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SIGNAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION

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From the Chair, Colleen Power

As of July 15th, 1990, the Science and Technology Section (STS) had 1937 members! At last count we have twenty-one separate committees including four discussion groups, and more than 160 appointments to those committees. In less than ten years we've more than tripled in size.

Yet we are still worried that less than 50 students in library school last year had a degree in the sciences. To address this critical shortage of new science librarians, the section has undertaken two projects to encourage librarians to enter the science field. We have established a Task Force on Science Librarian Workshops that is seeking grant funding for projects to train non-science specialists. There is also a proposal in the works to establish a minority attendance fund to encourage the participation of underrepresented minorities in the STS activities at ALA.

There is room for you at STS! Each year the Chair and Chair-Elect appoint or renew roughly 100 committee members. We have yet to turn away a volunteer. All we ask is that you attend the twice yearly meetings, and become involved. There are several projects that have resulted in strong publication records by the committee members, plus there is the added pleasure of meeting with a great group of exciting concerned professionals.

So please turn to the schedule (pages 3, 8) describing the midwinter meetings in Chicago. These committees will meet at these times in January and

at roughly the same times in Atlanta in June. Attend the meetings. Locate Beverlee French, the incoming Chair of STS, and give her your committee appointment preferences. Most appointments are made in February and March for the coming year, but with 160 members there are always a few vacancies through the year.

I look forward to meeting you in Chicago!

Colleen Power
California State University at Chico



From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Beverlee French

For those who don't know me, I am the Assistant University Librarian for the Sciences at UC Davis. Because I will be making 1991/92 committee appointments, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in STS activities. The *ALA Handbook of Organization* describes the purpose of each STS committee and this issue of *STS Signal* highlights some committee accomplishments. If you are interested, we have a place for you. I hope your experience will be as rewarding and enjoyable as my participation in STS has been over the past several years. If you have questions about committees or suggestions on how the Section can be responsive to your needs, please contact me or return the Committee Volunteer Form on page 7.

Beverlee French
University of California, Davis

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 materials for submission is preferable, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to the Co-Editors, Martha Lyle and Kathy Wood, R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-3001. Phone: 803-656-5185. © American Library Association. STS Signal is published twice annually in May and November. Editorial deadlines for each issue are March 1st and October 1st of each year. 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/issue through the ACRL office.

Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences

Call for Nominations

The Eunice Rockwood Oberly Memorial Award was established in 1923 to give national recognition to bibliographic scholarship in the field of agricultural or related sciences.

The Oberly Award is given in odd-numbered years to the authors of an outstanding English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or one of the related sciences. The bibliographies are judged on accuracy, scope, format, arrangement, indexes, and text. To be eligible for the 1991 award, a bibliography must have been published in 1989 or 1990. The award which is administered by the Oberly Award Committee of STS will be presented at the 1991 annual ALA meeting in Atlanta.

Eunice Rockwood Oberly, librarian from 1908 to 1921 of the Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA, is honored by this award, which was made possible by a fund established by her colleagues. Recent contributors to the fund include the Associates of the National Agricultural Library and the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries.

Nomination letters are due by Jan. 1, 1991, to Alena Chadwick, Chair, Oberly Committee, Biological Sciences Library, 214 Morrill Science Center-South, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003 (Phone: 413-545-2674). If possible, please include a copy of the nominated bibliography.

Oberly Award Committee

STS Manual

Laura Osegueda (University of California, Berkeley), one of our past chairs, has recreated the *STS Manual*, which will be distributed to STS officers, STS committee chairs and STS committee members. It will serve as a guide to the activities, organization, procedures and policies of STS. The *STS Manual* is especially useful to new committee chairs and committee members in helping them learn the history of the section, their new duties as a chair and the policies, procedures and paperwork. As new committee chairs, we have found it an enlightening resource and Laura deserves a round of applause for recreating and organizing this valuable asset.

Kathy Wood, Martha Lyle

New Publicity Officer

Deana Nipp (Rutgers University, 201-932-3526) is the first STS Publicity Officer. She is making sure that the STS Discussion Groups and the Research Forum are being publicized in many library journals and newsletters. Watch for STS items and notice how the attendance at the Discussion Groups and the Forum increases!

