



STS SIGNAL

Science and Technology Section
Association of College and Research Libraries

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Fall 2012

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ALA Midwinter Conference Schedule for STS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Council I	1/25	7:00—9:00 p.m.
All-Committee Meetings (Note: Research Committee will meet in a separate room)	1/26	8:30—10 a.m.
Hot Topics Discussion Group	1/26	1:00—2:30 p.m.
Conference Planning 2013	1/26	4:00 -5:30 p.m.
Publisher/Vendor DG	1/27	8:30—10 a.m.
Federal Science Agency Update (Government Information Committee)	1/27	1:00—2:30 p.m.
STS Dinner at Pike Brewing	1/27	6:00—9:00 p.m.

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Letter from the Chair

Anaheim was, as always, sunny, warm and bustling with activity – and the ALA Annual Conference certainly added to the excitement. STS offered an engaging and dynamic array of programs and activities. All the STS events were well-attended, but we missed those of you who were unable to join us! The level of support from STS members and our committees was remarkable, and our volunteers were essential to the success of the conference.

Events at Annual included the Monday morning flagship program, “Preparing Tomorrow’s Science Professionals” with a panel of librarians and faculty members exploring the challenges in educating emerging scientists, new outreach models for creating information and data literate researchers, and the ways librarians can work with science students to help them become science professionals. The Program was well-received and appealed to a broad and engaged audience. Kudos to the 2012 Program Planning Committee and to Maribeth Slebodnik for their expert coordination of this outstanding event. The STS Poster Session, following the Program and coordinated by the Research Committee, showcased intriguing examples of this theme in action.

A thought-provoking Research Forum, also coordinated by the Research Committee, provided a glimpse at several research articles in development: “A Game Theoretical Exploration of Open Data and Open Science” by Robert Olenorf and Steve Koch; “Exploring the Viability of Google AdWords as an adjunct Discovery Layer for the Science and Engineering Library” by Tod Colegrove; and “Positioning Librarians as Leaders in E-Science and Data Management on Campus” by Deborah Charbonneau. Special

thanks to Norma Kobzina, Head, Information Services, The Bioscience and Natural Resources Library, University of California - Berkeley, for her expert advice and guidance to our researchers in her role as guest commentator.

Additional programming at Annual included several interactive discussion groups: “Taking Instruction to the Next Level: Creating Evaluations to Assess Student Learning Online” sponsored by the STS Assessment Committee and the Hot Topics Discussion Group helped us learn about assessment methods and examples of tools used specifically to evaluate online learning; “Publishing Undergraduate Research: Resources and Innovations from the Library,” from the College Science Librarians Discussion Group, provided a forum to exchange ideas on how science librarians can foster an environment that encourages undergraduates to publish; and “Changing Roles for Sci-Tech Liaison Librarians in Research, Outreach & Instruction,” sponsored by the Hot Topics Discussion Group, allowed us to gather feedback for next steps and recommendations for action in STS as science & engineering subject specialists/liaisons continue to encounter dramatic shifts in assigned duties.

The Government Information Committee also offered the biannual Federal Science Agency Update, providing an opportunity for STS and others to hear the latest on information products and services from representatives of U.S. Government scientific agencies.

Additionally, the Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee provided the second half of their programming (continued

Letter from the Chair

from Midwinter 2012) on the collection, preservation, and access to scientific data sets: "The Role of Metadata Standards in Scientific Data Publishing: Part Two."

STS co-sponsored several other programs as well, including the STS Scholarly Communications and Health Sciences Interest Group program on the NIH Public Access Policy; a program on the "Nuts and Bolts of Map Scanning" with the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table; and "Data Curation as a Form of Collaborative Research" with the ACRL Research Committee.

Our STS Member Meeting & Breakfast this year combined the New Members Orientation/Breakfast with the All Members event. The Breakfast provided a venue for all of us to welcome new and potential STS members as well as to connect with old friends and colleagues as we enjoyed bountiful food and beverages, as well as fun activities facilitated by the Membership & Recruitment Committee and the Continuing Education Committee.

