



SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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Fall 1993

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From the Chair **Janet Fore**

Welcome to the Fall issue of the *STS Signal*. As you are probably aware, ACRL has approved funding this year for two newsletters for each Section which produces a newsletter. Sections have made their concerns known to ACRL and the Board is concerned about the information needs of the membership. In the longer term, however, we must look at more and more cost efficient alternatives and your ideas about such alternatives are welcomed by both the STS Council and ACRL.

As we look forward to the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Los Angeles, you will see from the schedule in this *Signal* that there are numerous opportunities to get together, exchange ideas, and become involved in the Section. Nearly all of the Committee meetings are open and three of the regular discussions groups, General, Science Databases and Heads of Science Libraries are meeting and, as usual, will provide excellent fora for current topics for attendees. We hope to see you there.

As you know, ACRL President Tom Kirk's theme for 1993/94 is "Networking". The ALA Annual Conference programs from the ACRL Sections will be covering that theme from personal and professional networking to networked electronic information. The Sections are cooperating and co-sponsoring in efforts to provide the best group of programs without duplicating efforts. So keep an eye to this newsletter and the *C&RL News* for ALA Annual Conference developments.

The STS Council welcomes your ideas for ways in which we can continually make the Section more responsive to your needs as science and technology librarians.

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect **Katie Clark**

As Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, one of my most important activities will be to make Committee appointments for 1994/95. Most committee meetings are open, so Midwinter is a great opportunity for you to stop by and see what the different committees are doing. If you are interested in volunteering for an appointment, please fill out the Volunteer form in this issue of the *STS Signal* or let the appropriate Committee Chair know you're interested in serving. Appointments will be made after the Midwinter meeting in Los Angeles. Please consider becoming an active participant in STS by serving on a committee.

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1993 Annual Meeting, New Orleans STS Executive Council Meeting Highlights

- The Executive Committee discussed the role of the task force for the electronic newsletter. The task force will determine whether the section should have a network and/or a newsletter, as well as the type of information and the group responsible for each.
- ACRL's policy of charging everyone attending a pre-conference was a topic of discussion. This rose out of concern for the lack of support for the funding of volunteers working on a pre-conference.
- A call for suggestions for the 1995 ACRL conference in Pittsburgh was made. Previous ACRL conference programs have been criticized as redundant with respect to ALA conference programs.
- The ACRL Board has approved the funding for two newsletters this year. Their goal, however, is to move to one newsletter and explore alternative means of communication.

Information supplied by Janet Chisman

STS Electronic Communications Update

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL), the electronic publication of STS, covers longer reports of such things as the Discussion Group meetings held at the Midwinter and Annual meetings that will not fit into this newsletter. To subscribe, one just needs to send a request to ACRLSTS@HAL.UNM.EDU. STS members are encouraged to submit articles at the same address.

Reported by Harry Lull

1993 Annual Meeting: Committee Reports

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The topic for the College Science Librarians Discussion Group was "Group Therapy for Problems Facing Science Librarians." Although several

thorny problems were considered during this session, most of the "group therapy" was centered around Chemical Abstracts Service products and services. Concerns included: 1) Designing a program for teaching STN end-user searching to chemistry majors; 2) Challenges of team-teaching with faculty members; 3) Using DIALOG ClassMate to teach Chemical Abstracts (CA) searching; 4) Finding instructional materials for teaching end-user searching; 5) Seeking foundation grants to fund database trainers, workshops, online time, etc.; 6) Pursuing departmental funding to help pay for the collective index; 7) Encouraging faculty searching in their own office/department; 8) Making hard acquisition/cancellation decisions on the print CA, the collective index, and journals; and 9) Sharing concerns about the problematic CA CD-ROM product. Other concerns not related to CA included the escalation of document delivery requests due to journal cancellations and the questionable quality of CD-ROM products in the sciences. Despite end-user training of science faculty, most college science librarians are still doing mediated searches for them. The interchange of problems and ideas was quite helpful, and the group hopes to do more group support at future conferences and by electronic mail.

