



## PATRICIA CIA, CANDIDATE CHAPTER CABINET CHAIR-ELECT

Corporate Librarian/Webmaster, Teck Cominco Limited  
(2001-current)

**SLA Member since 1993**

**Past Employment:** Corporate Librarian, Teck Corporation (1996-2001); Librarian, British Columbia Securities Commission (1995-1996); Corporate Librarian, Dynapro Systems (1993-1995).

**Education:** MLS, University of British Columbia (1993); BA, University of Victoria (1980)

**SLA Chapter Activities:** Western Canada Chapter: President, elect-acting-past (2000-2003), Acting Treasurer (Nov 2001-Jun 2002); Communications Director (1999-2000); Communication Chair [webmaster, bulletin editor, list owner] (1997-1999); Acting Secretary/Treasurer (Mar-Jun 1997). Committees: Future & Strategic Planning (2000-2001), Strategic Planning (1999-2000), Membership Survey (1998), Policies (2001) Bylaws, Convergence 2000: WCC Pan-Chapter Meeting, Past-President's Outlook Forum (2003)

**SLA Association Activities:** SLA Code of Accountability task force (2003); SLA Webmasters workshop (1998 & 2000) <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cwcn/wwest/v3n4/pcweb.htm>; WCC Webmaster during Virtual Chapter initiative (1997-1998)

1) One of SLA's Core Values is: "Leadership: Strengthening our roles as information leaders in our organizations and in our communities, including shaping information policy." How would you move forward in accomplishing this?

SLA produces excellent tools such as the annual salary survey and competencies documents. I would use them to create sound bites and other supporting materials as promotional and marketing tools, distributing these materials to the membership for use within their organizations and broader communities.

I would investigate ways to profile our profession or selected members in international business and academic publications in order to demonstrate our values and competencies in practical and concrete terms. In turn, I would communicate these articles to the membership as examples they may share with their organizations, clients or institutions.

Networking and professional development are also SLA strengths in developing leaders. I would encourage the continued delivery of relevant, leading edge and affordable professional development opportunities to our members, and share examples of programs that appeal to both the newer graduates as well as information professionals practicing five or more years

2) What has been your most significant contribution to SLA?

I believe my most significant contribution was in exploring and implementing ways of opening communication among members, the association, and chapter leaders through newer technologies. (e.g. 2000 Candidate chats, current awareness via discussion list, broadening scope of bulletin)

In 1997, the Western Canada Chapter volunteered to be SLA's "Virtual Chapter." I extended our existing web and discussion list into valuable communication tools. We continue to use them to provide board continuity, to inform our members of upcoming events and to update members on the chapter board's work. We also use these tools as a platform for members to share their experiences and best practices.

Wired West: Web Journal of the SLA Western Canada Chapter, was the first bulletin to be produced solely electronically. The web format allowed me to solicit more in depth articles and helped reduce the perception of isolation among members in our very geographically diverse chapter.

3) What has been your most significant accomplishment working in the information profession?

I believe my most significant accomplishment involves demonstrating, through practical use, how technology facilitates communication and access to information. At a time when only the library and a select few other employees had access to the Internet, I developed categorized web resources relevant to my clients. These "Links to the Internet" were shared with other employees via the local network as they gained access to the Internet, and later evolved into the company's intranet where I also prominently displayed other library services. These projects demonstrated the flexibility of our professional skills and helped change the traditional perceptions, showing that information professionals can use our organizational skills and aptitude for sharing in many aspects within the organization.