

Putting knowledge to work



David Bender

Executive director
Special Libraries
Association

Headquartered in Washington DC, United States of America, the Special Libraries Association is the international association representing the interests of nearly 15 000 information professionals in sixty countries. Special librarians are information resource experts who collect, analyse, evaluate, package and disseminate information to facilitate accurate decision-making in corporate, academic, and government settings. The Association offers a myriad of programs and services designed to help members serve their customers more effectively and succeed in an increasingly challenging environment of information management and technology. The Special Library Association is committed to the professional growth and success of its members.

The mission of the Association is to advance the leadership role of members in putting knowledge to work for the benefit

of decision-makers in corporations, government, the professions, and society, as well as to shape the destiny of our information and knowledge-based global society.

This society, based on knowledge and underpinned by information, demands that information professionals and special librarians lead or guide these developments. The Special Libraries Association must exist to provide a positive environment for networking, communication, research, skills growth, and other developmental opportunities for these professionals to develop and enhance their competencies, aptitudes and attitudes. This Association ensures that our members are prepared and empowered to have a growing and significant international impact, through the application of knowledge and information strategies, for the benefit of their enterprises, their clients and society at large.

The Special Libraries Association is a leading organisation in information and knowledge industries — a catalyst in the development of a global knowledge-based economy, and a strategic partner in the information-based society. The Association is committed to pursue the accessibility to information on a global scale and in digital formats.

The Association is evolving with our members as we move to become a 'virtual association' — one which can provide information and services to our members twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Our award-winning Web site, found at: www.sla.org, contains pertinent information for our members, and is a host for several chapter and student group sites. In the interest of providing the best information and benefits to our members, the Association is committed to working for its members' professional growth, continuing education, and future information needs.

In October of 2000, the Association will host a worldwide conference on special librarianship — *The information age: challenges and opportunities* — scheduled for 16–19 October in Brighton, England. More detailed information will be appearing soon on the web site at: <http://www.sla.org>.

For information about becoming a member, please contact our membership department at: membership@sla.org or Special Libraries Association membership department, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-2514 USA. ■

Special Libraries Association

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Vision statement

Our vision is to be known as the leading organization in the information industry — a catalyst in the development of the information economy, and a strategic partner in the emerging information society.

This vision statement is based on values shared by members of the Special Libraries Association.

- Continuous learning and professional development
- The leadership role the of Special Libraries Association and the Association's efforts to help us become information leaders in our organizations and in our communities
- The role of the Association in the development of information policies
- Our clients and our ability to respond to their needs adding value to information services and products
- The use of technology to enhance our jobs, our organizations, and society
- New paradigms of information service and delivery and the opportunities they provide for our continued role in the information economy
- Opportunities for networking — for us to meet, communicate, and collaborate with one another