

STS SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair, Billie Reinhart

Greetings to all members of STS! We survived the heat and humidity in Washington, DC. Visiting the renovated Library of Congress was a real treat. The STS program "Engineering the Future: A New Look at Organizational Thinking and Hyper-learning" was well attended, with strong audience interest. The reception at the National Aquarium was a hit and included great food and even shark feeding!

Meeting in the Capital and pending legislation combined to focus attention on advocacy issues. Copyright, e-rate, Internet content, and federal depository funding were discussed throughout the Conference. Michael Godow, newly assigned to deal with legislative issues for ACRL, has been active in e-mailing legislative alerts. ALA has helped to avert a few crises this year through grass root's participation. Please continue to read the legislative alerts on STS-L and to take action accordingly!

The Executive Board and Council worked hard before and during the Annual Meeting. In the spring, we submitted a \$2,500 proposal for the ACRL Initiative Fund for partnering with other organizations and were granted the full amount. In addition, Alison Ricker and I organized two STS-sponsored panel proposals for the ACRL 9th National Conference to be held in Detroit in 1999. The STS Executive Board agreed with Allison Level's innovative suggestion of having an electronic meeting for Council II. Also, an updated Manual is ready thanks to the work of the Organizational Planning Committee. STS membership was 1,941 in March. We just can't seem to break the 2,000 mark so we will have to make it a goal for 1998-2000.

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Patricia A. Kreitz

STS in the Year 2000: Ideas and Volunteers Welcome
The millennium year is a natural time for the Section to review our activities to determine what has been successful and what should be changed and for considering new ideas and initiatives. I would like to invite all STS members to think about what they could help do to

improve STS's advocacy for, support of, and education in science and technology librarianship. How can STS better meet your needs?

The millennium year also is an opportunity to link the annual program more explicitly with themes of renewal, change, and innovation. Please help me suggest ideas to the YR2000 Program Planning Committee by sharing what you'd like to see in an annual program for that year. (I first wrote 'Y2K' as the name of this committee and then decided that particular abbreviation was infelicitous!)

Please send your ideas and suggestions directly to me or share them on the STS listserv. Also, if you are interested in serving on STS committees or as a co-chair of a discussion group, please contact me via e-mail or by phone at (650) 926-4385.

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STS Signal is made available to all Section members at no additional charge. It may also be found on the STS Web site at <http://aztec.lib.utk.edu/sts/>.

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The STS College Science Librarians Discussion group met June 28. Twenty-two librarians gathered to talk about designing or adapting buildings to achieve flexibility, especially for technological change.

Discussion was led by Rocco Piccinino of Smith College, whose Science branch library opened in 1991, Suzi Cole of Colby College, in charge of a Science library just over a year old, and Madeline Cohen of New York Public's Science, Technology & Business branch.

All three stressed the importance of being fully involved in the planning process. Suzi mentioned that time spent reviewing plans and electrical drawings was well worth it. If the library is part of a larger building, one must keep up with plans for the rest of the project that could affect the library (such as the placement of water pipes on the floor above the library stacks). Madeline mentioned that the design of staff work areas must be given sufficient attention as staffing patterns are bound to change over the life of the building.

There are a few key items that must be done correctly, such as, making sure the assignable square footage is sufficient, ceiling heights are right, floor loading allows for heavy stacks, and restrooms and stairwells are placed where they won't interfere with future adaptations of the building. Rocco noted that these may be nearly impossible to change after the plans are finalized. In contrast, furnishings and equipment are easier to add or modify after the building is completed.

All three librarians noted that the placement of electrical outlets and data ports is extremely important, and suggested that more is better. The same is true for wiring within the building. At the NYP branch, wiring was put under a raised floor; at Colby, every study space and staff work space was fully wired for data and electrical service.

Information supplied by Kathleen Kenny

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group meeting, "Science Librarians Engineer Their Futures: A Discussion from the Trenches" followed up the theme of the joint STS/ULS program on organizational change with Isom Harrison, Library Division Manager for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Doug Jones, former Team Leader of the Science Engineering Team, University of Arizona who presented information on re-engineering processes at their libraries.

Isom Harrison began with the factors that led to planning for re-engineering at his library. The library had severe budget constraints, with cuts every year for five years and 'swing' budgets that brought in a lot of money too late in the budget cycle to purchase books or hire needed staff. Because these last minute funds were totaled into the library's overall budget for the next fiscal year's planning, the decline in effective dollars was masked for many years. The result was a substandard book collection and loss of professional staff.

Isom set up a re-engineering team composed of scientists, business services personnel, and librarians. He stressed the importance of adding what he humorously termed 'library enemies' into the planning

process. Once these people understood the problems and the needs, they had the potential for becoming strong change agents within the broader organization. The objective of the planning project was to 1) re-engineer the funding process, 2) ensure equal access to information including database searching, 3) match products and services to customer demands, and 4) establish performance metrics.