*Information supplied by Robin Raquet
Reported by Alenka Chadwick*

Comparison of Science/Technology Libraries Committee

The fourth edition of *Statistical Data for ARL Science/Technology Libraries in the United States and Canada* was given final approval for implementation. Julie Hurd, the incoming chair of the committee, led the discussion and the committee came up with a time-line for carrying out the survey. Fourteen STS members have been given assignments of libraries to contact based on the most recent list of ARL libraries. The survey will be sent out and collected during the fall of 1993.

Reported by Harry Lull

(Committee Reports continued on page 4)

SCHEDULE

Science & Technology Section 1994 Midwinter Conference Los Angeles, California

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, February 4 7:30-10:00	STS Council I (8:00-10 pm)*
Saturday, February 5 8:30-12:30	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries
9:30-11:00	Publisher/Vendor Relations Committee
9:30-11:00	Discussion Group Leaders
11:30- 1:30	Oberly Award Committee (11:30-12:30)* (Closed Meeting)
11:30- 1:00	Newsletter Committee (11:30-12:30)*
2:00- 4:00	SCIENCE DATABASES DISCUSSION GROUP
4:30- 6:00	Legislation Committee (4:30-5:30)*
Sunday, February 6 8:30-12:30	1995 Chicago Program Planning Committee
11:30-12:30	Planning Committee
11:30-12:30	Membership Committee
11:30-12:30	Nominating Committee (Closed Meeting)
2:00- 4:00	GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP
8:00-10:00	HEADS OF SCIENCE LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP
Monday, February 7 8:30-11:00	Legislation Committee
9:00-12:30	1994 Miami Program Planning Committee (8:30-12:30)*
8:30-11:00	Research Forum Committee (Closed Meeting)
9:30-12:30	Continuing Education
9:30-11:30	Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials (9:30-12:30)*
2:00- 4:00	STS Council II

* Time in parenthesis is time for listing in official ALA program, if different from actual time.

Research Forum Committee

About 40 hearty souls braved a New Orleans summer downpour to attend the Research Forum this June. The Forum Committee had selected 3 abstracts for presentation. The audience heard Dongming Zhang from Cornell discuss a cataloging assistance program, Kate Herzog from SUNY Buffalo outline her science serials use study, and Marilyn Christianson and Nikkie Cotter from University of North Texas present their evaluation of a CARL Uncover use investigation. The presenters entertained thoughtful questions and comments in a lively discussion period. Look for their abstracts in a future issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)*, the electronic communication of STS.

Check elsewhere in the Newsletter for details on how to submit an abstract for the 1994 ALA meeting.

Reported by Kathy Whitley

Legislation Committee

The primary discussion was about the conversion by GPO of important science and technology indexes, such as *STAR* and *ERA*, to fiche and their removal from the core list. If removed from the core list, depository libraries may not claim missing issues. The committee agreed that letters should be sent to the appropriate GPO officials, and the letters went out later over the signature of Karen Cargille as Chair of ACRL-STIS.

The Library of Congress gopher and NTIS' Fedworld were also discussed. It was agreed that the committee would continue to monitor and encourage Fedworld's connection to the Internet. Reports were heard from committee members who attended other legislation or government relations committee meetings at ALA. Assignments were made to cover the upcoming meetings at this conference.

Information supplied by Dottie Smith

Membership Committee

Marjo Gray summarized the reports made at the STS Council Meeting I. In particular, she reported that the Membership Committee mailed 236 brochures and letters of welcome from Karen Cargille to new STS members from June 1992 - July 1993. As of April 1993, STS had 1665 personal members compared to 1627 members in April 1992, an increase of approximately 2%. The number of organizational members dropped from 278 to 265 during the same period. These statistics are provided by ALA headquarters.

The committee also distributed almost 900 STS logo labels to be attached to conference badges. Feedback on this project is welcomed. The committee will discuss at Midwinter whether to continue this project.