Kathy Wood

Newsletter Editors

A note of thanks must be extended to Deborah Dawson (University of Wyoming) who was the *STS Signal* editor for the last three years. Martha and I are trying to fill her shoes as the new co-editors. We can be reached by mail at R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson Univ., Clemson SC 29634-3001, by telephone at 803-656-5185, or by E-mail (BITNET) at CUA-GREF@CLEMSON. We look forward to bringing you the STS news.

Martha Lyle, Kathy Wood

STS Officers

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California State University at Chico
Chico, CA 95929
916-898-4058

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:

Beverlee French
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION
1991 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
CHICAGO, IL

<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Fri/Jan 11	2:00-5:30 8:00-10:00 PM	Task Force on Bibliog. Acc. to Conf. Proc. STS Council I (begins 7:30 PM)
Sat/Jan 12	8:30-11:00 8:30-12:30 10:30-12:30 11:00-12:30 11:00-1:00 11:30-12:30 2:00-4:00 4:30-5:30	Publisher Relations Committee Comparison of Science & Technology Lib. Newsletter Committee Planning Committee Importance of Conference Proc. Task Force Oberly Award Committee SCIENCE DATABASES DISC. GROUP Task Force on Conference Proc., Joint Mtg.
Sun/Jan 13	8:30-12:30 11:00-1:00 11:30-12:30 2:00-4:00 8:00-10:00 PM 8:00-10:00 PM	1992 San Francisco Prog. Planning Comm. Membership Committee Nominating Committee GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP Heads of Sci. & Tech. Lib. Disc. Group Task Force on Librarian Workshops
Mon/Jan 14	8:30-11:00 8:30-11:00 8:30-12:30 8:30-12:30 2:00-4:00 2:00-5:30	Legislation Committee Subject & Bibliog. Access to Sci. Materials 1991 Atlanta Program Planning Comm. Research Forum Task Force College Science Lib. Disc. Group Preconference Committee
Tue/Jan 15	9:00-11:00	STS Council

1990 Annual Meeting, Chicago

STS Executive Council Meeting Highlights

The Library Workshop Planning Task Force, chaired by Julia Gelfand, will develop a grant proposal to the Department of Education for funding a workshop that will provide training in science librarianship. This workshop will benefit librarians who did not receive adequate instruction/experience in the sciences while in library school.

The Minority Award proposal will be submitted to ACRL committees and the ACRL Executive Board as soon as a sponsor is obtained.

The Section Manual was distributed to all members in the spring. The Past Chair of the STS will update and distribute copies of revisions annually, as needed.

The Planning Committee will revise the Section Bylaws. The revision is anticipated to be included as part of the 1991 ALA election ballot.

Nominees for ALA Representatives on two IFLA Standing Committees have been submitted to the ACRL Executive Board. The IFLA Committees are: Section of Biological and Medical Science Libraries, and Section of Science and Technological Libraries.

Harry Llull will chair the STS Electronic Bulletin Board Subcommittee, a new subsection of the Newsletter Committee. (See page 7.)

The STS Section will not maintain its own archives. Instead, the Section Secretary will forward all pertinent material to the ACRL Archives.

Reported by Denise Beaubien



Committee Reports

Comparison of Science/Technology Libraries Committee

The committee program, "What Do the Numbers Tell Us," was presented by Carole Armstrong, Don Frank, and Bill Brace. Carole presented the history of the committee; Don lead the discussion about how the survey has been used, including and an update on papers being prepared for publication based on the definition survey; and Bill reported on the status of the data entry for the third survey. Appreciation was expressed to the members who started the committee

and to cochairs, Emerson Hilker and Bob Michaelson, who coordinated gathering data for the surveys.