The strategic planning process resulted in a model that established a complete library baseline budget independent of swing money, proposed an automated check out system, and equalized charges for database searching so that small research projects would have better access. The plan also called for aggressive user education with more one-on-one instruction in the lab or office, a shared public access catalog, and new ways of measuring efficiency. Because of the team-planning project, the administrator of the library has increased funding of the library by almost one-third.

Doug Jones, University of Arizona Library, is the former head of the Science and Engineering Team. The goal of the reorganization there was to create a library whose resources and services exceeded customer expectations. The key concepts of the re-organization were: a customer focussed environment with quality defined by the customer; an agreement that the library was a learning environment where staff work and roles would be continuously redefined; and a reliance on data to aid decision-making and establish priorities.

Doug reiterated that restructuring, particularly using a team-based approach, is NOT easy, quick, management 'du jour.' Nor is it ever finished. One of its greatest challenges was that it required a new conceptual framework of behavior and skills for everyone.

The challenges Doug outlined included re-learning what 'management' meant. Everyone had to learn a system approach which includes the library team, the whole library, academic departments, university, publishers, etc. With such an interdependent approach the decision making process moves from a hierarchical system to one suited to the situation. In this decision-making model, some decisions are authoritative, most decisions are based on delegation or consultation and the highest level decisions are by consensus. Problem solving moves from a position-based debate to a dialogue where each team member must understand other people's assumptions.

Information supplied by Jill Newby

Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group

After attending an excellent STS reception at the National Aquarium, the Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group met to hear presentations by Stephanie Bianchi of the National Science Foundation and Jeff Baer from Community of Science.

Ms. Bianchi discussed the challenges of producing the NSF Library's electronic newsletter (for details contact her at sbianchi@nsf.gov). She commented that with a staff of three there usually wasn't much time to dedicate to producing the newsletter. Instead, it was done in bits and pieces as time permitted. She provided an excellent handout of some of the most common sources of information that she uses.

Ms. Bianchi pointed out that parts of the NSF webpage are unavailable to the general public. There are two versions of the newsletter: one for internal use and one for external consumption. The latter has local interest and proprietary items deleted.

Mr. Baer presented an overview of Community of Science. Within universities, campus research offices are more likely than libraries to initially subscribe to Community of Science. However, often these offices are not able to provide the support that faculty need to effectively use all the features provided by the system. He believes that libraries should step into this gap and provide faculty with the assistance they need to maneuver their way through the process of electronic submission of grant requests, abstract submissions, etc.

He described two projects which he felt represented part of the future electronic world. One was a joint project between COS and the Entomological Society of America involving the electronic submission of abstracts for presentations at society conferences. The second was a project by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation that involved the electronic submission of research grant proposals.

Information supplied by Nan Butkovich

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

Susan Phillips of the University of Texas at Austin spoke on "What Are Our Users Reading and How Will We Know? - Statistics on Usage of Electronic Content." Her talk was based on her work with the JSTOR Web Statistics Task Force. The Task Force examined the type of usage statistics kept by JSTOR that would be useful to

librarians in their evaluation of online information resources. The group came up with some "Guidelines for Statistical Measures of Usage of Web-Based Resources" that could serve as a model for the type of data that all vendors should supply to libraries.

The talk was followed by a discussion of the issues raised by Phillips. Topics included the usefulness of different types of statistics, the logistics of electronic article storage versus paper publication, privacy concerns with vendor information, and other issues.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group

On Sunday, June 28, thirty-four people gathered to participate in the Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group. The topic for the discussion was "Unravelling Government Science and Technology Databases on the Web." The presentations by Tim McKimmie from New Mexico State University and Chestalene Pintozzi from the University of Arizona were followed by a discussion of government produced literature on the web.

Between McKimmie and Pintozzi a wide range of resources were presented. The government is definitely making an effort to provide broader access to information. The result is a content rich, rapidly evolving environment. In several cases, recent government reports are available free of charge via the web, but older materials are seldom available.

Information supplied by William Baer

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1999 Midwinter Conference • Philadelphia, PA

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, January 29		Sunday, January 31	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	8:30-11:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (Closed Meeting)
9:30-10:30pm	STS Executive Board	8:30-12:30	2000 Program Planning Committee
Saturday, January 30		8:30-12:30	1999 Program Planning Committee
9:30-11:30am	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group	9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Continuing Education Committee Government Information Committee
9:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)	9:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Discussion Group Leaders Membership and Recruitment Comm. Subject & Bibliographic Access Comm.	11:30-12:30	Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group
11:30-12:30	Publications Committee	6:00-8:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Dinner**
2:00-4:00pm	General Discussion Group	8:00-10:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group
2:00-4:00pm	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries Committee	Monday, February 1	
		9:30-12:00pm	STS Council II

*Time in parentheses is the time listed in the official program, if different from actual time.

