



SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair

Katie Clark

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Philadelphia in February! You will see from the Midwinter Schedule that almost all of the STS meetings are open, so if you are new to the Section or want to become involved, please come to a meeting. The three discussion groups (General, Science Databases, and Heads of Science and Technology Libraries) are a particularly good way to learn what's going on with other science libraries and librarians.

As always if you are interested in volunteering for a committee, please don't hesitate to contact me or Alison Ricker (see below).

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Alison Ricker

From my perspective, ACRL seems imbued with renewed vitality and enthusiasm about the future. There is a sense of cautious optimism about finances, as we look forward to the association conference in the spring. Rapid changes in electronic resources continue to provide invigorating challenges for members and the association alike, and increased reliance on electronic communication has given new meaning to networking. It is a great time to become more active in the association! What better way than to volunteer to serve on a committee or as discussion group leader?

There are plenty of opportunities to contribute to the mission of STS. I encourage you to review the activities of

committees as reported on the next few pages, and sit in on open meetings during Midwinter. Midwinter is an excellent opportunity to introduce yourself and express an interest in joining a group. You may also fill out the Committee Volunteer Form found within this issue, or contact me via email. I look forward to hearing from you!

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STS SIGNAL is a semi-annual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2517. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferable, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Gayle Baker, John C. Hodges Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1000, Phone: 615-974-3519, Fax: 615-974-2708, E-mail: baker@utklib.lib.utk.edu; Susan Starr, Science & Engineering Library, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0175, Phone: 619-534-1214, Fax: 619-534-5583, E-mail: sstarr@ucsd.edu.

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. It is also distributed through the STS-L listserv.

Electronic Publishing Assistance: Martha Rudolph

New Listserv for STS

STS-L is a moderated e-mail list sponsored by this section. The purpose of the list is to a): provide a forum for the discussion of issues primarily of interest to all science and technology librarians; b): provide a quick communication link between the STS section leadership and the members; and c): serve as a distribution point for STS publications. It is a public list, open to all interested persons. As of press time, over 800 persons have joined the list!

To join STS-L, send email to LISTSERV@UTKVM1.UTK.EDU with the following message:

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First-Name Last-Name

If you have any questions or problems regarding STS-L, please contact one of the moderators:

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Information supplied by Marty Courtois

STS Electronic Communications

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL), the electronic publication of STS, covers longer reports of such things as the Discussion Group meetings and articles of interest to the membership of STS. One may subscribe to ISTL by sending a request to ACRLSTS@HAL.UNM.EDU. It comes out four times a year with electronic updates right before ALA midwinter and summer annual meetings. The subscriber list for ISTL is approaching 1,000 electronic mail addresses, including a number of national and international bulletin boards. Past issues are available on the Internet in the North Carolina State Gopher.

Information supplied by Harry Llull

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group topic was "The Role of Subject Specialists in Sci/Tech Libraries." The co-chairs introduced two discussion leaders, both of whom are authors of articles dealing with subject specialization.

Crit Stuart, Assistant Director for Public Services at the Georgia Tech Library and author of "Education and Recruitment of Science and Engineering Librarians," which was published in *Sci-Tech Libraries of the Future*, opened the meeting. He discussed the shift from generalists to subject specialists at Georgia Tech. Lynn Williams of Auburn University authored "Subject Knowledge for Subject Specialists: What the Novice Bibliographer Needs to Know," published in *Collection Management*. She talked about how subject knowledge is acquired and used, and its usefulness in collection development. Most of the approximately 45 attendees participated in the discussion, which was lively and, at times, heated.

The co-chairs met afterward to discuss possible topics for the Midwinter General Discussion Group.

Information supplied by Carolyn Argentati

Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group

Paul Evan Peters, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information, facilitated a discussion about the *Association of American Universities Research Libraries Project: Reports of the AAU Task Forces*.

Information supplied by Carole Armstrong and Jeanne Boyle

Science Databases Discussion Group

The room was great for the Science Databases Discussion Group this time except for the fact that it was two buses or a \$20 taxi ride away from the convention center. The distance and the rather esoteric topic of numeric databases kept the number attending down to 25.

The lower number attending was probably just as well as the handouts speaker Cheryl Yearell-Vinson from STN had shipped from Ohio never arrived. Cheryl began with an overview of the numeric databases available from STN and then proceeded to guide us through several search examples from some of the materials property databases.

After her presentation, the questions, comments and discussion began. Many people said they were uncomfortable with numeric databases because they do not use them enough and were not aware such files were available.

The discussion moved to the use of the Internet for obtaining numeric information. Suggestions for where to find resources included the *Directory of Scholarly Electronic Conferences* by Diane Kovacs and subject specific Internet resource lists available from various gopher sites.

