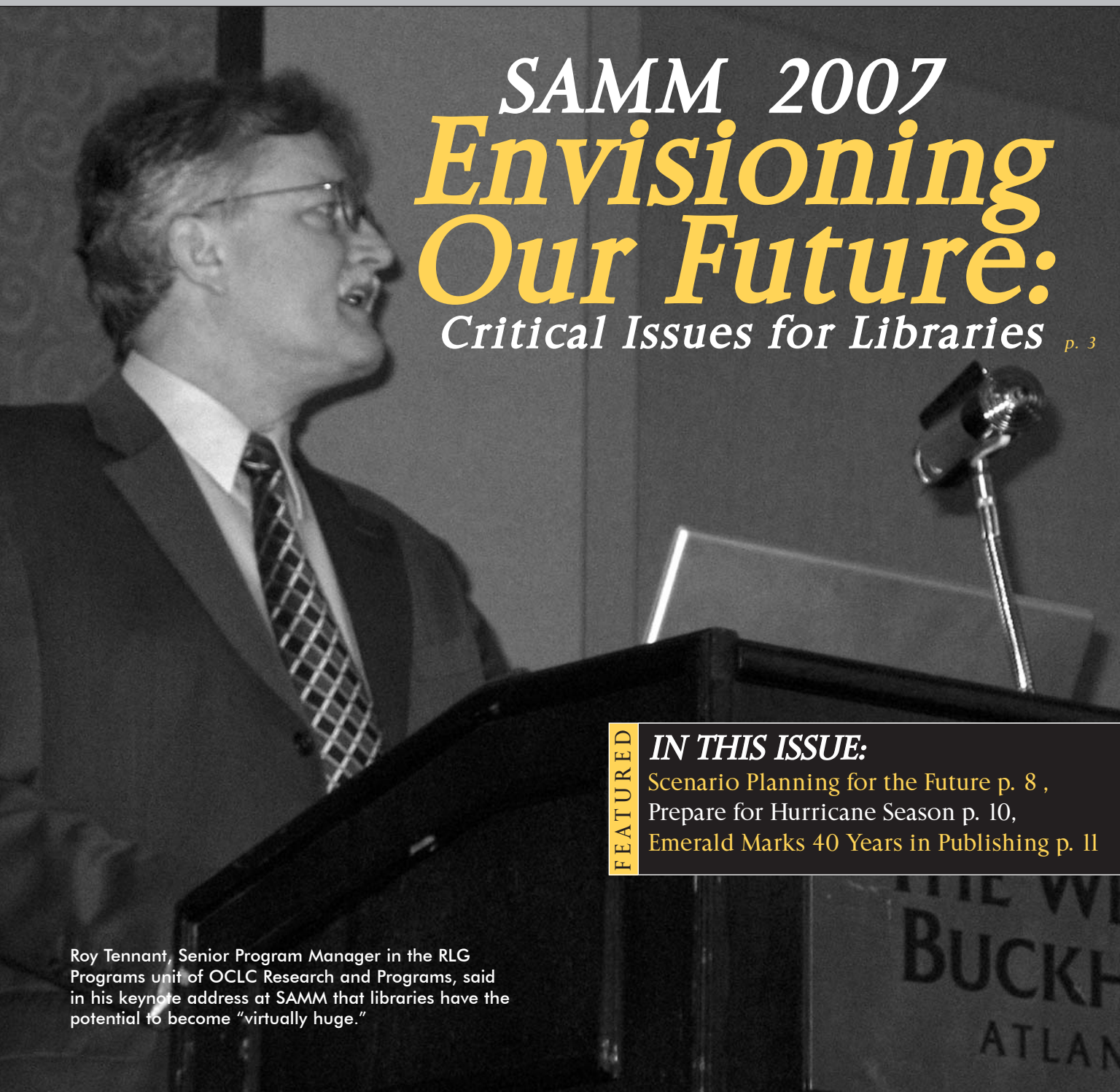


SOLUTIONS

CONNECTING YOU TO THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

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Roy Tennant, Senior Program Manager in the RLG Programs unit of OCLC Research and Programs, said in his keynote address at SAMM that libraries have the potential to become "virtually huge."

