



LYLE W. MINTER, CANDIDATE DIRECTOR

Head, Newspaper and Current Periodical Room, Serial and Government Publications Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

SLA Member Since 1988

Past Employment: Head, Government Publications and Periodicals Section, Serial and Government Publications Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC (1991-1997); Chief, General Reference Branch, The Pentagon Library, Washington, DC (1988-1991); Senior Librarian Development Training, Army Libraries Management Office, Washington, DC (1990); Senior Research Librarian, The Pentagon Library, (1985-1988); Reference Librarian, The Pentagon Library, (1981-1985); Administrative Librarian, Military District of Washington, Fort Myer, VA (1980-1981); Post Librarian, Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, VA (1976-1980).

Education: B.A., (History), University of Virginia, 1975; M.L.S. (Library Science), University of Maryland, 1976.

SLA Chapter Activities: Washington, DC Chapter: Co-Chair, Awards Committee (2002-2003); Chair, Nominating Committee (1999-2000); Chapter President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President (1992-1995); Director (1991-1992); Second Vice President (1989-1991); Auditor (1990-1991); Chair, Nominating Committee (1989-1990). Virginia Chapter: Member (1994-).

SLA Division Activities: Social Science: Chair-Elect, Chair, Past Chair (2000-2003). Military Librarians: Nominating Committee (1990-1991); Co-Chair, Government Relations Committee (1988-1991). Library Management: Member (1991-).

SLA Association-level Activities: Member, Bylaws Committee (2002-2005); Member, Nominating Committee (2001-2002); Member, Finance Committee (1997-2000); Chair, Tellers Committee (1994-1995); Member, Tellers Committee (1992-1994).

Other Professional Activities: Library of Congress Professional Association (1991-); Chair and Program Chair, Washington DC Military Librarians Group (1985-1987); North American Serials Interest Group (1991-1993); District of Columbia Library Association (1981-1991). Faculty member: United States Government Printing Office Annual Interagency Depository Library Seminar (1992-2003) and the Library of Congress Federal Library Technicians Institute (1997-2003).

Awards, Honors, and Publications: Library of Congress Outstanding Performance Award (1994); Library of Congress Special Service Achievement Awards (2001, 1999, 1998); Washington, DC Chapter Board of Directors Award (1991 and 1992); Department of the Army Sustained Superior Service Award (1980); Beta Phi Mu (1976); Phi Beta Kappa (1975), Phi Alpha Theta History Honors (1973). Publications include: numerous articles in the Social Science Division Bulletin, The Military Librarian (Bulletin of the Military Librarians Division), and Chapter Notes (Washington, DC Chapter Bulletin); "Informing America: Ensuring Public Access to Government Information," Library of Congress Information Bulletin (forthcoming).

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?

A leader can command the respect of others by demonstrating mastery of a body of knowledge and skills. A leader must then be willing to teach and motivate others by sharing information in meaningful ways. Finally, a leader must take risks to expand beyond the known comfort zone of the group.

SLA can command the respect of others by showing value that information professionals add to the corporate body for which they work. We made an excellent start toward expanding the respect enjoyed by our profession when we produced the competencies document which has been widely acclaimed in academic, business, and government circles. Using SLA members' brainpower and creativity we can expand beyond this initial success by developing credible, experience-based benchmarks, surveys, and best practices which members can use in the workplace to demonstrate their value. As a Board member I will ensure that we fully exploit opportunities to build such a knowledge base.

Communicating our value as information professionals is another way we can lead. We must continue to focus on developing and strengthening our student groups. We can use Information Outlook, the SLA web page, and focused discussion lists to communicate with each other. As a Board member I will be an active participant in this communication process. We must also continue to develop our branding and marketing plan to make sure we communicate our value to others outside the information profession, and we must ensure that we have a vigorous government relations effort at all levels of the Association.

We can take risks to help focus and grow SLA by investing time and money to meet our research needs and to fund our public relations outreach efforts. We can also partner with other associations in fields such as government relations, while at the same time retaining our independence in other areas where we can do things better than our peer associations.

2) What has been your most significant contribution to SLA? My most significant contribution to SLA as a member has been as a person who's willing to work to get the job done. As you can see from my biography, I have worked to recruit talented leaders for the Association by serving on its Nominating Committee, to make sure there is a sound financial foundation for the future of our organization through my work on the Finance Committee, and to make sure our governance is streamlined but accountable as a current member of the Bylaws Committee.

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

My most significant accomplishment in the information profession has been working with and training junior information professionals as they begin their careers or transition into a new position. I like mentoring and teaching, and I try to model SLA's professional competencies when working with these new recruits.