As always, we need to thank the generosity of our sponsors at Annual: AAAS, Baker & Taylor YPB Library Services, IEEE, Elsevier, Knovel, Morgan & Claypool Publishers, ProQuest, and Thomson Reuters. Their support allowed us to provide the delectable refreshments offered at our events and programs, and it is much appreciated!

As we look forward to 2013, we can anticipate continued quality programming and many opportunities to network with our STS

colleagues. At Midwinter, in Seattle, we look forward to the Hot Topics Discussion Group session on "So Much Science, So Little Time" as we discuss the problems facing science librarians who need reasonable expertise in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary settings; a lively forum on "Packaged Content and the Limits of Tiered Pricing" with timely input from librarians, publishers, and subscription agents presented by the Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group; and the biannual Federal Science Agency Update for the Government Information Committee. The STS Dinner, an annual gathering sponsored by the Institute of Physics, a long-standing supporter, will be at Pike Brewing. It is open to all STS members, but it does require registration.

At Midwinter you will notice some new timeslots for STS activities, as we comply with the new ALA scheduling guidelines. Please check the preliminary schedule in this edition of the Signal, and the final schedule in the ALA program. STS Council II will again be virtual, scheduled for a date/time after the meeting in Seattle. After Midwinter the Executive Committee will also investigate whether to continue this pilot, or return to two face-to-face Council meetings for Annual.

Planning is already well underway for Annual in Chicago. Our program will be a collaborative effort with the Health Sciences Interest Group, and we are anticipating a fascinating array of presentations under the umbrella title "There's an app for that: The use of mobile devices, apps and resources for health and sci-tech librarians and their users." Please plan on joining us!

Letter from the Chair

Fundraising is a perpetual challenge in this struggling economy. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mel DeSart for all of his time and effort in this arena and for his unrivaled expertise. His work has consistently provided STS the ability to offer or enhance both networking events and programs. Mel's efforts will continue for 2013, and the STS Executive Committee will also be investigating additional opportunities to insure a sustainable fundraising process as we move forward.

STS members and volunteers are an outstanding group, and I am delighted to be able to serve the Section this year as STS Chair. I want to thank everyone for volunteering their time and talents to STS committees and discussion groups, and for the camaraderie and collaboration that defines our Section, and all of its activities. Thanks to your continued commitment., this will be another great year for STS, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Seattle and Chicago!

Lori Ostapowicz Critz

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STS Dinner at ALA-Midwinter

The STS Dinner at Midwinter will again be sponsored by [IOP Publishing](#).

The location will be the Pike Brewing Company <http://www.pikebrewing.com/> Sunday January 27th from 6pm until 9pm (with food served around 6:30pm)

Registration will be announced in late October on the STS-I listserv.

For more information, please contact [John Meier](#).



Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

I was so honored to be elected Vice-Chair of STS for 2012-2013, and I have trouble finding the best words to describe my thanks to you. Perhaps my efforts to serve all of you will be the best expression. I'll do my utmost to keep everyone upbeat and contributing. I've always been amazed by our section's ability to come together and create a vibrant organization from our own determination and creativity. So I need to kick off this three-year journey with a call to service for one and all. I'd really like your input about our future, and one of the chief tasks at hand will be the appointment process for STS leadership and membership opportunities. Please contact me in the way you find the most convenient.

Sci-tech librarianship is a whirlwind of a career. Our combined efforts to harness this whirlwind can have a positive impact on the engineering and science efforts of society. The way that our users store, retrieve and utilize information needs our leadership, and STS is a great vehicle to prepare us to do just that. From astronomy to medicine to zoology, the fascinating information challenges abound. Let's explore them together!

The efforts made by committees and discussion groups are the amazing cogs in the well-oiled machine we know as STS! The section has made a great effort to describe this structure. If you haven't perused these opportunities, please take a look at the information that we provide about our committees and discussion groups at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/sts/stswebsite/committees/stscommittees>. There are plenty of opportunities for involvement and the variety of tasks to be done means that anyone can find a comfortable choice. Please keep in mind that we are actively improving the tools available for virtual committee members to contribute more completely. I'm quite pleased to see ALA's shift to Adobe® Connect™ software – the sound

quality and recording capability might be a game changer.