Information supplied by Harry Llull
Reported by Harry Llull

Directors of Science and Technology Libraries Discussion Group

Seventeen people attended the first meeting Sunday night, June 24. The informal dinners that lead to the formation of this group will continue at a time not conflicting with other STS meetings. Topics will be developed between meetings using e-mail. Suggestions may be sent to Bob Michaelson at: RMICHAEL@NUACC.Bitnet or RMICHAEL@NUACC.ACNS.NWU.EDU. The midwinter topic will be addressing traditional science and engineering stereotypes and how that effects our interactions with central library administrations.

Information supplied by Harry Llull
Reported by Harry Llull

Legislation Committee

Rick Sepp began the meeting with introductions and a brief review of the items of legislative interest. Kerry Keck distributed copies of an article on locating legislative information sources which is being submitted to *C & RL News*. Kathy Wood distributed a draft report reviewing science and technology information found in ALA legislative publications; this summary will be edited for distribution to new committee members to help them in learning past legislative issues. Christina Peterson led a discussion concerning future research on how effectively information on hazardous materials is being distributed using the Toxic-Release-Inventory (TRI).

Information supplied by Kathy Wood
Reported by Kathy Wood

Membership Committee

Maria Porta and Carole Armstrong are now co-chairs. The committee decided that Martha Lyle would update the STS brochure and include a committee volunteer form which could be mailed to Beverlee French. Maria will update themembership database and issue lists for STS officers and committees. Thomas Dowling will continue mailings to new members.

Information supplied by Martha Lyle
Reported by Martha Lyle

Nominating Committee

For Vice Chair/Chair Elect:
Susanne Redalje; Karen Feeney

For Secretary:
Lois Pausch; Helen Gbala

Reported by Helen Smith

Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences Committee

The evaluation form used for book reviews was revised. All members will now evaluate each of the nominees, with those by principal reviewers being the most in-depth. Preparations for sending out news releases and facilitating such future mailings are underway. Because of concern over the Award's endowment, the committee is at work on fund raising ideas, among them, contacting possible contributors.

Information supplied by Alena Chadwick

Reported by Lori Bronars

Preconference Planning Committee

Following the recommendations of the Preconference Task Force and the recommendation from the last section review, the first meeting of this committee, began planning a preconference on "Scientific Communication" to be held before the 1992 San Francisco Annual meeting. Members were assigned to contact potential speakers. UC San Francisco is a possible site because the new library will be open. The committee plans to explore the ways scientists seek and exchange information as well as the way librarians provide access to that information.

Information supplied by Karen Feeney

Reported by Mary Markland

Program Planning Committee--1991

The committee reframed the title and theme of the program to "Promoting Scientific Literacy: Can Libraries Meet the Challenge?," aligning the STS program closer to the ACRL President's 1991 theme, "Information Literacy." Proposed speakers from the National Science Foundation, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Atlanta institutions of higher education, Earlham College and Rutgers University are anticipated. The committee also selected SCITREK, the Science and Technology Museum of Atlanta, as the site for our 1991 reception and agreed to a birthday/anniversary theme, marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of STS.

Information supplied by Patricia Maughan

Reported by Becky Uhl

Sci-Tech Library Workshop Planning Task Force

Members are examining possibilities for federal aid to support a training program for science librarians and, as a consequence, applying for a number of grants. The programs are intended to be aimed at librarians in reference or collection development. The first program is planned for the summer of 1991 and may be hosted by Case Western Reserve Libraries.

Interest in hosting future programs has been reflected by other institutions.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand

Reported by Lori Bronars

Science Databases Discussion Group

Fred Glasser, a products development specialist in numeric and materials property services at Chemical Abstracts Service, discussed numeric databases. He reviewed the differences between text and numeric databases, and showed how numeric databases can be used in conjunction with bibliographic databases to answer questions easily, quickly and inexpensively. In addition, the capabilities of these databases may answer questions not possible to answer via traditional reference sources. For example, the TPROPS program can be used to produce tables and graph trends using the data available in the databases. STN makes available many numeric databases, including Beilstein, a compilation of data covering 3.7 million organic compounds; DIPPR, produced by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers includes property data on over 900 commercially used chemicals; and HODOC, online equivalent of the *CRC Handbook of Data on Organic Compounds*. Fred indicated that CAS Online and STN will continue to develop and make available numeric databases, particularly in the area of materials sciences.

