of the division shall be:

"The Taxonomy Division addresses ways to organize and structure information so that content is accessible and useful. It offers a practical context for exploring issues and sharing experiences related to planning, creating, and maintaining taxonomies, thesauri, authority files, and other controlled vocabularies and information structures. The division encompasses traditional and emerging cognitive approaches to organizing information, and the full range of settings in which taxonomies are applied. Areas of interest include:

- Strategies for planning and creating taxonomies. For example: identifying and articulating the need for taxonomies; demonstrating and communicating their value; analyzing existing vocabularies to inform the creation of new ones; and selecting technologies and tools to support them.
- Implementation, maintenance, and use of controlled vocabularies for all types of information and all relevant contexts, such as support for search and navigation.
- Standards, governance, and management of taxonomies and other controlled vocabularies.

New and emerging approaches to organizing information, such as the semantic web, ontologies, folksonomies, and tagging, including relationships between user-generated tags and formal controlled vocabularies.

By entering your name in the below line, you are agreeing to join the new Taxonomy Division, if approved by the SLA Board of Directors. (Additional division memberships beyond the one free Division membership that comes with your SLA membership, cost \$18/yr.) You must be a current member of SLA.

1	Ms.	Victoria	Agee
2		Janice	Anderson
3		Cecilia	Armas-Benavides
4		Sushma	Arora
5		Elizabeth	Arthur
6	Ms.	Phyllis	Askey
7		Gregory	Bailey
8		Marsha	Barker
9		Christina	Bauer

10		Julianne	Beall
11		Jean	Bedord
12		Lorna	Beich
13		Carol	Bekar
14		Adam	Bennington
15		Sheila	Bergen
16		Jill	Blaemers
17	Ms.	Miriam	Blake
18		Gini	Blodgett
19		Seth	Bookey
20	Ms.	Jennifer	Borrell
21		Carmen	Boston
22		Susan	Brady
23		Jette	Brandt
24	Ms.	Hara	Brindesi
25	Ms.	Roberta	Brody
26		Louise	Brookes
27		Billie Jo	Brooks
28		Marcy	Brown
29		Donna	Brown
30		Melanie	Browne
31		Karen	Buxton
32		Annette	Cade
33		Martha	Caro
34		Jill	Chance
35		Dyan	Chandler
36		Pam	Casey
37		Krystyna	Cherry
38	Ms.	Mary	Chitty
39		Alison	Clement
40		Geraldine	Clement-Stoneham
41	Ms.	Erin	Clougherty
42		Donna	Cohen
43		Janet	Coles
44		Maureen	Coletta
45		Christine	Connors
46		Deborah	Copeman
47	Ms.	Megen	Cox
48		Marti	Cox
49		Connie	Crosby
50		Janette	Cross
51		June	Crowe
52		Mariann	Cyr
53		Sylvie	Dalbin
54		Christine	Davidian
55	Ms.	Ulla	de Stricker
56		Amy	DeCicco
57	Ms.	Rachael	Delgado
58		Margot	Diltz
59		Carol	Donahue

60		Marc	Donatiello
61	Ms.	Kathryn	Dorko
62		Lisa	Douglass
63		Josh	Duberman
64		Jessica	Dudley
65		Katie	Dunn
66		Jennifer	Eckel
67	Mrs.	Joyce	Fedeczko
68	Ms.	Annette	Feldman
69		Kimberly	Ferguson
70		Alison	Finch
71		Iris	Finkel
72	Ms.	Susan	Fournier
73	Ms.	Laura	Foy
74	Ms.	Candice	Furman
75	Ms.	Linda	Futato
76		Meera	Gaikaiwari
77		Barbara	Gewirtz
78	Ms.	Mary	Glose
79		Dana	Gordon
80		Susan	Gormley
81		Jose-Marie	Griffiths
82		D'Ann	Hamilton
83		Katherine	Harahan
84		Lakegan	Harris
85		Carol	Harvey
86		Lydia	Hellrich-Dawson
87	Ms.	Janice	Herd
88		Sue	Hill
89		Barbara	Hirsh
90	Ms.	Laura	Hjerpe
91		Victoria	Thomas
92	Ms.	Kelly	Hoffman
93	Mr.	Randy	Hoffman
94	Ms.	Barbara	Holder
95		Daniel	Holmes
96		Stephanie	Holmgren
97		Ann Marie	Houppert
98		Ingrid	Hsieh-Yee
99		Richard	Huffine
100		Dennis	Hull
101		Diana	Hunt
102		Tyan	Hynes
103		Gabriele	Hysong
104		Katherine	Jarvis
105		Catherine	Jex
106		Helen	Josephine
107	Ms.	Robin	Jourdan
108		Ellen	Kaufman
109		Janice	Keeler