At this point, I'm hoping that I have you ever-so-ready to volunteer for what is typically a two-year commitment. You can do so at any time and incoming volunteers will be considered for appointments that will begin on July 1, 2013. If you'd rather think on things for a while, there is usually a call for volunteers that appears in the December issue of *College & Research Libraries News*, plus I'll be sending out a request via STS-L right after the January 2013 Midwinter Meeting. The volunteer form is available at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/volunteer/volunteer>.

If you're unable to volunteer, please keep in mind that we always need members to work on task forces, attend meetings or participate in virtual activities such as the Information Literacy Committee's "Last Wednesdays" discussions (currently held in Facebook) or the discussions on STS-L. Please feel free to contact me about any ideas that you have for the future of the Section – especially ideas that can allow for gleaned greater value for you – our members! I hope to see you at the STS events in Seattle and Chicago in 2013.

Matt Marsteller

Carnegie Mellon University, Science Libraries

Phone: 412-268-7212

Email: matthewm@andrew.cmu.edu



Call for Science and Technology Section Liaisons

Are you a member of the American Chemical Society (**ACS**) or the American Society for Information Science & Technology (**ASIS&T**)?

Do you normally attend the conference of one of these organizations?

Would you like to be more involved in STS, or would if you “had the time?”

If so, the STS Liaison program could be a great opportunity for you! We are still looking for volunteer liaisons for these two organizations!

STS maintains a liaison program to encourage STS members to report on the meetings and activities of science and technology organizations. Liaisons have an opportunity to present to the community about what they've learned, as they help develop connections between librarians and other professions.

The STS Liaisons Committee is planning to organize a webinar for liaisons to present virtually throughout STS and ACRL.

STS-appointed liaisons:

are needed for the organizations mentioned above
are expected to serve at least a one-year term
attend the annual conference or meeting of their assigned organization
report back to the STS community

WANT TO BECOME A LIAISON FOR STS?

Let us know today!

Contact: Rebecca Hill (hill2ra@cmich.edu) or Fran Rosen (rosenf@ferris.edu),

Co-Chairs of the 2013 STS Liaisons Committee (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/acr-stslia>)

For more information, please visit

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/sts/stswebsite/liaison/STSLiaison>

Coming at Midwinter 2013

By now, many STS members will have read or heard about the circumstances that led the State University of New York–Potsdam campus to drop its online journal package from the American Chemical Society. As a SUNY Potsdam librarian blogged, they were “unable to find common ground” with the ACS sales force despite pursuing a tiered pricing model (Rogers, 2012). As a result—and, importantly, with the support of the chemistry faculty—the library chose to discontinue its ACS package and meet the needs of chemistry students and faculty through a combination of ACS single title subscriptions, bundles from other vendors, and interlibrary loan.

It is significant that the SUNY Potsdam librarians did not identify the tiered pricing criteria as the problem, but rather took issue with the base price underlying the model. In other words, even when the criteria used to determine tiered pricing are fair and reflective of usage, that doesn’t help much if the starting price itself is unsustainably high for a given institution. Yet, other studies show that even in these challenging times, e-package uptake by libraries continues to show significant growth and has come to represent a growing portion of collection development budgets (Powell, 2012). Thus, libraries will continue seeking to control costs by renegotiating the price structure for packaged content.

Are hard choices such as the one made by the SUNY Potsdam library going to be the wave of the future? Will libraries that can’t afford Big Deals be able to focus their budgets on smaller, more subject-specific packages? Are the larger, more influential STM publishers more resistant to tiered pricing than others?

Please join the **Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group** for a discussion of these and related questions on **Sunday, January 27, 8:30–10:00am**. Panelists for this discussion will include participants from the ACS as well as other major publishers or subscription agents yet to be confirmed.

Further Reading

Powell, A. (2012). Navigating the new norm: Vendor, publisher, and librarian strategies to cope with the changing information industry. *Journal of Library Administration* 52(5), 370–395.

