



S T SIGNAL S

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ACRL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2.

Fall 1988

ISSN: 0888-6563

FROM THE CHAIR, LAURA OSEGUEDA, University of California, Berkeley.

The year ahead looks filled with both new and continuing activities in the Section. STS will be exploring new ideas such as lobbying through the Legislation Committee, minority recruitment, and research forums. I have been pleased with the increased amount of communication within the section. In order to focus activities and communicate more easily at conferences we have created the STS Council. The Council, comprised of the Executive Committee and all committee chairs, will meet twice during the conference. These meetings will be great way to find out about activities if you are new to the section. We hope that more STS members will be able to attend the two discussion groups at Midwinter by scheduling them with no conflicts with other STS committees. While the Section's activities seem to revolve around ALA conferences, I would welcome any input from members who are unable to attend conferences or serve on committees. Please note my new address in the roster of the Executive Committee in the STS SIGNAL.

FROM THE VICE CHAIR, MARTY KESSELMAN Rutgers University. For those of you who don't know me, I'm the coordinator of online and instructional services at Rutgers University's Library of Science and Medicine. I've been active in the Science and Technology Section since 1980 and as Chair elect, I am very honored to serve the Section these next two years. I've found my participation in the Science and Technology Section and the contacts I've made to be invaluable. I know many active members feel as I do. So, if you've been thinking about participating in the Section's activities, I want you to know we have a place for you, and if you have any suggestions on how the Section can be more responsive to your needs, I would like to hear them. You can contact me at the Library of Science and Medicine, P.O. Box 1029, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854, phone 201-932-4728.

STS SIGNAL is a semi-annual publication of the Science and Technology Section of ACRL designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of the materials is preferable and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquires should be made to the Editor, Deborah Dawson, Science Library, University of Wyoming, P.O. Box 3262 Univ. Station, Laramie, WY 82071. #307-766-4264

STS SIGNAL is published twice annually in May and November. Editorial deadlines for each issue are April 1 and October 1 of each year if in electronic form. If the material is submitted in text it must be received one week earlier.

STS SIGNAL is available to all section members at no additional charge and is available to nonsection members for \$5.00/yr or \$3.00 an issue through the ACRL Office.

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Science and Technology Section Midwinter Meetings 1989 Washington DC

Day and Date	Time	Committee
Saturday, January 7	8:30-11:00	STS Council *
	9:30-11:00	Task Forces on Conference Proceedings Importance of Proceedings Bibliographic Access to Proceedings
	9:30-11:00	Comp. of Science and Engineering Libraries
	9:30-11:00	Legislation Committee
	2:00-4:00	Discussion Group
Sunday, January 8	8:30-12:30	1989 Conf. Program Planning Committee
	9:00-11:00	Membership Committee
	9:00-11:00	Oberly Award Committee
	2:00-4:00	Comm. on Subject and Bibliographic Access to Scientific and Tech. Information
	2:00-4:00	Planning Committee
Monday, January 9	2:00-4:00	Newsletter Committee
	8:30-12:30	1990 Conf. Program Planning Committee
	9:00-11:00	Publisher Relations Committee
	9:00-11:00	Planning Committee
Tuesday, January 10	2:00-4:00	Science Databases Discussion Group
	9:00-11:00	STS Council*

In conjunction with the Midwinter meeting of ALA, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the agricultural libraries information network will jointly host an Open House, January 6, 1989 from 9:00am-2:30pm at NAL in Beltsville, Maryland. The program will be repeated on Wednesday, January 11. The Open House will feature tours, discussions, and demonstrations of optical & digital technologies with applications for storage of full text publications and photographs, and for interactive training. Complimentary bus transportation will be provided from the Sheraton Washington Conference hotel. Registration is free, however, there is a small charge for lunch. Those interested in attending must register by December 7, in order to reserve lunch and transportation. For further information and a copy of the registration form, please contact: National Agricultural Library, Special Services Branch-Room 1402, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, Maryland, 20705, Phone (301) 344-3875

--Submitted by Elizabeth Goldsberg, NAL

STS Discussion Group--Midwinter

REMOTE REFERENCE ACCESS & SERVICES

The Discussion Group will grapple with the possibilities and problems presented by e-mail, fax, document delivery, bulletin boards, faculty-librarian scholarly communication and collaboration, and academic external programs. Come join in a very upbeat discussion on what others are doing. Share your latest success (or fiasco!).