Topics for future discussions are requested.

Please send your suggestions to Janet Fore, Chair Database Discussion Group, Science-Engineering Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 or jfore@arizrvax.bitnet.

Information supplied by Susanne Redalje

Reported by Janet Chisman

Science Librarians at Four Year Colleges Discussion Group

The first meeting of this new discussion group was attended by approximately 25 people, including Cynthia Steinke, editor of *Science and Technology Libraries*. Co-chaired by Alison Ricker and Sara Penhale, this group will examine issues and concerns of common interest to general science librarians who work in academic libraries. The initial meeting was devoted to suggestions for future discussion topics: research journal prices, faculty relations, collection development, bibliographic instruction, professional development, salaries and workloads, training of science librarians without a science background, and establishing service standards in a general science environment.

Information supplied by Gregg Sapp

Reported by Gregg Sapp

Committee Reports continued on page 6



**Access for Success:
Addressing Scientific Information;
STS Program
ALA Annual Conference 1990**

STS conference program planning chair, Caroline Harnly, thanked ALA for providing funding support for the program. Ivars Peterson, author of *Mathematical Tourist; Snapshots of Modern Mathematics* and a mathematics and physics reporter for *Science News*, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Peterson's talk, entitled "The Electronic Grapevine; The Changing Face of Scientific Communication", addressed the current trends in how scientists communicate. Computer networks, electronic mail, electronic bulletin board and telefacsimile machines have all affected the ways that scientific information is transferred. Mr. Peterson believes telefacsimile is more easily applied due to the fact that the telecommunications network is already in place and need not be further developed, as do electronic mail systems. Issues in electronic information that have yet to be resolved include security, availability, retention and compatibility.

Six breakaway sessions followed the keynote speaker. Participants were able to choose to attend three of the sessions. A wrap-up session giving highlights of each breakaway concluded the program.

Linda Kennedy (University of California at Davis) spoke on "Current Trends in Federal Electronic Information Dissemination." More federal information is being disseminated via electronic forms. This results in many use issues including staff training, standardization, and the discontinuation of print products.

Margaret Lindman, Jill Althage and Bernice Richter (Northeastern Illinois University) addressed "The Library as a Launch Pad for Learning about Science." The library can serve as a conduit between the scientific and nonscientific literature. This can help intrigue young people and adults about various aspects of science.

Marcia Tuttle's (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) talk was entitled "Librarians and Scientists; Divided We Fall." Cooperative strategies between librarians and scientists are necessary to combat the ever increasing price of access to scientific information. Serial subscriptions must be examined carefully to compare the value with the cost.

Colleen Power (California State University at Chico) spoke on "Conference Proceedings: The Reference Dilemma." The fact that 50% or fewer conference papers are ever published, but are in demand by researchers due to their timeliness and state-of-the-art nature, causes many problems. Bibliographic tools and search techniques were explained.

H. Robert Malinowsky (University of Illinois at Chicago) addressed "Accessing Scientific Online Database; Concerns and Issues." Access has always been a question throughout history and is now becoming more complicated. Electronic information should be easier to access but roadblocks are created.

More restrictions are placed as information previously available in print is now only accessible to users with the proper equipment.

Anna Wang's (Ohio State University) talk was entitled "Library at Scientists' Fingertips: Issues Involved in Disseminating Scientific Information in Multiple Formats." Issues faced by libraries in coping with the great variety of electronic formats include; protecting the integrity of the electronic data, copyright, bibliographic instruction, funding, preservation and bibliographic access.

Reported by Helen Smith



Committee Reports continued

Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

Mary Berger, Engineering Information, Inc., responded to the committee's list of problems using *Subject Headings for Engineering (SHE)* and *Engineering Index*. She discussed changes being implemented or considered by EI and promised to take the committee's suggestions for additional changes back to her company. The committee thanks Ms. Berger and Engineering Information for their responsiveness to its concerns.

The Committee will investigate the development of a preconference on the cataloging of conference proceedings for the 1993 meetings in New Orleans. Interest was also expressed in a program on analytics. Any preconferences or programs on cataloging topics would be developed in cooperation with ALCTS.