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SOLUTIONS

Connecting You to the Value of Membership

SOLINET Solutions is published six times a year by SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network. Current and past *Solutions* issues are available in PDF form on the internet.

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SOLINET, a membership organization founded in 1973, strengthens libraries and the communities they support through cooperation, leadership, and services.

SOLINET offers classes and training for library staff, preservation services, consulting, access to and support of OCLC products and services as well as discounts on electronic resources and library products.



I just completed one of my favorite activities of the year: hosting the SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting. It is always a welcome opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new members. In addition to thought-provoking presentations and interesting discussions on the future of libraries, SAMM is a forum to report on the state of our network and plans for the upcoming year.

SOLINET continues to focus on effective member service, diversification of programs, and making sure that you know about the many ways that your library can benefit from membership.

We have taken steps in the past year to leverage the web to reduce costs and increase efficiency. For example, we have instituted an online system for members to renew database orders, and we now email invoices instead of mailing paper copies. We also continue to increase our web-based classes, making it easier for you to take advantage of continuing education. These initiatives will continue to grow in the upcoming year. Take a look at what's coming in the [Summer 2007 Class Schedule](#).

SOLINET has been diversifying its products to address members' needs for information management services. For example, we just started offering [Ares](#) from Atlas Systems, Inc., [LOCKSS](#), and [Portico](#) at preferred member pricing. Be on the lookout for more products in the next year. SOLINET also is diversifying [Educational Services](#), offering new courses on such topics as redesigning library work, emerging technologies, social networking, and open source software.

SOLINET will continue to provide access to products and services to increase your library's capacity and your ability to serve patrons effectively. We want to support your move toward digital collections. We will be expanding educational programming and consulting to help you transform libraries to meet the evolving needs of our communities. At the same time, SOLINET continues to transform itself, to better serve your library in the future.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at next year's SAMM on May 8 and 9, 2008, at the Emory Conference Center in Decatur, GA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Nevins'.

Kate Nevins, Executive Director

SAMM 2007 Envisioning Our Future: Critical Issues for Libraries

By Jennifer Labant, SOLUTIONS Associate Editor



On Thursday, May 10, approximately 300 librarians and professionals from around SOLINET's 10-state region convened at the Westin Hotel in Atlanta, GA, to learn about and discuss "Envisioning Our Future: Critical Issues for Libraries."

The SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting was opened by Carol Walker Jordan, 2006/2007 Board Chair, who reminded the audience that she realized her job as Board Chair was "to serve and not be served."

She mentioned a few other important items, including that the introduction of electronic voting doubled participation this year. Jordan also discussed the Rural Libraries Sustainability Project and acknowledged and welcomed the 22 Georgia Public Library System librarians attending SAMM as a result of the project.

The conference began with a riveting opening session by Roy Tennant, Senior Program Manager in the RLG Programs unit of OCLC Research and Programs. The title of Tennant's presentation echoed the title of the conference, and he shared his thoughts on those critical issues. One topic he addressed was mass digitization and the Google Library Project.

He cautioned everyone in the audience to remember that "Google is going to make decisions that might not be the ones that we would make."

Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President and Chief Strategist at OCLC, discusses "Libraries and the Changing Research and Learning Landscape"



SOLINET staff awaited visits from conference attendees so they could share with them all that SOLINET has to offer.

He also discussed the implications of the Open Content Alliance and that “with help from OCLC, there is the possibility of libraries becoming virtually huge.”

