

STS *SIGNAL*

ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES
A DIVISION OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair, Alison Ricker

Recent communications from ACRL President Patricia Breivik and Executive Director Althea Jenkins have stressed the importance for each ACRL unit to be familiar with the new ACRL strategic plan. I urge each STS member to review the plan, published in *C&RL News* (September 1995): 571-572. The goals and activities of STS should support the strategic plan and ACRL goals and directions as much as possible. In addition, President Breivik has asked that each activities section "undertake some effort to document by the end of Midwinter (1996) how the abilities and skills of your particular membership are translatable into more general leadership situations outside library walls." This is in keeping with the ACRL theme for the 1996 Annual conference: EVERY LIBRARIAN: A LEADER.

If you are interested in contributing to the STS document regarding leadership qualities of science, technical and engineering librarians, please contact me as soon as possible. We need a coordinator for this effort, to be responsible for bringing a draft document to the STS Council meeting at Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, as well as individuals willing to contribute their ideas!

There are many other opportunities to participate in and contribute to STS activities! Many of our committees will be meeting at the same time slot during Saturday and Sunday morning of Midwinter, in one room large enough to accommodate several committees in separate areas. This arrangement will facilitate movement from one committee to another with relative ease, so feel free to observe at any open meeting! Plan on participating in discussion groups also; I view them as the reward for working hard in committees all morning, as they provide a great forum for sharing information with colleagues.

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Amy Paster

ACRL recently adopted a new strategic plan. There are four basic goals to the plan: ACRL as developer of people and practice; ACRL as partner and advocate; ACRL as player and advocate; and ACRL as an effective organization. As a section of ACRL, their goals are our goals. You can help ACRL and STS by becoming an active member of the section.

For those of you who are new to the section, please review the Committee Volunteer Form which is included in this issue of the *STS Signal*. Midwinter is when most committees are planning for Annual programs, most of the meetings are open and welcome interested members. If you are interested in volunteering for an appointment, please complete the Volunteer Form and let the appropriate Committee Chair know that you are interested in serving.

(continued)

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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.

Appointments will be made after the Midwinter meeting in San Antonio.

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New STS Logo

This issue of the *STS Signal* is printed with the new logo for the Science & Technology Section. It was designed by Eduardo Gonzalez, Science and Nursing Librarian at Arizona State University West Library. Ed has been a member of the ACRL Science & Technology Section since 1992 and is currently serves on the STS Membership committee. He has a B.A. in Biology from the University of San Diego and earned his M.L.S. from San Jose State University. We salute Eduardo Gonzalez for responding to the call for a new section logo!

STS Electronic Communications Update—STS-L

STS-L is a moderated discussion group sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries and uses the revised LISTSERV software. All messages are received by the moderators and then distributed to the group. Currently, the list has over 900 subscribers..

To Join STS-L, send the following message to:

LISTSERV@UTKVM1.UTK.EDU

(do not include a period after EDU). The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow to leave this line blank, try typing only a period (.) on the SUBJECT line.

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name

Information supplied by Marty Courtois

1996 Conference Program Planning Committee

The committee made excellent headway in planning the 1996 program. The program will focus on the progress made to date in recognizing Vannevar Bush's ideas from 1945 of the scholar's workstation. The name of the program will be: "Leaders on the Web Trail: Defining the Scholar's Workstation." The committee chose and prioritized a list of speakers for each of the three slots planned. They modified the program structure to include "product demonstrations," possibly in an adjoining room. In addition, plans are underway for a Web page that will be announced at the 1996 Midwinter Meeting; the page will serve as advertising

for the program and will include a link to Bush's 1945 Atlantic Monthly article. Prior to the Annual conference, prepared remarks from the speakers will be added. Possible sites for the Sunday night reception were discussed and narrowed down. Committee members then took on assignments for contacting the speakers, arranging publicity, designing an evaluation form, and choosing the reception site.

Information supplied by Elizabeth Brown

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The College Science Librarians Discussion Group met Saturday morning to discuss electronic journals in the undergraduate library. 24 people attended, including a number of librarians from university and research libraries, so a wide range of interesting perspectives was represented. The discussion ranged over a number of issues. The point that e-journals are fast becoming a reality in the sciences was reinforced by reports that: electronic-only journals are now being indexed in *MathSci* and *Chemical Abstracts*; and that some publishers—for example the *ACM Transactions* journals—are committed to going totally electronic, including archiving and maintenance.

