

FLICC Librarian of the Year Award Nomination Form

This is not an interactive Web form.

Fill out the form, print it via your browser and get required endorsements and signatures. Then fax or mail according to the instructions below.

NOMINEE (PLEASE PRINT:)	
Name:	Thomas L. Lahr
Title:	Deputy Associate Chief Biologist for Information
Agency:	United States Geological Survey
Library Address:	
City:	Reston
State:	VA Zip: 20192
Phone:	703-648-4222
Fax:	
Email:	tom_lahr@usgs.gov
Additional comments or explanations: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

NOMINATOR:	
Name:	Eleanor G. Frierson
Title:	Deputy Director
Organization:	National Agricultural Library
Address:	10301 Baltimore Avenue
City:	Betsville
State:	MD Zip: 20705
Phone:	301-504-6780
Fax:	301-504-7042
Email:	efrierson@nal.usda.gov
Nomination statement (mandatory): I believe the nominee should be Federal Librarian of the Year for	

Fiscal Year 2007 because (50 words or less)

see attached information - could not type into this space

Signature: *Shams Duen*

Date: 2/29/2008

MANAGEMENT APPROVAL—Immediate Supervisor

Name: Peter R. Young

Title: Director

Organization: National Agricultural Library

Statement of approval: I approve this nomination for Librarian of the Year for Fiscal Year 2007.

Comment: *In FY 2007 Tom's work on developing an International Science Web Portal came to fruition. His superb diplomatic and managerial communication skills were essential to the out come of this project. I would like to impart our gratitude, including science.gov.*

Signature: *Peter R. Young*

Date: 2/29/2008

MANAGEMENT APPROVAL—Second Level Manager

Name: n/a

Title:

Organization:

Signature:

Date:

INSTRUCTIONS:

Deadlines: All nominations must be faxed no later than February 1, 2008. If a nominator does not receive confirmation of the nomination by February 8, 2008, please contact Lizzie Daniels by phone at (202) 707-4813. Fax nominations to the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) at (202) 707-4825. The FLICC Awards Working Group will receive and screen applications and submit a list of finalists to the FLICC Executive Board. The FLICC Executive Board will make the final selection and announce at the FLICC Forum in September 2008.



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Updated December 2007



Nomination of Thomas F. Lahr for Federal Librarian of the Year – 2007
Selection Criteria Statements - I. Active and innovative leadership during Fiscal Year
2007 in the advancement of library and information services

Science.gov Leadership

Tom Lahr has been co-chair of the Science.gov Alliance since 2002. He has also led the work of those responsible for the content of Science.gov. In 2007 Mr. Lahr continued to handle delicate negotiations about funding for Science.gov. In addition to dealing with considerable day-to-day leadership and management issues for Science.gov, he represented the 17 Alliance members at professional meetings and in contacts with potential members. Mr. Lahr was particularly adept in dealing with challenging people and situations and achieving consensus among differing points of view. This led to an agreement for increased funding for Science.gov initiatives and increased membership in the Science.gov Alliance.

International Science Portal Development

In 2007 Mr. Lahr led an international science portals forum within ICSTI (International Council for Scientific and Technical Information). This working group was responsible for analyzing the potential for an international science portal. There had been previous informal discussions concerning such a portal among potential partners. By managing to get funding approved for a formal group to analyze the real possibilities of moving forward and establishing a portal, Mr. Lahr moved the portal from theory into action. At the ICSTI June 2007 meeting, Mr. Lahr brought this work to its successful conclusion. By involving potential partners in assessing opportunities for cooperation and coordination in creating the proposed portal, including indications of willingness to provide content and funding, momentum was created for what is now known as WorldWideScience.org. Mr. Lahr also led the production of a document describing a matrix of world wide science information sources. Mr. Lahr's ability to work well with representatives of institutions from around the world, with different mandates and cultures, was outstanding. Mr. Lahr has built an impressive network of professional colleagues in the scientific and technical information community and he was able to draw upon this network to build enthusiasm and commitment for the proposed portal.