Rogers, J. (2012, September 12). Walking away from the American Chemical Society. [Blog entry]. Retrieved from <http://www.attemptingelegance.com/?p=1765>

John Carey

Co-Chair, Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

Column: “Assessment Corner”

From the STS Assessment Committee

Welcome to the first Assessment Corner, brought to you by the STS Assessment Committee. The committee hopes that the column will strengthen your assessment toolkit by providing a brief overview of an assessment tool. We welcome your ideas for further topics.

Likert Scales

I am sure many of you have taken a survey that asks how much you agree with a statement. This is an example of a Likert scale. A Likert scale is useful because it not only provides an answer to the question, but it also provides the degree of agreement/ disagreement.

Often, Likert scales have an odd number of choices with 5-point, 7-point, and 9-point scales being common. A variant on the Likert Scale is to have only an even number of choices; this forced choice scale removes the neutral position and therefore always provides the direction of agreement. Any number of points is possible, but scales smaller than 4-points provide little more than the simple yes/no question, and I feel that more than 9-points creates survey fatigue.

A Likert Scale is a type of rating scale that is technically measured at the ordinal level. The ordinal data level indicates that there is a relative position between each of the choices; a response of “agree” indicates more agreement than a response of “somewhat agree”, but we don’t know how much more agreement.

Likert scales are often assumed to be interval-like, which means that the distance between choices is also assumed to be equal. An advantage to this assumption is that specialized software is not required to analyze the results; the appropriate ordinal level test and terminology will be indicated in brackets [].

Perhaps we have a set of results from a survey asking the example question in three different academic units. The ANOVA [Kruskal-Wallis] test allows us to compare the means [medians] of these three (or more) groups. If the means [medians] are found to be equal then there is no difference between the scores for these groups.

If we wanted to know the difference of scores between two-samples (between two classes or two semesters), we could use a Student’s t-test [Wilcoxon T Test] to compare the samples. If the means [medians] are found to be equal, then there is no difference between the scores for these groups.

In either example, finding a difference indicates that a result worth further investigation.

Jay Forrest is the Collection Assessment and Statistics Coordinator at the Georgia Tech. jay.forrest@library.gatech.edu

Simple Yes/No Question

My library supports learning: Y/N

Likert Scale:

My library supports learning:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree or nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