The issue of technical support and user education was discussed, and someone raised the question of whether the library needs to be able to provide support for applications such as TeX and PostScript that go hand in hand with scientific e-journals. The salient point was made that we need to get past the technical mechanics of electronic information, so that we can get to what we're really supposed to be doing as librarians—dealing with the intellectual content.

The CSLDG will not be meeting officially at Midwinter, but we plan to get together informally over dinner Saturday night. For more information, contact Victoria Mitchell, Reed College Library, Portland, OR, 97202 503-777-7272, mitchell@reed.edu; or Penny Russman, Science Library, Wesleyan University, Church St., Middleton, CT 06059, 203-685-3733, prussman@wesleyan.edu.

Information supplied by Victoria Mitchell

Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group

Twenty-six librarians attended this discussion on innovative outreach and liaison activities. Guest Doug Jones, Sci/Tech Team Leader, University of Arizona, started off by talking about UA's efforts in "connection development," which combines intensive librarian involvement in campus faculty organizations, along with programs to raise awareness of information policies and resources. An extensive needs assessment study has also been completed there, which

focuses attention on the "user-centered" library model. Bob Michaelson, head of Northwestern University's Science-Engineering Library, spoke about the opportunities for outreach gained from a federal grant to Northwestern—part of which is earmarked for technology transfer—for research into road repair technology. Gopher and Web resources have been created to provide electronic gateways to information and text in this field. Susan Norrissey, Reference Librarian at Texas Tech University, rounded out the guest speakers, and noted the special efforts underway there to compensate for long physical distances between researchers and the general library. Direct consultation about reference and collection development, as well as remote library services, are helping to narrow the gap.

In the general discussion several librarians noted the "opportunities" for enhanced contact with faculty that arise from serials cancellation projects. The growing importance of the Worldwide Web was also mentioned by some as a new method of getting the word out to researchers who are increasingly able to do library research remotely. Susan Starr shared details of the well-known Web site at UC-San Diego's Science-Engineering Library. Julia Gelfand mentioned UC-Irvine's efforts to bring online demonstrations literally to users' labs, with mobile demo units (refreshments included!).

Effective outreach is a challenge for all types of library settings, especially as libraries extend more services to remote users. This discussion provided a glimpse into what a number of academic libraries are doing to take advantage of newfound opportunities.

Information supplied by David Flaxbart

STS General Discussion Group

"Organizational Trends in Sci-Tech Libraries: Examples from the University of Arizona" was the topic of the General Discussion Group's session in Chicago. Two University of Arizona librarians, Doug Jones, leader of the Science/Engineering Team (SET), and Shelley Phipps, Assistant Dean for Team Facilitation, spoke to the group about the theory and reality of the "flattened" organization.

The flat structure was implemented at Arizona in 1993. Many departments split or merged to form new ones. Department head positions were eliminated. Team Leader positions were created, and all report directly to the University Librarian. Staff members had to re-apply for many positions. Although AUL slots remain, they are now staff, rather than line, positions. The process of reassigning staff to different positions was discussed in detail, and generated many questions.

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1996 Midwinter Conference • San Antonio, Texas

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, January 19		Sunday, January 21	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	8:30-11:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (Closed Meeting)
9:30-10:00pm	Executive Board	9:30-12:30	1997 San Francisco Program Planning Committee
Saturday, January 20		9:30-12:30	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries
8:30am -12:30pm	1996 New York Program Planning Committee I (with all ACRL 1996 program planning committees)	9:30-12:30	Continuing Education Committee
9:30-12:30	Discussion Group Leaders Meeting	9:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	Membership & Recruitment Committee	2:00-4:00pm	GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP
9:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)	8:00-10:00pm	HEADS OF SCIENCE LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP
9:30-12:30	Publications Committee	Monday, January 22	
9:30-12:30	PUBLISHER/VENDOR RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP	8:30-11:00am	Legislation Committee II
9:30-12:30	Subject & Bibliographic Access	2:00-4:00pm	STS Council II
2:00-4:00pm	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DATABASES DISCUSSION GROUP		
4:30-05:30pm	1996 New York Program Planning Committee II		
8:00-10:00pm	Legislation Committee I		

*Time in parentheses is for official listing in ALA Schedule, if different from actual time.