(continued on p. 5)

SCHEDULE

Science & Technology Section 1995 Midwinter Conference Philadelphia, PA

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, February 3 7:30-10:00	STS Council I (8:00-10 pm)* 9:00-10:00 Executive Board Meets
Saturday, February 4 8:30-12:30 9:30-11:00 9:30-11:00 11:30-12:30 11:30-1:30 11:30-1:00 2:00-4:00 4:30-6:00	Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group Leaders Publisher/Vendor Relations Committee Continuing Education Committee Oberly Award Committee (11:30-12:30)* (Closed Meeting) Publications Committee (11:30-12:30)* SCIENCE DATABASES DISCUSSION GROUP Legislation Committee I
Sunday, February 5 8:30-12:30 8:30-11:00 11:30-12:30 11:30-12:30 8:00-10:00	1995 Chicago Program Planning Committee GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP Planning Committee Membership Committee HEADS OF SCI/TECH LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP
Monday, February 6 8:30-11:00 8:30-12:30 8:30-11:00 9:30-11:30 2:00-4:00	Legislation Committee II 1996 Orlando Program Planning Committee Forum on Emerging Issues and Research (Closed Meeting) Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials (9:30-12:30)* STS Council II

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

ACRL NO CONFLICT TIMES

Sunday, 2-5	(ACRL Board)
Monday, 4:30-5:30	(Pres. Candidate's Forum)
Tuesday, 2-5	(ACRL Board)

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CONTINUITY & TRANSFORMATION

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March 29 - April 1, 1995, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Information supplied by Katie Clark

(continued from p. 3)

Attendees left the discussion with a better sense of what the numeric files in STN are and how to use them as well as where to find Internet resources.

Join us for our next discussion on Pre-Print Databases on the World Wide Web.

A more complete summary of the discussion is available in an upcoming issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Libraries*, an electronic journal.

Information supplied by Ann Eagan

STS Research Forum Highlights

Around 30 people braved the sultry Miami weather to attend the Research Forum V on Sunday June 26. It turned out to be an international gathering with one presenter coming all the way from Nova Scotia.

Ian Young from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada, presented his work on "Cross-disciplinary normalization of science publishing productivity applied to library materials budget allocation formulas." We also heard from Nancy O'Hanlon from The Ohio State University's Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education, on "Qualitative research on user needs as a basis for systems design for national clearinghouse of K-12 mathematics and science curriculum materials"—a refreshing look at a non-library science topic. Julie M. Hurd was the final presenter, sharing results from the STS Committee on Comparison of Science/Technology Libraries' survey "ARL science/technology libraries: report of a survey."

As usual, the Research Forum committee received many good abstracts, and we appreciate seeing your research efforts.

Information supplied by Kathy Whitley

Invitation to Submit Abstracts

The STS Research Forum invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians.

Selected papers will be presented at the 1995 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Abstracts should be: limited to one page, under 250 words, include researcher(s)' name(s), institution, telephone number, e-mail address (if available).

Proposals will be judged on the basis of timeliness of the topic, evidence of scholarship in methodology and relevance to science and technology librarianship through a "blind" review process.

Notification of the results will appear after ALA Midwinter 1995.

The deadline for submission is JANUARY 1, 1995.

Send abstracts to:

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Committee on Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The Comparison Committee devoted its meeting to discussion of preliminary results of its recent survey of ARL science and technology libraries and plans for further analysis of the survey data. At the time of the meeting 147 questionnaires had been returned by a total of 70 institutions (65% return rate). Data had been entered into a spreadsheet and distributed to those members who were assisting with analysis. Each committee member reported on the portion of the study she had analyzed and the group identified additional analyses that could be carried out. Options for journal publications were explored and a tentative plan was developed.

Additional returns will be accepted until August 1; all committee members were urged to contact non-respondents again in an effort to improve the response rate. Updated raw data files will be sent to all those working on analysis with October 1 established as the date by which work should be completed. A preliminary report of survey findings describing the academic ARL libraries was presented by the committee chair during the Forum on Science and Technology Library Research.

Information supplied by Julie M. Hurd

ACRL/STS Conference 1995 Program Planning Committee; Chicago, 1995

Plans for the Chicago 1995 program were discussed. The results of the questionnaire distributed between April and June were reviewed. There were approximately 35 responses. The title will be "Preserving the Record of Science and Technology: A Plan for Today and Tomorrow". The program will be held on Monday June 28, 1995 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. There will be 3 speakers. It will be followed by a poster/demonstration session. Council members are encouraged to contact committee members with names of institutions that are currently engaged in any form of preservation of science or technology materials. Speakers will be finalized at the next meeting. Plans for the annual reception were also considered. It is to be held on Sunday, June 25, 1995 at 6:00 pm at the Adler Planetarium. A skyshow will be part of the reception.