Representation of Librarianship and Information Management

In addition to his work on Science.gov and WorldWideScience.org in 2007, Mr. Lahr represented USGS in CENDI and other professional organizations. Mr. Lahr is a persuasive and authoritative speaker and representative. He is eloquent about the need for technical standards and agreed practices while also being able to describe new technological advances and innovations in information services. At USGS he led the development of wonderful new ways to integrate and deliver many types of information – text, images, GIS data, etc. He was responsible for developing and maintaining USGS public and private partnerships with a wide variety of organizations, and in this work demonstrated that he was a very effective advocate for the library and information management professions (a detailed list of presentations and representation in groups is available).

Nomination of Thomas F. Lahr for Federal Librarian of the Year – 2007

Selection Criteria Statements - II. Promotion and development of library and information services in support of the organization's mission in Fiscal Year 2007.

Description of missions, size and budget, and size and identity of user population served
Science.gov

Science.gov's mission is to provide unified and simplified access for science-attentive citizens, in the United States and around the world, to the scientific and technological information available across Federal agencies. Science.gov provides more than 50 million pages of information from 17 institutions across 13 Federal agencies. The annual Science.gov budget is made up of member contributions, in-kind staff, technology and other contributions, and SBIR funding. For fiscal 2007 the value of all components of the budget was close to \$500,000, excluding the value of the content contributed by Federal agencies. About 100 Federal and contractual staff contributed to Science.gov in FY2007.

Mr. Lahr's work towards the development of an international science portal (now WorldWideScience.org) received funding for consultants of less than \$10,000 in FY2007. This did not include the participation costs of ICSTI members, including Mr. Lahr, which we do not know.

USGS

The USGS Biologic Information Program mission is to create the informatics framework, provide the scientific content, and develop the public and private partnerships needed for the understanding and stewardship of our Nation's biological resources. The program's budget is \$20 million. The user population served is the National and international biological resource community. Major initiatives managed by Mr. Lahr include:

- National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) - A fully digital, interactive, distributed system that provides access to scientifically reliable natural science data and information.
- Gap Analysis Program (GAP) - State, regional and national conservation assessments of native vertebrate species and natural land cover types.
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) - An authoritative source of species names and their hierarchical classification.
- Vegetation Characterization (VEG) - Characterizes vegetation on public lands using a consistent methodology supported by national standards.
- World Data Center for Biodiversity and Ecology - A node of the World Data Center (WDC) System, this online resource contains data related to federal, state, non-profit, university, and private sector research data and information gathered within the United States, including land cover, species information, and national level data and information related to bird conservation, invasive species, fisheries and aquatic resources, wildlife disease, and amphibian decline.

Nomination of Thomas F. Lahr for Federal Librarian of the Year – 2007
Selection Criteria Statements – Professional Competency I. Managing Information
Organizations

In his leadership of the USGS Biologic Informatics Program and Science.gov, we are aware that Mr. Lahr demonstrated excellence in aspects A.1-A.7 described in the SLA competencies document. We are not aware of Mr. Lahr's work in relationship to advising about copyright and intellectual property issues and compliance at USGS, although he has been involved in discussions of such issues in his Science.gov and international science portals work.

Mr. Lahr's effectiveness in meeting these criteria has been demonstrated over the years in the increasing usage, budgets, size, membership, content, and partnerships of USGS and Science.gov. This trend continued in 2007. The incorporation of Science.gov content in the WorldWideScience.org demonstration Web site produced an immediate increase in usage of and exposure to Federal agency content contributed to Science.gov, because every WorldWideScience.org search automatically searched all Science.gov content. At one stroke, Federal agencies' scientific and technological information became more visible around the world, and Federal agencies acquired very important new partners across the globe, who are promoting Federal information content and services along with their own.