CALL FOR SCI/TECH ABSTRACTS

Science and technology librarians -- take advantage of this opportunity to present your preliminary original research results or ALA committee findings by submitting an abstract to the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research. The Forum Committee invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians. Task Force members will select individuals to present reports of their research at the 1994 ALA Annual Conference in Miami.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship in methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Proposals should be limited to one page and should contain an abstract of not more than 250 words, as well as the researcher's name, institution, phone number and e-mail address (when available).

Lynn Sutton will take over the membership database when Thomas Dowling retires from the Committee after the Miami meeting. Marjo Gray, who will also leave the committee in July 1994, would like a volunteer to carry on the revision of the STS brochure, possibly with a desktop publishing program to allow rapid updating. This revision will be the main order of business at the midwinter meeting.

*Information provided by Marjo Gray
Reported by Mary Markland*

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has recruited Judith Carter (Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, TX) and Alison Ricker (Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH) to run for STS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect in the 1994 election. Julie Hurd (University of Illinois, Chicago) and Mara Sprain (Auraria Library, Denver, CO) have agreed to stand for Secretary. The election will take place in the spring of 1994 and the elected officers will assume their positions at the close of the 1994 ALA annual conference.

Information supplied by Beverlee French

Oberly Award Committee

The 1993 Oberly Award was presented at the STS Program to Albert Joy for *Acid Rain: A Bibliography of Canadian Federal and Provincial Government Documents*. Honorable mention was awarded to Dr. Donald Pfister, Dr. Jean Cargill, and Maria Eifler for *A Bibliography of Taxonomic Mycological Literature 1735-1821*.

The Committee is currently working on two articles that will be submitted for publication this year. The first article is a history of the award to be submitted to the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Information*. The second article will be a guide to preparing bibliographies.

The outgoing chair is Amy Paster, while the incoming chair is Michael Haddock.

*Information supplied by Amy Paster
Reported by Alenka Chadwick*

Planning Committee

The STS Planning Committee met June 27, 1993 to start the construction of the Section Review document, due to ACRL by March 1, 1994. A survey of committee chairs and past STS officers on ACRL relationships with STS was approved at this meeting. This survey was distributed at the second STS Council meeting in New Orleans. Helen Smith, as incoming chair of the Planning Committee will compile a draft review of the Section by October 30, 1993. This Section Review report covers sixteen questions posed by ACRL to the STS Council. As a part of the Section Review, Susanne Redalje and Emerson Hilker are compiling a list of STS Activities and publications from 1989-1993. Laura Osegueda will be asking current officers about current section goals and committee structure also as a part of the Review. After the STS Planning Committee has reviewed the draft Section Review internally, the draft report will be distributed at STS Council Midwinter 1994 for comment by the end of conference. In the meantime, anyone wishing to know more about the Section Review can contact Helen Smith, Life Science Library, E205 Pattee, Penn State Univ., University Park, PA 16802; phone 814-865-3706 or e-mail: hfs@psulias.psu.edu.

Information provided by Helen Smith

Preconference Committee, 1993

The first ever STS preconference was held Friday, June 25th. The topic of the preconference was "Science Reference Service: An Introduction for the General Reference Librarian." The participants were given strategies for success in answering all levels of science/technology reference questions in the areas of the biological, physical and applied sciences along with electronic resources. Speakers were Tom Kirk, ACRL president; Tony Stankus, College of the Holy Cross; Robin Raquet, Trinity University; Leann Weller, University of Kansas; Arlene Somerville, University of Rochester and Christina Peterson, San Jose State University. The preconference was well received with 46 participants and displays from a variety of vendors. This preconference is a pilot project for further science reference education. STS is contemplating establishing similar regional workshops in an effort to educate librarians who were not exposed to science reference courses during their library science studies.

*Information supplied by Caroline Harnley
Reported by Mary Markland*

Thus, more individuals were identified who then received introduction letters and invitations to the PVRC meeting. A name/title/address database has been created to assist in communicating with current and future attendees.

Some of the ongoing topics discussed during the past year include: changing economic realities affecting all three groups; increasing subscription prices and weakened library budgets; future publishing in CD-ROM format; electronic journals and other emerging technologies; document delivery issues; access vs. ownership; licensing and copyright issues; dual pricing strategies for hardcover vs. paperback editions; possible subscription to and use of *ISTL* by publishers and vendors; and the possibility of internships with vendors and publishers for PVRC and other STS members.