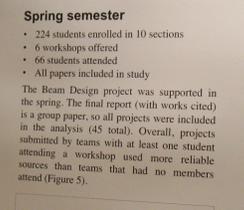
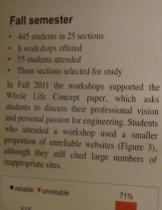
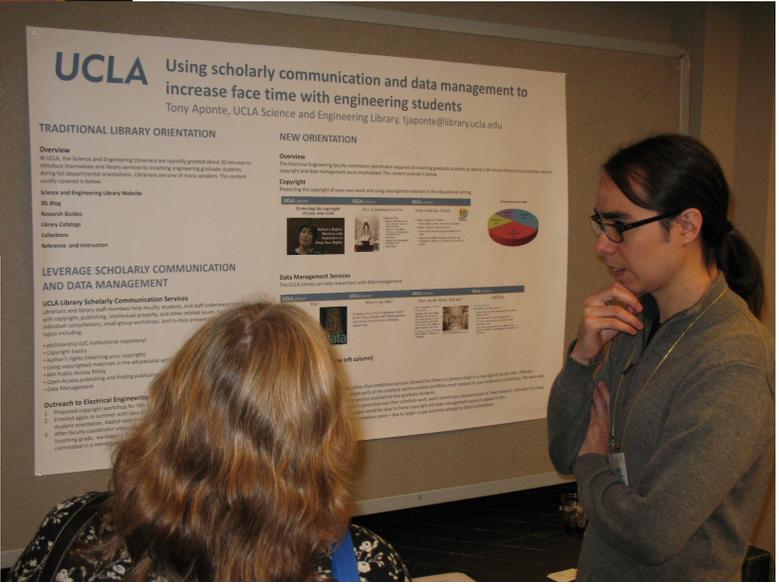
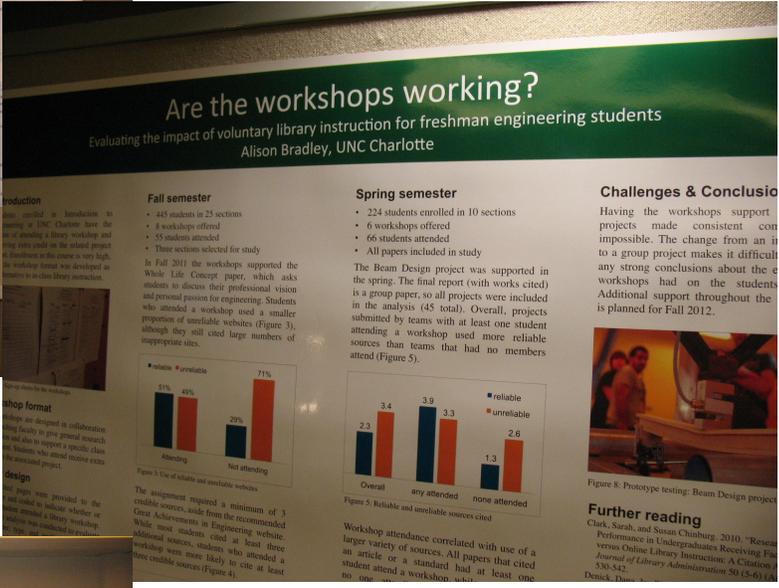
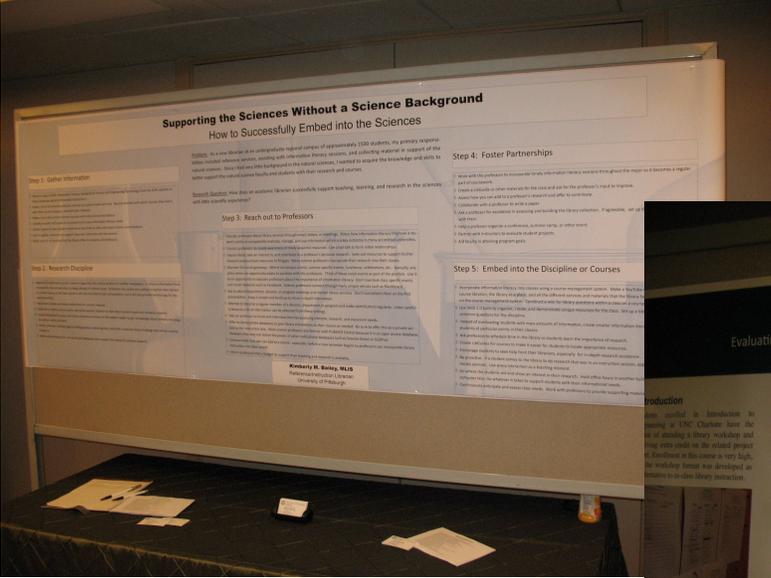
Likert Scale (forced choice)

My library supports learning:

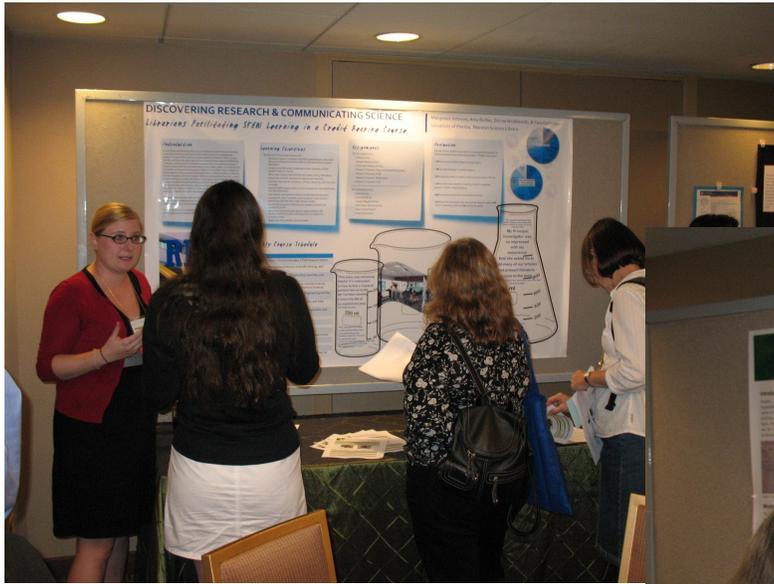
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