Saturday

January 7, 1989

2-4 PM

If you would like to be a discussion group facilitator, contact either of the following two people:

Julia Gelfand
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1989 PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS The theme of the 1989 Annual STS Program will be "Designer Genes: A Crash Course in Biotechnology Issues and Resources." This Program will provide an opportunity for librarians to learn about biotechnology from three to four speakers. The keynote speaker will provide an overview of biotechnology, followed by additional speakers addressing three specific aspects of biotechnology: genetic engineering/recombination; bioethics; and animal experimentation. Also in the planning stages for the program is an information/demonstration table so that we could provide information on controversial topics that will not be covered in the program, and a reception. Final plans for the program and reception will be announced in the next issue of the Signal. --Submitted by Caroline Harnly

Robert Hayes, retired Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UCLA, presented the keynote address entitled, "The More Things Change..." His initial observations are that the importance of libraries will remain the same, and the media of centralized distribution (online) of information storage and CD-ROM products will be complementary. Our professional imperatives will remain: 1) Preservation of the Record, the acquisition and maintenance of collections of materials; 2) Providing access to the Record and its informational content. These imperatives are based on the assumption that the record of the past is important, and of sufficient value to the future to justify the costs of acquisition, storage, and providing access. Societies continue to depend on libraries for this preservation; publishers and producers will not and economically cannot take responsibility for the assurance of continued availability of their products.

These imperatives imply evident commitments by librarians to: 1) Open availability of information; 2) Free Service. Information should be a societal investment but free on an individual level; 3) Cooperation, via interlibrary loan and other supporting agencies. Unfortunately, these imperatives must be reconciled with economic and physical realities.

Interviews of faculty have generated issues to be resolved: 1) Storage and processing of digitized images. These media present a greater challenge than dealing with journal pages because they are not a replacement of print but represent an order of magnitude increase in the character of data contained. 2) E-mail will become the central component of scholarly information. What role can we play in providing access and preservation of information stored in dynamic form?? 3) Database Consultation. Librarians, in conjunction with the computing center staff, can provide a crucial role in assisting with designing, choosing software, indexing, and downloading functions of databases being created on campus. Should libraries preserve these individual databases? Should records be included in our full-service OPACs so these databases can be made generally available? 4) Project management. As faculty cope with interdisciplinary projects of significant magnitude, they will need assistance in identifying tasks and managing the interests of all participants. Librarians can consult in this area.

Other issues to be resolved include copyright, privatization, and limited access to online information. Current copyright law is a barrier to research and instruction. Universities must examine the effects of the limitations imposed by the government and outside agencies on the functions of teaching and research, preservation and access. Current government policies that threaten our imperatives include privatization, when single-source distribution provides a barrier to access and acquisition; and the restriction of the availability of information for reasons of national security in terms so broad as to cover almost all areas, e.g., socioeconomic data. Invisible colleges, especially when fostered by E-mail, also limit the open availability of information. E-mail can threaten the integrity of a reference to prior work or communication, because the data can be changed or removed.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOLLOWING INCLUDED:

"SERVICES"-David Kohl, Asst. Dir. Public Services, Univ. of Colorado, outlined the vision of CARL, the Colorado system for library automation composed of 6 core libraries, their affiliates, and 4 systems. Their vision is of one single system, through which users needn't enter the library to have all their information needs met. Implications of this vision include: 1) The design of the system must be self-explanatory, with many help screens. The experienced user should be able to bypass simple menus; 2) The system should be a gateway to vendor-produced databases as well as local systems, with both using the same command structure; 3) Full text is necessary, since patrons ultimately want information, not just citations. Possibilities for inclusion are commercial databanks such as Grolier's encyclopedia; databases constructed on demand with patrons being charged for the service; 4) New library tools can be created, such as inputting tables of contents at the time of

issue check-in. This would create subject access which could lead into an SDI service. Then the system can fax request needed articles and loan them into the database.

"WORKSTATIONS"-Mark H. Chignell, of USC's Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, defined a librarian's function as bridging the gap between technical and vocabulary problems associated with patrons' information needs. Intermediaries have strategic knowledge for problem solving, but patrons have domain knowledge. The function of intelligent interfaces used for library applications is to mimic both these types of knowledge, and provide quick and exact answers to patron queries. The building blocks of such a system are: a task analysis model, a user model, a translator between human and machine, hypermedia, natural language understanding, and direct manipulation of the graphic interface. Project Jefferson, a design for an intelligent interface in a library workstation, includes word processing capabilities; an electronic notebook that contains a paper-writing project, the OPAC, and mounted BRS databases. The paper-writing project is an example of CAI that provides step-by-step learning, is integrated with the library's transparent and standardized interface, and contains familiar metaphors for non-hackers that thus assure equal access to those who know nothing about computers.

"ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSFER:FROM LIBRARY TO USER" -Beth Forrest Warner, Asst. Dir. for Automation at LSU. Beth explained how electronic mail and telefacsimile work. Electronic mail can be used, for example, to notify patrons of the receipt of their interlibrary loan requests, for patrons to electronically ask their reference questions, and for librarians to send online search results after they have been downloaded. Telefacsimile is like having a copy machine at each end. Beth foresees the technology becoming more available, changes in networking capabilities, and better manipulation of data.

"COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DELIVERY" by Nancy Evans, Data & Information Services Manager at Carnegie-Mellon University. When acquiring electronic information librarians need to think about how it is to be stored (e.g. magnetic tape, optical disc, hard disc) and how it is to be delivered (e.g. floppy disc, mainframe, file server.) Many different types of information are stored electronically: reference works, statistical information, local OPACs, union catalogs, and primary or secondary text files. Questions librarians need to ask when acquiring electronic information include: what to do with print equivalents, what constituency they serve, impact on ILL, will you provide help in the use of magnetic tape services, and what are the implications for collecting private databases. Problems include their expense and the fact that many may be leased instead of purchased.

"EXPERTISE NEEDED TO UTILIZE TECHNOLOGIES" Danuta A. Nitecki, Asst. Dir. for Public Services, University of Maryland at College Park. Ms. Nitecki proposed that librarians need most the expertise to assure information is preserved and accessible for the user. In specific, five skills: (1) excellent verbal and nonverbal communication skills; (2) the ability to analyze the needs of the users; (3) the ability to retrieve data by utilizing online language and manipulation of data to create the information needed; (4) instructional skills to develop user aids and (5) management skills for both people and resources. All five categories must reside in all levels of library jobs: from the library administration to the public and technical services librarian.

"SERVICES TO REMOTE USERS" Helen B. Josephine, Information Manager, FIRST (Fee-Based Information and Research Service Team), Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ. Ms. Josephine described FIRST in the context of ACRL studies of fee based centers in academic libraries. Prior to 1965, there were only 7 such services in universities and colleges in the U.S. Between 1986 and 1988 the number grew to 19 and 8-10 new

services were being proposed. Typical services available are (1) document delivery; (2) verification; (3) research and online searching; (4) purchase service, such as NTIS accounts; (5) report writing or data compilation; and (6) translation services-- fewer programs offer the last two as part of their service. Ms. Josephine discussed how FIRST was set up and the impact it had on the library and their users.

--Submitted by your roving reporters, Denise Beaubien, Janet Fore, Caroline Harnly

COMMITTEE NOTES

STS Discussion Group on Science Databases

The Discussion group on science databases met for the third time in New Orleans. Special guests were Bill Funderburk from Pergamon Orbit InfoLine and Paul Dellenigne from ISI. Bill talked about the reorganization and plans for Pergamon Orbit. Questions and comments should be directed to the McClean office--800-421-7229. The vendor has 42 exclusive files and plans to remain strong in the areas of science and technology, particularly with patents. Paul answered many questions regarding the SciSearch CD-ROM and talked about a new product--Current Contents--Life Sciences which will be published on floppy diskettes and available in both IBM and Apple formats. The Discussion group decided it would continue to have representatives from vendors, but would also devote some time to specific non-vendor related topics. Any suggestions for topics should be referred to the co-chairs: Janet Fore, Science-Engineering Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 or Susanne Redalje, Chemistry Library, BG-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (BITNET sjr455@uwacdc or rasd.Redalje). --Submitted by Susanne Redalje & Mary Ann McFarland.

STS AD Hoc Legislation Committee

The Committee was formed as an ad hoc committee at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio; eleven STS members met for the first time at the Annual Conference in New Orleans. Preliminary discussion of legislative issues facing science and technology libraries lead to a consensus of the role of this newly formed committee. While the ACRL Legislation Committee takes a broad view of legislative issues, the STS Legislation Committee will focus on the specialized, subject-oriented issues of science and technology such as science government publications threatened by budget cuts. The first committee activity is to assess the national base of support for the Wildlife Review and the Fisheries Review, two indexes subject to cuts in the Department of the Interior budget for Fall 1988. A survey of various audiences for these publications will be implemented in Fall 1988. How to communicate with the STS membership was also discussed; suggestions included the STS Signal, C&RL News, or separate mailings. Liaisons with other legislative and government information groups within ALA, e.g. GODORT, as well as some major scientific and technical societies, e.g. American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Chemical Society, etc. were considered. The establishment and focus of this committee are in accord with the ACRL Strategic Plan, Goal III, Subgoals A and B as published in the January 1987 issue of the C&RL News. Frederick C. Sepp, Chair, Life Sciences Library, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. --Submitted by Frederick Sepp & Mary Ann McFarland

STS Discussion Group

Several topics relating to legislative issues were discussed during the STS Discussion Group meeting in New Orleans. This conference's discussion was facilitated by Frederick Sepp of Penn State University who is chair of the new STS Legislation Committee. Under the rubric of legislation several items were discussed such as the privatization of NTIS and FBI investigations of student records. The potential disappearance of government produced services such as Wildlife Review and the changing formats of government publications from paper to fiche and electronic formats were also discussed. Beginning with the 1989 Midwinter conference, Marty Kesselman turns over the general Discussion group to Julia Gelfand (Univ. of California at Irvine) and

Deanna Nipp (Rutgers University) as the new co-chairs. --Submitted by Marty Kesselman & Mary Ann McFarland.