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While there are many aspects of the Arizona organization that differ from traditional library hierarchies, several were emphasized. For example, a commitment to teamwork and staff accountability are integral to a flatter organization. The concept of customer-driven services is important, with a goal of user self-sufficiency. To further illustrate what is expected of librarians in reference positions, Doug distributed a recent position description.

Several Discussion Group participants described similar changes in their own organizations. While such reorganizations are challenging and often full of unexpected ups and downs, they clearly offer opportunities for constructive change in sci/tech libraries.

Information supplied by Carolyn Argentati and Julia Zimmerman

Science Databases Discussion Group

Some 33 librarians attended the Science Databases Discussion Group meeting on Sunday, June 25th in Chicago.

Gad Engler, the Engineering and Patents Librarian at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, introduced the topic, "Web Worms and WAIS: Search Engines on the WWW." With his background in engineering and computer programming and his frequent use of the Net, Gad was more than qualified to lead the discussion.

Before turning to discuss search engines, Gad presented a very clear overview of the Web which he accompanied with handouts. He looked at a number of features of the WWW and its particular strengths. He then went on to look at Web Worms, again providing a clear overview before proceeding to discuss the worms themselves.

Areas touched on included pros and cons of web search engines, and Yahoo, a personal favorite for Gad. Some problems were the uneven quality of documents retrieved, the troublesome nature of relevancy ranking used by

many search engines and the inability to refine searches on the Web as we are used to doing in other search arenas.

Along with handouts prepared by Gad Engler were a list of Search Sites prepared by Aggi Raeder, consultant and former science and engineering librarian at UCLA. Gad Engler can be reached at notgad@isuvvm.sncc.lsu.edu. Aggi Raeder can be contacted at raeder@seas.ucla.edu.

Information supplied by Ann Eagan and Dawn Talbot

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The manuscript summarizing the findings of the fourth survey was reviewed by *College & Research Libraries*. The reviewers and editor suggested revisions. The committee also provided suggestions for possible revisions and discussed making the full data set available to interested individuals. This could be done without compromising the identities of the respondents, many of whom wished to remain anonymous.

Marilyn von Seggern is working with Donna Cromer on a study of staffing patterns and will use some of the survey data relevant to that topic. The committee also discussed issues related to the analysis of the staffing data and offered suggestions.

New directions for committee activities were identified to assist incoming chair Bonnie Osif in her planning. Some suggestions included determining which aspects of the survey are most useful to science/technology librarians and addressing problems related to missing data in some returns. The committee considered carrying out smaller, more-focused surveys on particularly timely topics before organizing another comprehensive survey. An example of a development of current interest is funding for electronic information sources and accompanying hardware and software.

Information supplied by Julie Hurd

Continuing Education Committee

Members and visitors introduced themselves and the roster was circulated for corrections. The Chair presented the minutes from the Midwinter's meeting. The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussion of various projects. Two members volunteered to study the membership survey form and draft a new form. After a discussion on our proposed mentor program, two members volunteered to draft a notice seeking feedback from STS membership regarding such a program. The membership decided we needed more discussion on possible electronic continuing education activities.

Information supplied by Susan Norrissey

Legislation Committee

The committee shared information on legislative developments that affect science and technology libraries, gathered from several meetings/groups. The major concern was a proposal for a major revamping of the Depository Library system. The committee discussed the best means for distributing information to STS members. It was decided that STS-L would be the best medium for this. It was also decided to survey the members of the mailing list on the kinds of information desired.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee selected the new STS logo which will be used on print and electronic publications. It also approved the text of the new brochure.

Committee members agreed to investigate the feasibility of comparing the STS membership list to the list of subscribers to STS-L to identify potential new members, and to use the attendance sheets from STS meetings for the same purpose. The group also discussed methods of promoting diversity in STS and actively recruiting new members through a liaison with NMRT.

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Oberly Award Committee

The 1995 Eunice Rockwood Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences was presented at the start of the STS Conference Program. "A Guide To The Zoological Literature: The Animal Kingdom," by George H. Bell and Diane B. Rhodes, was named the recipient of the 1995 Oberly Award. The Oberly Committee met on Saturday, June 24th and began discussion of several issues that will need to be considered further in the coming year. Among the topics covered were the handling of electronic bibliography submissions and the need to inform all nominees of the final award decision. JoAnn DeVries is the incoming Chair of the Oberly Committee. The next Oberly Award will be presented at ALA Annual in 1997. The deadline for submitting nominations will be December 1996.