After Tennant’s presentation, the first concurrent sessions began. Participants had three choices at 11:00 a.m., and all were well-attended:

The Collaborative Future: Outcomes from SOLINET Member Scenario Planning Sessions by Kate Nevins, Executive Director, SOLINET; and Cal Shepard, Manager of Consortial Outreach, SOLINET

Conducting Focus Groups to Guide Future Activities by Jennifer Link, Training and Assessment Librarian, Georgia State University; and Kaetrena Davis, Learning Commons Librarian, Georgia State University

Social Networking, Privacy and Libraries by George Needham, Vice President, Member Services, OCLC.

After the first concurrent sessions, it was time for lunch, which was the perfect time to network and mingle with colleagues from around the region.

The exciting portion of lunch began when author Gwen Hyman Rubio was introduced. The writer of *Icy Sparks* and *The Woodman’s Daughter*, Rubio talked about the challenges of writing a second novel, and how worried she was until *The Woodman’s Daughter* was published.

“The problems of writing a second novel have been with me my whole life,” she said. “I’ve run from writing.”

All of this was the result of her father’s sudden success and impending death. He published a best-selling book at the age of 31 only to die eight years later. He was overwhelmed by the success, he blocked, and he was unable to write the second novel.

“I blamed writing for his death,” she told the audience.

As she continued to share personal accounts of her life, you couldn’t help but relate to the author. She also shared her thoughts on the importance of libraries.

“Libraries and librarians are our hope for the future,” she said. “They encourage reading, and kids need to read.”

She obviously connected with the audience as many took the time to purchase one or more of her books. She personalized every book and took time to speak with each person she met.

The afternoon continued with the second, third, and fourth concurrent sessions. All included an array of presentations related to the conference theme, including “**Staying Ahead of the Technology Curve**,” “**Systems of the Future**,” “Social Software and the Future of the Library,” and many other great presentations.

Once the concurrent sessions concluded, it was time for the reception and vendor fair. This was the perfect time for participants to connect with vendors about the latest products for their libraries and take mingle with other participants while grabbing a bite to eat. Vendors participating in the fair included

platinum sponsors [LexisNexis](#), [McGraw-Hill](#), and [Atlas Systems, Inc.](#), as well as many other [conference sponsors](#).

Friday morning began with a continental breakfast and more opportunities to mingle with participants.

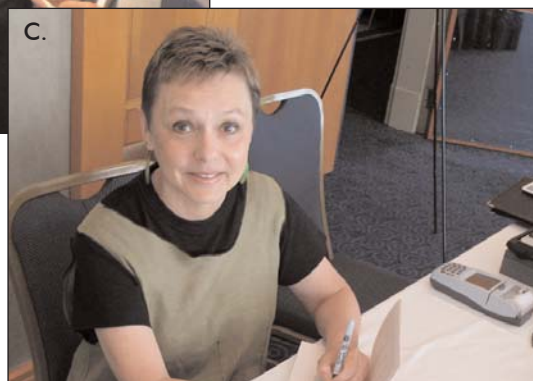
It was then time to go back to the ballroom for the beginning of the end of the meeting. The morning began with Kate Nevins, Executive Director of SOLINET, at the podium. She recognized the outgoing Board members as well as the new members of SOLINET's Board of Directors.

Nevins then gave her Executive Director's report, which was titled "SOLINET: The State of Your Network." She addressed SOLINET's short-term goals, programs and services, and future directions.

After a short break, Diane Kresh, Director of Arlington Public Libraries presented the closing session, "[Is My Library Going Down the YouTube? Reflections on the Information Landscape.](#)" She described many of the issues libraries are facing in the future.

**"Libraries and librarians are our hope for the future. They encourage reading, and kids need to read."
— Gwyn Hyman Rubio**

Conference participants left with some advance knowledge. They learned the dates and location of next year's meeting. SOLINET will host SAMM 2008 on May 8 and 9 at the Emory Conference Center in Decatur, GA. We certainly hope to see you there.



- A. Audience at closing session
- B. SOLINET staffers J. Michael Williams and Natalie Chase talk with former Board member Richard Meyer
- C. Gwyn Hyman Rubio, Author
- D. Diane Kresh, Closing Speaker