In fiscal year 2007 Mr. Lahr continued to help other Federal agencies undergoing the OMB PART analysis, based on his successful experience with the USGS PART analysis. He continued to take every opportunity to showcase and support the talents of not only his USGS colleagues, but also his colleagues within and outside the Federal library and information management community. For example, in his ICSTI National Science Portals forum work, he included not only his USGS colleagues, but also a people outside USGS from the Science.gov Alliance and the international scientific and technical information community. Whenever an opportunity emerged to promote Science.gov in interviews, articles, and presentations, he continued to highlight the contributions of colleagues throughout the Science.gov alliance. In his work on Science.gov content, he continued to provide leadership to a diverse group of information professionals including consultants and Federal staff. Version 4.0 of Science.gov was launched in Fiscal Year 2007 and development of version 5.0 was initiated. Mr. Lahr contributed to the development and promotion of version 4.0 and the development of version 5.0 by finding colleagues to test the software, participating in exhibits, presentations, and interviews, and advising on promotional materials.

Finally, Mr. Lahr's library and information management expertise and experience were instrumental in decision-making about priorities, new program development, and program modification for USGS, Science.gov, ICSTI and CENDI. Mr. Lahr has a keen sense of customer requirements and expectations, as well as considerable technological, financial and administrative expertise. He knows what needs to be done (or not done) and how to get results. His excellent interpersonal skills were especially obvious in the negotiations and interactions required for his Science.gov and ICSTI responsibilities.

Nomination of Thomas F. Lahr for Federal Librarian of the Year – 2007
Selection Criteria Statements – Professional Competency II. Managing Information
Resources

To our knowledge Mr. Lahr satisfies the requirements of all the criteria for this competency as described in the SLA document.

Both at USGS and for Science.gov, Mr. Lahr demonstrated his abilities to manage the full life cycle of information, build dynamic collections of information based on a deep understanding of clients' information needs and environments, critically evaluate, select and filter information resources, provide effective access to a broad array of quality information from many sources, negotiate information acquisition, and develop organizational information policies. The success of this work is reflected in the many positive reviews of and comments about USGS and Science.gov. One example of a recent Science.gov review is attached as supporting material.

In 2007 the breadth, depth, quantity and quality of USGS and Science.gov information continued to increase. Rather than attempt to list here the expanse of information managed by Mr. Lahr, we believe that the expanse and coverage of the USGS programs is exemplified by one of the USGS initiatives that Mr. Lahr manages and directs, NBII – see <http://www.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt> for lists of the types and number of partners, topics, and services. For Science.gov, its breadth of content, described at <http://www.science.gov/searchdbs.html>, grows daily. In 2007 a major new member of the Science.gov was the Library of Congress, whose important scientific and technical information is being added to the portal.

We believe that Mr. Lahr exemplifies excellence in effective management of very large bodies of information.

Nomination of Thomas F. Lahr for Federal Librarian of the Year – 2007
Selection Criteria Statements – Professional Competency III. Managing Information
Services

We believe that Mr. Lahr satisfies all of the criteria shown for this competency in the SLA document.

Because Mr. Lahr has senior management level responsibilities at USGS and for Science.gov, he does not personally perform all the tasks described for this competency. Rather, he leads and directs colleagues who are experts in these tasks.

In 2007, an example of this kind of service delivery was the completion and launch of Science.gov v.4. Developed, tested and promoted by many colleagues across Federal agencies, this version of Science.gov was extremely well received. An example of a review of Science.gov v.4 is supplied as supporting materials and other reviews covering Science.gov work in 2007 can be viewed at <http://www.science.gov/communications/archive.html#articles> Mr. Lahr is the co-chair responsible for the development of the content of Science.gov and we believe the reviews speak for the quality of his work in that capacity.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Lahr's experience with the OMB PART process was shared with other agencies in FY2007, including the National Agricultural Library. Mr. Lahr also provided advice on the development and use of Web metrics to other agencies, including the National Agricultural Library.

Information provided earlier in this nomination completes the picture of Mr. Lahr's effective in managing information services. We believe him to epitomize the qualities of a Federal Librarian of the Year. If any additional information, such as lists of publications and presentations, is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Supporting Material (attached):

1. Review of Science.gov version 4.0, launched in Fiscal Year 2007 – “The Go-to Portal for Science”