NOTE: In Excel 2010, the analysis toolpak is available from the File->Option, Add-Ins-> Analysis Toolpak, and the Data Analysis tool will appear in the Data ribbon.

STS Poster Session: ALA 2012 Annual Conference



STS Poster Session: ALA 2012 Annual Conference



Photographs by [Edward Kownslar](#)

ALA & ACRL News



ACRL 2013: Imagine, Innovate, Inspire

Access cutting-edge information, discover new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world at the ACRL 2013 conference to be held April 10-13, 2013, in Indianapolis.

- More than 300 carefully curated, thought-provoking sessions.
- Exchange ideas and discuss hot topics.
- Network with colleagues at receptions, breaks, and social events.
- Information on products and services from more than 200 exhibitors.

Free access to more than 130 Virtual Conference sessions for one year.

There is still time to share your expertise with your peers! Proposals for Cyber Zed Shed presentations, Poster Sessions, Roundtable Discussions, and Virtual Conference Webcasts are due **November 9, 2012**. Details are available online at www.acrl.org/acrlconference.

Ways to save!

Register for the conference by **February 22, 2013**, and take advantage of discounted early-bird registration fees. You can save \$70 or more!

To further stretch your professional development dollars, ACRL is offering more than 70 scholarships in five categories worth over \$40,000. Applying online is easy and there's still time! Scholarship applications are due **November 9, 2012**.

Connect with ACRL 2013

www.acrl.org/acrlconference

Facebook: www.facebook.com/acrl2013

Twitter: @acrl2013

Apply for Immersion '13

ACRL is currently accepting applications for the Information Literacy Immersion '13 Program (Teacher and Program tracks) to be held July 28-August 2, 2013 at Seattle University. Immersion '13 provides four-and-a-half days of intensive information literacy training and education for academic librarians. Acceptance to Immersion '13 is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Complete program and track details, along with application materials, are [available online](#). The application deadline is December 7, 2012, and notifications will be issued in February 2013. Questions concerning the program or application process should be directed to Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail mconahan@ala.org.

ALA & ACRL News

ACRL e-Learning

ACRL is offering a wide variety of online learning opportunities in fall 2012 to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Topics include embedded librarianship, mobile apps, copyright and fair use, and the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#). Registration for all online courses and webcasts qualifies for the [ACRL Frequent Learner Program](#). Register for three ACRL e-Learning events and receive one free registration. Complete details and registration information for all fall 2012 e-Learning opportunities are [available online](#). Contact Margot Conahan at mconahan@ala.org or (312) 280-2522 for more information.

Call for Award Nominations

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award

\$3,000 and a plaque

Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year

\$5,000 and a plaque

Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Information for many other award opportunities may be obtained on the ACRL Web site:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards> or by contacting Casey Kinson at (312) 280-2511 or ckinson@ala.org

DEADLINE: December 7, 2012

ACRL Awarded Second IMLS Grant to Build Profession's Capacity to Demonstrate Value

ACRL has been awarded a National Leadership Demonstration Grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the project "Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success." The grant funding of \$249,330 will support ACRL, in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and build on their IMLS 2011 Collaborative Planning Grant which convened two invitational summits. With this grant, a professional development program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy will be designed, implemented and evaluated.

Information about how to apply to participate in the first cohort will be available in January 2013. Contact Kara Malenfant, ACRL senior strategist for special initiatives, at kmalenfant@ala.org or (312) 280-2510 with questions about the grant or the Value of Academic Libraries initiative.

About the Signal



STs SIGNAL

We're on the Web!

www.ala.org/acrl/sts

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