The discussion topic for midwinter will be subject access to theses, dissertations and non-book items.

Information supplied by Sara Shatford-Layne
Reported by Becky Uhl

Task Force on Proceedings, Committee on Bibliographic Access

Committee members and visitors reviewed progress on the production of the survey instrument for this fall's survey of science and engineering faculty's methods of access to conference papers. It will be sent to the ACRL Board for approval. An article describing the project and requesting volunteer participation for the survey will be submitted to *C&RL News* for the September Research Forums column. Results of that survey will appear in *C&RL News*. Due to her heavy schedule, Denise Bedford has stepped down as chair of the committee, however, she will still distribute the survey and run the initial analysis of the data. Susanne Redlajc is the new chair. This committee will continue for one more year, then all Conference Proceedings Task Forces will be merged and chaired by Laura Osegueda.

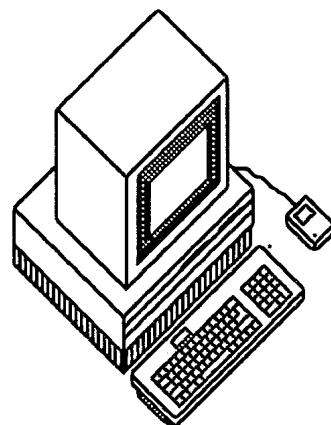
Information supplied by Denise Bedford
Reported by Mary Markland

STS Electronic Supplement

The first electronic supplement to the *STS Signal* was sent in June 1990 just before the ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago. The supplement provided additional information on meetings of new committees, discussion group topics, election results and requests for committee volunteers.

At STS Council, it was decided to create a new subcommittee to the newsletter committee. This subcommittee, which is chaired by Harry Llull (University of New Mexico) will continue the STS Electronic Supplement and will investigate the possibility of starting an interactive bulletin board for STS members.

The next STS Electronic Supplement will be sent out approximately one week before the Midwinter Meetings in Chicago. If you wish to receive the Supplement and have not signed up already, send a message to Harry. He can be reached by E-Mail at HLLULL@UNMB (BITNET) or HLLULL@BOOTES.UNM.EDU. (INTERNET), by mail at Centennial Science and Engineering Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87112 or by phone at 505-277-4734. If you have items to submit for the next supplement send them to Harry. He will respond to your notes after he receives them. If you are on other networks besides BITNET or INTERNET, contact Harry and he will attempt to add you to the distribution list.



Kathy Wood



ACRL Science and Technology Section Committee Volunteer Form

I am interested in serving on the following Science and Technology Section Committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison of Science/Technology Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Preconference Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program Planning Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directors of Science Libraries Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher Relations Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum on Emerging Issues and Research
Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Sci-Tech Library Workshop Planning Taskforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Database Discussion Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Librarians at Four Year Colleges Discus
sion Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject and Bibliographic Access to
Science Materials Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force on Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oberly Committee | |

Topics of personal interest:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax number _____

E-Mail address _____

Mail completed form to: Beverlee French, STS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Shields Library, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

**STS DISCUSSION GROUPS
ALAMIDWINTER 1991
CHICAGO, IL**

**Increasing Electronic Information Costs: Decreasing Information
Budgets: Are You Caught in the Financing Squeeze?**
Science Databases Discussion Group
Saturday, January 12, 1991
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Issues in Collection Development and Acquisitions in the Sciences
STS Discussion Group
Sunday, January 13, 1991
2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Overcoming Science/Engineering Stereotypes in Dealing with Central Library Administrators;
Coping with Facilities Problems and Constraints in Space**
Heads of Science and Technology Libraries Discussion Group
Sunday, January 13, 1991
8:00 - 10:00 PM

Using Student Staff in College Science Libraries
Discussion Group for College Science Librarians
Monday, January 14, 1991
2:00 - 4:00 PM



Newsletter Committee Contributors: Denise Beaubien, Lori Bronars, Janet Chisman, Harry Llull, Martha Lyle, Mary Markland, Gregg Sapp, Helen Smith, Becky Uhl, Kathy Wood

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