Information submitted by Mike Haddock and JoAnn DeVries

Planning & Organization Committee

The Planning & Organization Committee discussed the STS Manual. The Manual is now finished and has been handed out to most of STS Council. Following ALA, the Manual will be mailed to all current STS committee members. The committee then discussed future plans for the Science and Technology section, especially with regards to the proposed reorganization of ALA.

Information supplied by Helen Smith

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee made minor changes to the draft description of the purposes of the section publications. The new draft will be distributed to the committee for review and then to the STS Council for discussion at the Midwinter Meeting.

The discussion then centered on a proposal to set up an STS homepage for the World Wide Web. Items suggested for inclusion on an STS homepage were section information (section manual, current committee chairs and co-chairs, etc.), a pointer to *ISTL* issues, a current topics discussion list (from STS-L discussion threads), program information, etc. David Atkins and Janet Hughes volunteered to work with a representative from the Membership Committee on the Web page.

The committee then discussed the need for a board of regional editors for *ISTL*. They would advise the editor and assist in generating articles. Harry Llull will draft the call for volunteers and distribute through the STS-L listserv. Applicants will be required to be members of STS and write a statement of interest and qualifications. The applications will be reviewed by the Publications Committee at the Midwinter meeting.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker & Susan Starr

Publisher/Vendor Relations Committee

The committee discussed the STS Council request to examine the committee's charge as well as its status as a committee or a discussion group.

John Tagler of Elsevier was the guest speaker. He discussed their Electronic Subscription Project as an outgrowth of the TULIP project. He sees a movement of electronic publishing geared to the World Wide Web. ILL/Document Delivery issues will need to be addressed.

Ann Schaffner from Brandeis University reviewed their efforts to make electronic published journals available to their users and to track use as well as develop selection criteria for purchasing such journals.

Information submitted by Joe Galbraith

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The official name of the committee was changed to "Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee." The committee's charge was reviewed and slight modifications were made to reflect changes in scope.

Publication of *Science and engineering conference proceedings: a guide to sources for identification and verification* edited by B. DeFelice was announced. The roles of several committee members were noted. Updating of the guide every other year will be undertaken by the committee as an ongoing project.

Nirmala Bangalore gave an update on her proposal to the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) for *Title page information for conference proceedings*.

John Hunter gave an update on his project *Handling of theses and dissertations: the dilemma*. Inadequate nomenclature to describe leading edge research in various disciplines is a serious drawback not totally overcome by keyword access in various OPACs. Authorized subject headings are not current and often not specific. The end user is often not aware of the existence of these valuable resources. Hunter summarized the results of his survey and described the impact of minimal cataloging of theses and dissertations.

Cataloging of electronic resources was discussed. Reference was made to possible new rules to describe electronic conference proceedings and the soon-to-be released module on electronic serials in the CONSER guide. John Mitchell mentioned that the Library of Congress has authorized use of a new free floating subdivision "interactive multimedia" to describe this new category of material.

Mitchell urged catalogers to continue helping LC in setting up new subject headings. The Subject Authority Cooperative (SAC) has an electronic form for reporting new subject headings in addition to the traditional paper form. Justifiable new subject headings with adequate documentation appear in the subject authority files 4-6 weeks after submission.

Information supplied by Nirmala S. Bangalore

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

Science and technology librarians and information specialists—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. Committee members will select individuals to present reports of their research at the 1996 American Library Association Conference in New York.

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).

The deadline for submission is January 3, 1996. Papers will be selected at ALA Midwinter 1996. Send abstracts to: Sheila Johnson, Oklahoma State University Library, 204 Library, Stillwater, OK 74078-0375 or sheila@okway.okstate.edu or fax 405-744-7579. For more information, she can be reached at 405-744-5271.

ACRL Science and Technology Section Committee Volunteer Form

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison of Sci-Tech Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Recruitment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Oberly Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Science & Technology Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject & Bibliographic Access |

I am interested in chairing the following discussion groups:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Science Librarians | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher/Vendor Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology Databases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heads of Science & Technology Libraries | |

Topics of interest for programs and discussion groups:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

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