

=====  
April 23, 1997

Dr. David R. Bender  
SLA Executive Director  
Special Libraries Association  
1700 Eighteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-2514

Dear David,

The PAM Division was very pleased with the generous support which SLA gave to the conferences LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN ASTRONOMY (LISA) I (Washington - 1988) and II (Garching, Germany - 1995). As you can see from our attached request, LISA III is being planned for the Spring of 1998.

We do hope that SLA will continue its support of these very important meetings. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Ellen.

Sincerely yours,

Brenda G. Corbin, Librarian  
U.S. Naval Observatory  
202/762-1463  
bgc@sicon.usno.navy.mil

Ellen Bouton  
National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
804/296-0254  
library@nrao.edu

CC: Sylvia E. A. Piggott  
SLA President  
Judith J. Field  
SLA President-Elect

\*\*\*\*\*

SLA FUNDING REQUEST - LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN ASTRONOMY III

APRIL 1997

Members of the Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division are actively involved in planning for the third meeting on the topic LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN ASTRONOMY (LISA III). This meeting, hosted by the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias, will be held April 21-23, 1998 at the Conference Centre of Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

The first very successful meeting of LISA was held in Washington in 1988, sponsored by the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). To make this conference possible, funds were donated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the USNO, individuals including many PAM members, publishers, and of course a generous donation from SLA of \$2000. A part of the funds collected were used to provide travel expenses for our international colleagues from developing countries who would not have otherwise been able to attend.

The second meeting of LISA (LISA II) was held in Garching, Germany in May, 1995, sponsored by the European Southern Observatory. Once again, SLA gave its support with a donation of \$2000. These funds, added to others from publishers, individuals, the Soros Foundation, and the IAU made it possible to have even more colleagues from developing countries attend this important meeting, where impressive updates in information technology were explored.

With the growing numbers of electronic journals, the wealth of information on the Web and the dazzling array of computer options and equipment available, it is difficult for all librarians, particularly those in developing countries, to keep up to date with the latest technology. The attached draft program for LISA III shows the range of new developments to be demonstrated and discussed. It must be noted that our colleagues in developing countries actively support astronomers conducting important research, but with far fewer tools. It is very important to offer assistance to these colleagues in learning as much as possible about the latest developments and trends in information technology.

Uta Grothkopf, librarian at the European Southern Observatory in Garching, Germany is Co-Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee for LISA III, and also heads PAM's International Relations Committee. She has been very active in sharing information about SLA and PAM with her European colleagues. Sarah Stevens-Rayburn, librarian at Space Telescope Science Institute, is a member of the Scientific Organizing Committee. She is a member and past chair of PAM. Ellen Bouton, past secretary and past chair of PAM, and Brenda Corbin, incoming PAM chair-elect, member of PAM's International Relations Committee, past PAM secretary and Bulletin editor, are again acting as the Friends of LISA III committee to raise money in order to award travel grants.

The PAM Division's active international involvement spans the history of the Division as charter members helped plan meetings in conjunction with the 1973 IFLA meeting in Washington. Astronomy librarians around the world have used the UNION LIST OF ASTRONOMY SERIALS which was first published in 1983 with the assistance of an SLA loan; the current edition is now available on the Web. As a result of the 1988 and 1995 meetings, our international outreach has expanded greatly with the Astronomy Thesaurus (also now available on the Web), Astrolib (a moderated e-mail exploder which reaches astronomy librarians in countries throughout the world), and the PAM homepage, (<http://galileo.ifa.hawaii.edu/pamnet/pamnet.html>) a wealth of information for the astronomy librarian and the astronomer.

The PAM Division therefore requests a grant of \$4500 from SLA to be

used for grants to librarians from developing countries to help defray their travel and lodging costs for LISA III. Application has also been made to the IAU for funds to underwrite travel and meeting costs, and additional funds will be solicited from publishers, individuals, and the Soros Foundation.

As SLA has encouraged international involvement over the last years, PAM has been at the forefront, and indeed has been one of the leaders in this involvement. Funding for LISA III would help continue this trend, and increase visibility for SLA among the librarians attending this conference. The PAM Division strongly encourages the Board to support LISA III with a grant of \$4500.

\*\*\*\*\*

LISA III -- Scientific Rationale and Program Overview

Library and information services in astronomy have seen sweeping and monumental changes in the last decade, both in methods of information delivery and the kinds of information being delivered. At the same time, demands for traditional services and the importance of retrieval and archiving of older materials have not abated. Indeed, needs have become more acute as historic materials have become more fragile and preservation techniques have not kept pace with the variety of materials to be preserved. What has not changed is the basic function of the librarian: providing information to users in whatever format by whatever methods necessary.

The Third Conference on Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA III) will provide an opportunity for librarians, publishers, and scientists to examine the current state of the art of information maintenance, delivery, and preservation, as well as to learn from invited experts the directions in which our profession is moving. This conference is the third in a series: LISA I (IAU Colloquium 110) was held at the Naval Observatory, Washington, in 1988 and LISA II (an IAU Technical Workshop) was held at the European Southern Observatory, Garching, in 1995.

LISA III will be hosted by the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias (IAC), Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. The conference is being planned to last three days in the spring of 1998. It will include the following topics:

LISA III -- Managing Change Gracefully

Astronomers and Librarians

- the symbiotic relationship: assessing user needs and responding to user requests; setting realistic expectations
- Web- and paper-based resources : user guides and assistance
- end user versus librarian searching
- helping the astronomer stay up-to-date in today's information glut

Internal Sources/Resources

- their care, handling, scientific usefulness
- multimedia materials: CD-ROMs, microforms, observatory publications (public and private)
- historical materials: plates, observing logs, rare books

External Sources/Resources

- access issues: hardware and software requirements, costs, responsiveness
- search engines and strategies
- bibcodes and metadata as material identifiers/descriptors
- sources of bibliographic/full-text information : ADS, FirstSearch, Carl, NED
- licensing and copyright issues in the electronic environment
- archiving and preservation of networked electronic material
- developing and maintaining standards for interconnectivity

of networked resources

- influence of electronic publications on librarians' tasks

Resource sharing

- duplicate lists
- the "twinning project"
- professional associations
- interlibrary loans in the era of restrictive licenses for e-pubs

The conference will include invited and contributed presentations, panel discussions and a poster session. Optional post conference visits to IAC's Headquarters and Teide Observatory (Island of Tenerife) and to Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (Island of La Palma) will be organized.

Friends of LISA III:

As in previous years, a "Friends of LISA" (FOL) committee has been formed in order to help and support colleagues who might otherwise not be able to attend the conference. Further information and applications will be distributed at a later date. Ellen Bouton and Brenda Corbin are the members of this committee.

Scientific Organising Committee (SOC):

Peter Boyce - Co-Chair (USA) American Astronomical Society  
Uta Grothkopf - Co-chair (Germany) European Southern Observatory

Heinz Andernach (Mexico) Dept. Astr. Univ. Guanajuato  
Jose Carlos del Toro Iniesta - Co-chair LOC (Spain), Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias  
Monique Gomez - Co-chair, LOC (Spain) Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias

Peter Hingley (UK) Royal Astronomical Society  
Ethleen Lastovica (South Africa) South African Astronomical Observatory  
Fionn Murtagh (No. Ireland) Univ. Ulster, Magee College  
Alica Rodas (Argentina) Complejo Astronomico El Leoncito  
Sarah Stevens-Rayburn (USA) Space Telescope Science Institute  
Marek Wolf (Czech Republic) Astronomical Institute, Charles Univ. Prague