STS Committee on Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

Recent changes in subject/bibliographic access are reported by Dorothy McGarry. New LCSH terms include: CD-ROM publishing; Distributed data bases; Integrated software; and Software protection. Revised LCSH terms include: DNA and RNA instead of Deoxyribonucleic acid and Ribonucleic acid, and Asteroids instead of Planets, Minor, although this may have less agreement than some changes. An astronomer who works in the subject field told me this summer that "Planets, Minor" is the preferred term in the International Astronomical Union. Some geologic time period names have changed: Algonkian is now Proterozoic; Neocene is now Neogene; Pre-cambrian is now Precambrian; Recent is now Holocene. Some biological group names have also changed: e.g. Dinoflagellata are now Dinoflagellates, and Medusae are now Jellyfishes. A large change for bibliographic access is the use of "England", "Scotland", "Wales", "Northern Ireland", and "Ireland", instead of country names as qualifiers. LC has provided a list of commonly used headings for place names in the British Isles that are affected. See Cataloging Service Bulletin, no. 41, Summer 1988 for more information--Submitted by Sara Shatford Layne, Chair.

Activities of the Committee, submitted by Susan Moore.

At the Committee's New Orleans meeting, Joyce Wilson of the H.W. Wilson Co. and Mary K.D. Pietris of the Library of Congress gave interesting presentations on how new subject headings are created by their respective organizations. Of special interest to catalogers was Ms Pietris's announcement that the Library of Congress is starting a program whereby other libraries may submit new subject headings: for details see Cataloging Service Bulletin, no. 41, Summer 1988. The Committee's Discussion Topic for the coming midwinter 1989 meeting in Washington is :INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH; PROBLEMS OF SUBJECT AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS.

Task Force on Proceedings; Finding Aids Committee

The name and charge of this committee under the Task Force on Proceedings has been changed. The Finding Aids Committee will now be called the "Committee on Bibliographic Access". Their statement of purpose is " to identify current indexes, abstracts, and major bibliographic tools which cover scientific and technical conference papers and proceedings; to describe how conference papers and proceedings are handled in these sources; to investigate the editorial policies of the publishers of these sources; to publish the results of these investigations as an annotated bibliography of sources useful to library professionals in locating conference papers and proceedings." --from Barbara Defelice, Committee Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS--Submitted by Barbara Kautz

Membership Committee

Maria Porta, Membership Committee chair, has created an STS membership database on PC-FILE+ from which she has produced lists of:

1. All STS committees and their members,
2. An alphabetical listing of officers and committee members,
3. Names, addresses and phone numbers of active members,
4. Volunteers

The Membership Committee will also prepare an informational brochure on STS committees to enhance the visibility of the section and encourage participation.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee reviewed and discussed directions and action for the Section. It was decided that the section plan should conform to the ACRL Strategic Plan and ACRL's targeting of STS for development. Questions were raised as to whether ACRL would provide funding. Development topics include: 1) increasing STS political

activity in sci-tech literature issues, e.g., NTIS privatization, 2) increasing minority involvement in STS, 3) appointing a study group to investigate increasing communication by increasing size and frequency of STS Signal, 4) establishing an orientation officer with a 3-5 year appointment who could shepherd committee chairs along and release chair from some responsibilities, 5) make the present secretary position a secretary/treasurer, to release the chair from budget/invoicing chores, (the present secretary suggested a separate treasurer position), 6) appointing a program chair, 7) appointing a study group to investigate how other groups handle a larger active membership. Laura and Marty will make appointments to the study groups.

Task Force on Conference Proceedings: Importance of Conference Proceedings

An article on the pilot survey will be submitted to College and Research Libraries by the end of August. A proposal for funding for a national survey on the importance of conference proceedings to scientists and engineers was submitted to ALA.

Comparison of Science and Engineering Libraries

Emerson Hilker reported. Fifty-one responses were received from the Fall Survey. The responses will be mailed to participants before the Midwinter Conference. The goals of the committee are:

1) increased committee membership, especially from the northeastern part of the country, 2) streamlining the survey instrument, 3) expanding the distribution list so that all ACRL libraries can respond, 4) formulating an ongoing budget, 5) analyzing the survey data (at present, only a summary of the data has appeared).

Publisher Relations Committee

Colleen Powers reported. A survey sheet was distributed to the publishers exhibiting, asking what their plans were for next year. For publishers not present, a survey instrument aimed at marketing directors has been designed. It will be discussed at Midwinter, 1989.

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