Information supplied by Amy Paster

Membership Committee

The primary topic of discussion at the membership committee meeting was the revision of the brochure and the redesign of the STS logo. We decided to print a small number of brochures with minor corrections to use until the revisions are complete. At Council, we discussed having an ASCII art contest to design a new logo.

Membership is down slightly. ACRL total membership decreased 1.86% between March 1993 and March 1994. STS membership decreased 2.84% in the same time period. The only sections whose membership increased were: Afro-American Studies Librarians (17.75%), Anthropology and Sociology (0.82%), Extended Campus Library Services (13.84%), and Western European Specialist (0.25%).

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Oberly Award Committee

Four nominees have been submitted so far. Press releases were sent to agriculture related societies and associations and library publications, and committee members will contact publishers.

Judging of the Oberly Award nominations will take place at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia in a closed session.

Information supplied by Mike Haddock

Planning Committee

The planning committee spent the meeting time looking over the STS manual. This publication will be updated.

Information supplied by Helen Smith

Publications (Newsletter) Committee

The committee discussed the proposal for the ACRL Science & Technology Listserv and made changes based upon the discussion at the STS Council meeting. It was decided that the listserv would be co-moderated by Martin Courtois and Terry Wittig. The actual listserv will be at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The software will be tested during the month of August 1994, and the listserv will become "active" around the middle of September 1994.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker

Publisher/Vendor Relations Committee

Ann Schaffner, Assistant Director of the Science Library at Brandeis, gave an excellent presentation on "The Future of Science Journals—Will Technology Make a Difference?" Ann discussed the basic functions of journals, lessons from the past, and the current state of the art. She ended her discussion with a series of questions to be discussed. Will e-journals be cheaper? Where will they be stored? Will they change the way we work and think? Her presentation was well received and was a basis for discussion and debate among the visitors and committee members.

Billie Reinhart provided handouts that represented a sample of a good Internet resource — the ACS Gopher. She pointed out some of the attributes of the gopher that she found to be very useful, such as the keyword searching of the book catalog, the instructions to authors for the ACS journals, and the order form.

Information supplied by Billie Reinhart

Committee on Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

ACRL has published the *Guide to Searching the Bibliographic Utilities for Conference Proceedings* (ISBN: 838977340), edited by Nirmala S. Bangalore and Judith Carter. The cost is \$6.95 for ACRL members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. It was available to participants of the Preconference on the Bibliographic Control of Conference Proceedings.

ACRL has reapproved the publication of *Science and Engineering Conference Proceedings: A Guide to Sources for Identification and Verification* pending some revisions. Concerns voiced by ACRL included: lack of information regarding the availability of sources on CD ROM, the Internet as a source for information on conference proceedings, and a need for updating. The Committee offered to help the editor, Barbara DeFelice, with this publication. Intern William Beer agreed to help with the CD ROM aspects. The committee is willing to update this tool every other year as an ongoing project.

Copies of the proposal for the NISO standard on "Title Page Information for Conference Proceedings" as well as the draft document will be forwarded to members by Nirmala S. Bangalore. She also reported on this proposal at the meeting of the CCS/SS Committee to Study Serials Standards. This Committee has agreed to cooperate on the NISO proposal.

Lively discussion ensued on the topic of currency and appropriateness of subject headings in the sciences and technology. Many institutions are adding subject headings in these fields even on copy cataloging records. John Mitchell described the process of submitting new subject headings to the Library of Congress and encouraged the group to help LC coin new and useful terms.

Information supplied by Nirmala S. Bangalore

Oberly Award for Bibliography in Agricultural Sciences

The Oberly Award was established in 1923 in memory of Eunice Rockwood Oberly. This biennial award is given in odd-numbered years for the best English language bibliography in the field of agriculture or related science.

Award: A cash award and citation funded by an endowment created by individuals and vendor contributions, including the U.S. Agricultural Information Network, the Agway Foundation, Associates of the National Agricultural Library, the Counsel on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, and the Cargill Information Center.

Eligibility: English-language bibliographies in the field of agriculture or a related science compiled during the two-year preceding the year in which the award is made.

Criteria: Bibliographies submitted for award consideration are judged on accuracy, scope, usefulness, format, and special features such as exploratory introductions, annotations, and indexes.

Submission Procedure: Nominations may be made in the form of a letter and should point out the reasons the bibliography should be considered for the award. A copy of the bibliography should accompany the nomination. Send nominations to Oberly Jury Chair, Mike Haddock, Farrell Library, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Deadline: December 1, 1994

ACRL Science and Technology Section Committee Volunteer Form

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Science Librarians Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison of Sci-Tech Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Oberly Award Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum on Emerging Issues & Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher/Vendor Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heads, Sci-Tech Librarians Discussion Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Databases Discussion Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject & Biblio. Access to Science Materials |

Topics of interest for programs and discussion groups:

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STS SIGNAL

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