As a measure of the success of PVRC, the meeting in New Orleans set a fourth straight attendance record (35 attendees). Once again, publishers and vendors outnumbered librarians.

*Information provided by Michael Fineman
Reported by Mary Markland*

Science Databases Discussion Group

About 40 librarians and other discussion-minded conventioners joined in a lively discussion of various CD-ROM products, including the new CD-ROM from Chemical Abstracts Service, the 12th Collective Chemical Abstracts Index and Abstracts. Kathy Delker, product manager at CAS for the 12th Collective Index, first gave a brief presentation on the product, then fielded the onslaught of questions and comments. The cost, pricing structure and the decision by CAS to mimic the print version of Chemical Abstracts were all questioned.

The second part of the discussion focused on the issue of cancelling print indexes in favor of CD-ROM or tape-loaded products. A number of libraries are doing this in spite of the possible problems because they can no longer afford dual subscriptions, need the space and can no longer get library users to use the paper indexes.

The discussion also benefitted from the presence of Nancy Knight, a representative from SilverPlatter. She announced a new engineering index on CD-ROM and answered some licensing questions.

For a more complete summary of the discussion, see the September issue of the STS electronic publication, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)* or contact Ann Eagan, eagan@umpire.ece.arizona.edu, or Dawn Talbot, dtalbot@ucsd.edu.

The discussion topic for the Midwinter meeting will be "Is CD-ROM Dead? or Different Formats for Different Folks."

Information supplied by Ann Eagan

Committee on Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

The Committee is nearing completion of a guide to searching conference proceedings in the major bibliographic utilities. Judith Carter, outgoing chair, will explore the feasibility of publication by ACRL.

In 1990 the Committee's "Recommendations for publishers of conference proceedings" appeared in *C & RL News* 50(10):979-981. Work will continue on transforming these recommendations into an ISO standard.

In other business it was suggested that University Microfilms Inc. be invited to a future meeting to discuss the formatting of dissertation records. The treatment of electronic journals was discussed, with Amy Paster reporting on Penn State University's handling of them. Discussions on the accessibility of this material resulted in "lots of questions and few answers."

The incoming chair is Nirmala Bangalare.

Reported by Alenka Chadwick

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The incoming chair is Nirmala Bangalare.

Reported by Alenka Chadwick

New ACRL Electronic Communication

C&RL NewsNet is an abridged electronic edition of *C&RL News*. It became operational on September 10 and can be accessed through the Internet by using the Gopher server at the University of Illinois at Chicago (gopher.uic.edu, port 70). It is located under "The Library" on the menu. *C&RL NewsNet* contains the column "News from the Field" and job postings found in the printed *C&RL News*. This information will be made available two to three weeks prior to the printed version.

Reported by Gayle Baker

ACRL Science and Technology Section Committee Volunteers

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Science Librns. Disc. Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison of Sci-Tech Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Oberly Award Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum on Emerging Issues
& Research Comm. | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher/Vendor Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heads of Sci/Tech Libr. Disc. Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Databases Disc. Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subj. & Bibl. Access to Science Materials |

Topics of interest for programs and discussion groups:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Mail form to: Katie Clark, E205 Pattee Library, Penn State, University Park, PA 16802, phone: 814-865-3708, email: kec@psulias.psu.edu

From the Editors

We would like to recognize the efforts of the former co-editors, Martha Lyle and Kathy Wood Fescemyer of the R.M. Cooper Library at Clemson University. Their issues of the *STS Signal* set a standard for style and substance.

Many thanks to those who assisted us with our first issue of the *STS Signal*. We are looking forward to meeting with the members of the Newsletter Committee and interested division members at the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

Gayle Baker and Susan Starr

Newsletter Committee Contributors: *Gayle Baker, Alenka Chadwick, Harry Llull, Mary Markland, Susan Starr*

Electronic Publishing Assistance: *Martha Rudolph*

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