110		Yasmin	Khan
111	Ms.	Jackie	Kilberg
112		Jane	Kirby
113		LaDona	Kirkland
114		Beth	Kirton-Crane
115	Ms.	Catherine	Kitchell
116	Ms.	Cynthia	Knowles
117		Susan	Korte
118		Christophe	Lanham
119		Maria	Lanzeritsch
120		Maria	Latyszewskyj
121		Marilee	Lazar
122		Ahren	Lehnert
123		Michelle	Leon
124		Debra	Levinson
125	Mr.	Benjamin	Licciardi
126		Shirley	Loo
127		Joan	Lusky
128		Teresa	MacGregor
129		Susan	Maclean
130	Ms.	Teresa	Macpherson
131		Linda	Maguire
132		Paula	Markes
133		Barbara	Marshall
134		Eloise	Marszalek
135	Mr.	David	Martin
136	Ms.	Mary	Martinez
137	Ms.	Michelle	Mayes
138		Karen	McQuillen
139		Jennifer	Melinn
140		Debbie	Millward
141		Leigh	Montgomery
142		Evelyne	Mondou
143		Cindy	Moon-Barna
144		Marcia	Morante
145		Judy	Moseley
146		Felicia	Moss
		Muhammad	
147		Asif	Munir
148		Boris	Musich
149		Karen	Nimerick
150		MaryDee	Ojala
151	Ms.	Marcia	Olson
152		Jodie	Olson
153		Maryadele	O'Neil
154		Christine	Orr
155	Ms.	Marubeth	Ortega
156		Jennifer	O'Shea
157		Margaret	Ostrander
158		Karen	Palmer
159		Kathryn	Pease

160		George	Peckham-Rooney
161	Ms.	Melinda	Pennington
162	Ms.	Katrina	Perez
163		Christine	Peterson
164		Elizabeth	Peterson
165	Ms.	Patricia	Powell
166		Alice	Redmond-Neal
167	Ms.	Carol	Reese
168	Ms.	Janet	Reid
169		Valarie	Revels
170		Marge	Rhodes
171	Ms.	Lucy	Rieger
172	Mr.	Thomas	Rink
173	Ms.	Amanda	Roberts
174		Sheryl	Rosenthal
175		Hannah	Rubin
176	Mr.	Jarmo	Saarikko
177		Arjun	Sabharwal
178		Ethel	Salonen
179		Joni	Savage
180		Heather	Schneider
181		Helen	Scott
182		Bonnie Tilton	Sebby
183	Mr.	Dan	Segal
184		Len	Sierra
185	Ms.	Diane	Silver
186		Donna	Slawsky
187		Patricia	Skaja
188		Linda	Smith
189	Mr.	Earl	Smith
190	Mr.	David	Snyder
191	Ms.	Carolyn	Sosnowski
192	Mr.	Howard	Stanbury
193	Ms.	Maureen	Stawick
194		Eva	Stefanski
195		Janice	Stevenson
196		Ann-Marie	Stewart
197		Vesselina	Stoytcheva
198	Ms.	Nancy	Sullivan
199		David	Sweet
200		Janice	Sykes
201		Kathy	Szolomayer
202	Ms.	Judith	Tapiero
203		Rhonda	Taylor
204		James	Thurow
205	Mr.	Chris	Torrero
206		Christi	Underdown
207		Heleana	Van Deroef
208		Cecilia	Vernes
209	Ms.	Sara	Wagschal

210		Rose	Wallace
211		Margaret	Walsh
212		Pamela	Weaver
213	Ms.	Teresa	White
214		Diane	White
215	Ms.	Teresa	Wilkins
216		Kindra	Willis
217	Ms.	Yuning	Zhou
218		Lisa	Zilinski
219		Terri	Zimmer

Nonmembers:

1	Ms.	Dulcie	Brown
2	Ms.	Susan	Brown
3	Ms.	Kelly	Green
4	Mr.	George	Lutz
5	Mr.	Gary	Price
6	Ms.	JoAnn	Savoy
7	Ms.	Bethany	Sehon
8	Ms.	Jennifer	Sutherland
9	Ms.	Beverly	Chandler
10	Ms.	Bethany	Fisher
11	Ms.	Valerie	Thomas
12	Ms.	Mary	Newman