** This meeting is not listed in the official program.

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- Interested in finding a mentor or
in sharing your skills with others?
If so, contact Kathleen Fleming by
phone at (313) 577-6310 or e-mail
at kflemin@cms.cc.wayne.edu for
more information about the new
STS Collegial Counsel Program.

Committee on the Comparison of
Science & Technology Libraries

Each member of the committee reported on
the 5th Survey responses from the institutions
that they were liaison to; the Chair reported
for the absent members. The relatively large
number of outstanding but promised surveys
prompted the committee to extend the
deadline to July 31, 1998. Barton Lessin is
developing a template for data input into
Excel. Several committee members took
responsibility for analysis of different sections
of the data. Some non-identifying data will
go on the web as soon as it is compiled.
Mitchell Brown will be responsible for the
web page.

Strong questions were raised, prompted in part
by comments from respondents, about the
length and format of the 5th Survey. These
questions were addressed prior to the
administration of the survey and the consensus
at that time was to keep the survey similar in
format and content to those of the previous
surveys. On the basis of the experience and
insight gained during this process, though,
the committee plans to recommend significant
changes for consideration before another
survey is undertaken.

Information supplied by Judith R. J. Johnson

1999 Conference Program Planning
Committee

The STS Conference Program Planning
Committee met in Washington, DC, to
organize the Section's Annual Conference
program for 1999. The Committee members
brainstormed names of potential speakers for
the program's topic: "Changing Expectations
for Today's Sci-Tech Librarian -- Is Digital
Information Mandating Fundamental Changes
to the Way We Work?" Possible names for
the program title were discussed, and the final
choice will be announced in the coming
months.

The Conference Program Planning Committee
is also responsible for the Section's reception.
After discussion and vote, the location for
the reception decided: the Louisiana
Children's Museum, which features hands-on
exhibits and science experiments. The
Museum is located within walking distance
of the Convention Center.

Information supplied by Laura L. Greene

Continuing Education Committee

The committee discussed ways to increase the STS Membership Continuing Education Survey response. Some ideas include:

- putting the survey in STS Signal
- post survey to STS-L more than once
- asking the preferred means of receipt

The committee then discussed why survey results were low and the problem of a time lag between identifying a continuing education need and meeting that need with a program. The committee discussed providing continual continuing education on a Web site. Marcia was not at the meeting due to airline difficulties, but the chair will contact her about implementing this idea.

The committee turned to the Collegial Counsel surveys. Survey response was low. The program is still young, so we focused on ways to further advertise the program. Pix will look into writing an article for publication in *American Libraries*. Collegial Counsel was also announced during an NMRT program on mentoring.

Discussion finished with the "Top 10" list from Marcia of the "Top 10" things librarians wished they knew:

10. Preparing dossiers for promotion and tenure
9. Writing and publishing articles
8. Grant proposals, fund raising, and organizing friend groups
7. Global knowledge: International science issues and resources
6. Mysteries of federal, state, and international documents
5. Budgets and balance sheets
4. Supervising support staff, writing job descriptions, and handling disciplinary actions
3. Importance of the 1st job experience out of graduate school and managing your own career path
2. More about the importance of laughter in the workplace
1. Getting involved with the ACRL Science & Technology Section

If the "top 10" list was on the STS Homepage, the text could be linked to Counselors who had a particular expertise. The committee will also group the Counsel list by subject expertise.

Information supplied by Kathleen "Pix" Fleming

Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

Thirty-two people attended the Research Forum. With Tamera Lee as moderator, the presentations included "Stretching the Dollars for Library Materials in Science and Technology in Illinois," by Virginia Baldwin and Cecile Jagodzinski, "The Work Demands and Information Seeking Behavior of Ph.D Physics Students," by Kevin McDonough, and, "An Investigation of the Efficacy of Intelligent Agents in Collection Development," by Jennifer Weintraub.

Overall, the presentations received high ratings from the evaluations. Guests Dr. Hemon, Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, and Dr. Gloriana St. Clair, Dean, Carnegie Mellon University Library provided additional

feedback and elaborated on the relevance and publication of library research. Laurel Duda and Daryl Youngman brought provocative questions to help spark the discussion period following the presentations.

At the follow-up, self-assessment meeting, everyone agreed that having expert guests provided added value to the program. JoAnn DeVries will collate and send out evaluation results to both committee members and speakers. Marlena Wald will send certificates of recognition to the speakers.

To increase publicity, the Committee recommended changes to the ALA program list and that copies of the Research Forum program be made available at the ACRL STS booth. Terry Wang agreed to continue work with the program flyer. Marlena Wald will seek out another expert who is editor of a scholarly journal. Tamera will post the "Call for Abstracts" with submissions due by December 1, 1998. Abstracts will be selected at Midwinter. Laurel and Daryl will prepare questions for the presenters based on the abstracts chosen.

