

2007 Annual Report VTLS Users' Group

The Annual Meeting returned to Blacksburg, May 17-18, 2007. We were fortunate to be able to stay and meet in the brand new Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. Three days of training were held at the VTLS Corporate Offices prior to the meeting. Sadly, reminders of the shootings on campus just a month prior to the meeting were evident all over town.

Guy St. Clair, President of Knowledge Services, was our keynote speaker. Guy is a former President of the Special Library Association (SLA) and author of numerous management publications. Currently, he is writing a narrative of SLA. *Beyond Degrees* is his newest book. Guy received his B.A. from the University of Virginia and his Masters from the University of Illinois. He is currently a resident of New York. For further information visit his company's site—<http://www.smr-knowledge.com/home.htm>.

Mr. St Clair's talk was entitled *Knowledge Services: Exploring the Synergy between Technology and Knowledge*. He also discussed the role of the library and the librarian in this context. Knowledge services are an evolving profession. The library is a place that functions as a knowledge services environment so librarians should have a leadership role in this new environment. Knowledge service is the convergence of information management, knowledge management, and strategic learning into a single overarching function that enables research support, contextual decision making and innovation.

Dr. Vinod Chachra, CEO of VTLS, followed with the VTLS corporate report. He discussed changes in the organization and the expansion of VTLS offices in the UK, Malaysia and Spain. Later in the meeting he also gave us a report on the NISO RFID standards. Users' presentations this year included Mark Ellis from Richmond Public Library, Sharon Dempsey and Susan Martin from Smyth-Bland Regional Library and Paul Bevan from the National Library of Wales.

The group met for dinner and fun at a Casino Night. The gambling skills of some of our colleagues were impressive.

The executive committee had new members join the ranks and others step into different offices as terms expired. Kate Porter from the Upper Arlington Public Library became Chair, Theresa Liedtka from the University of Chattanooga became Vice Chair and Mary Castle from Blinn College became a Representative at Large. Richard McKinstry moved into Past Chair.

The European Annual Meeting took place in Uppsala, Sweden at Uppsala Universitet, home library of Gunhild Bäck. The meeting was held October 3rd-5th during the 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus, father of modern taxonomy. Eva Nyström, Research Editor of the Linnaean Correspondence, gave the keynote talk. The subsystems held breakout sessions to discuss new enhancement requests and clean-up

some of the old ones. VTLS held a reception at the Linneanum, Botanic Gardens. The library (Carolina Rediviva) held a reception as well.

The executive committee met in October in New York at the Grolier Club. Most members were present and Kathryn Murphy joined us by phone from Wales. There was a great deal of discussion on the future structure of the users' group. It was agreed that there was a need to have meetings to share information about VTLS products, but there needed to be more focused discussion by the various types of VTLS libraries. We also discussed how to update our dues structure so that all users of VTLS products can feel welcome to participate.

The next annual meeting will also be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

Kate Porter
Chair, VTLS Users' Group