Information supplied by Tamera Lee

Government Information Committee

Members of the committee attended information sessions and meetings held by the GODORT Federal Documents Task Force, GODORT Legislation Committee, and ALA Washington Office.

The major topics of interest were:

New legislation revising Title 44 of the U.S. Code including the Depository Program (introduced on July 10, 1998)

New copyright law and the place of fair use in the digital environment -- the bill currently being discussed lacks definite fair use protection

Budget information for the Next Generation Internet (see <http://www.ngi.gov>)

DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information concern about how budget cuts will affect their Information Bridge program

GPO is optimistic about their budget for the coming year and is working on an improved version of GPO Access

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The Membership and Recruitment Committee recommends that a small print run of the brochure be done every year, and that it become an automatic part of the STS budget. We want to continue the New Member orientation, but perhaps change the time. We also realized the charge says nothing about recruitment.

Information supplied by Carol S. Robinson

Oberly Award Committee

The Oberly Award Committee met to prepare for the 1999 Oberly Award. During the meeting we edited the "call for nominations," discussed publicity and procedures for routing submissions, and reviewed the evaluation criteria. Topics of discussion included:

Responsibility for sending out the "call for nominations" was divided among the committee members.

An address file will be built to hand on to later committees.

The evaluation form was adapted to include non-print submissions.

An acknowledgment letter will be sent out for each submission.

Information supplied by Amy W. Shannon

Organization and Planning Committee

Organization and Planning Committee activities at ALA Annual included the revision of the STS Manual and review of the roles of other ALA Organization and/or Planning Committees. Future activities of the committee will include a review of the Section Bylaws, development of a proposal to the STS Executive Committee concerning our role in STS planning activities, determination of the future STS Manual distribution policy and manual updates required by the revision of the *Association of College and Research Libraries: Guide to Policies and Procedures*.

Information supplied by Ruth Nellis

Publications Committee

Janet Hughes attended the ACRL Publications Committee meeting and had some concerns regarding copyright. According to discussion there, ALA assumes it owns all copyright on all official ALA related web pages. Because *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* is posted on an ALA related web page, does this mean the copyright for those articles belongs to ALA? We have not collected transfers of copyright from ISTL contributors so this needs further investigation.

Andrea Duda reported that ISTL now has 1200 names on the mailing list, and many more people who simply go to the web page to read it. Library Literature and Inspec are both indexing ISTL. This fall there will be a theme issue on the serials crisis, with Albert Henderson presenting one position, and several others responding to that position.

David Atkins reported that he is updating and expanding the web pages. He is ready to send out a call for interest for people willing to collect and maintain sci-tech web links for our page. He is also actively archiving the programs' pages. Because ALA is moving slowly on the issue the idea of putting audio clips of our programs on the web will wait at least a year.

Marty Courtois reported on the STS-L listserv, which has a fairly stable subscriber base of over 900. Gayle Baker is replacing Terry Wittig as co-moderator. The listserv will be migrating to a UNIX based listserv software later this year. We discussed the need to have moderators filter messages, and agreed to continue to do so.

Information supplied by Janet Hughes

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

A previous project of the committee, a style sheet developed to standardize title pages of conferences, was discussed. William Baer suggested that a follow-up to determine whether the suggested format has been used was an appropriate project for the committee. Possible strategies are to compare title pages for years before and after the style sheet and to examine conferences that are published annually.

Marian Burrigh has been working on the project, discussed at the last meeting, to produce a bibliography on access to electronic journals. Topics identified by the committee are: Access, Usage Studies, Archiving, Licensing, Pricing, Cataloging, and Indexing. A committee member has been assigned to work on each topic.

The new "hot topics" subject headings for the LCSH are another area of particular interest. We hope to have John Mitchell of LC come to Midwinter to talk to us about it.

Information supplied by Amy Prendergast

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

The ALA/ACRL Forum for Science and Technology Library Research Committee is planning its annual research presentations program for the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in June 1999.

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share recent research or works in progress that address significant issues to science and technology librarianship in its broadest sense with your colleagues. Proposals will be selected through a blind review process on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, and relevance to science and technology librarianship.

ABSTRACT: An abstract not exceeding 250 words should convey the title and purpose of the project, its scope, methodology, conclusions, and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Priority will be provided to papers that indicate research analyses, either quantitative or qualitative.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: December 1, 1998. Papers will be selected at ALA Midwinter 1999.

PAPERS: Acceptance of proposals reflects a commitment of the authors to provide presentations of no longer than 30 minutes at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Presenters may choose to have their papers published electronically through ACRL/STS.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT (preferably by e-mail), including name, institution, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address, TO:

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Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons, and is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

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