



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair, Catherine Soehner

As this new academic year is upon us I would like to take a moment of your time to reflect upon our recent successes and upcoming events and plans.

Julia Gelfand, our Past Chair, deserves our gratitude and appreciation for leading us through several significant changes in the way we do business and bringing an unprecedented number of sponsors to STS.

We now have four discussion groups, two of which are set aside for the sole purpose of focusing on hot topics in science and technology librarianship. In the years ahead, these groups will provide our membership with meaningful and relevant discussion topics. We retained two of our discussion groups: Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group and College Librarians Discussion Group. The reduction in the number of discussion groups has helped to decrease our scheduling conflicts.

Congratulations is also due to the Information Literacy Task Force, who worked tirelessly to create Information Literacy Standards for Science and Technology. The standards were approved by ACRL at the Annual meeting in New Orleans and can be found on our STS homepage (http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/sts.htm). We have also added a new Information Literacy Committee.

The STS program in New Orleans was a great success with engaging speakers and an excellent opportunity for dialogue. You can access the speakers' PowerPoint presentations from the STS Web site along with abstracts of each of the posters. Thanks to the 2006 Program Planning Committee, led by Barbara DeFelice, for such an excellent program and poster session.

We have now established a Liaisons Task Force to gather information from our sister professional organizations.

In the coming year we will have liaisons for the American Chemical Society (ACS), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Engineering Libraries Division (ELD - a division of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE)), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), Special Libraries Association (SLA - in the Physics & Astronomy (PAM) and the Science & Technology Sections (STS)) and the National Science Digital Library (NSDL). We hope to continue to expand this program in the coming years, so be on the watch for announcements and requests for participation.

As we look forward to the upcoming Midwinter conference, I want to remind you of one more significant change in the schedule. Attendance at our council

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meetings has been dwindling over the years. In New Orleans we agreed to hold only one council meeting in 2007 at Midwinter. This will require more communication among the STS membership prior to the Midwinter meeting so that Council business can be substantive and meaningful. If this is successful, we will attempt a similar configuration for future conferences.

STS submitted three Action Plan proposals to ACRL for the 2007-08 fiscal year on a variety of projects including continued funding for our Liaisons program, and funds for "the production of a short video designed to demonstrate the variety, challenges, and rewards of scitech librarianship, with a goal toward reaching out to and recruiting non-traditional individuals to the profession." A third Action Plan focused on a project to gain the perspectives from US and UK science/technology librarians regarding "subject and bibliographic access to science/technology electronic theses and dissertations in digital institutional repositories and OPACs." I will keep you informed of our progress in these areas.

The STS Executive Committee and Council members are very interested in creating an organization that is useful and helpful to you in your professional life. Let us know if there are projects or activities that you think we should pursue. Our contact information is available on the STS web page. Your comments will help contribute to a relevant and viable professional organization.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Midwinter meeting in Seattle.

Catherine Soehner Head, Science & Engineering Library University of California at Santa Cruz soehner@ucsc.edu

From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Barbara MacAlpine

Some people beat around the bush, but not I. Here's the sales pitch: We have a great organization. Part of the reason it works so well for all of us is because some of us work for the organization. That's where you come in. If you're already on an STS committee, bravo! If you haven't taken that BIG step to volunteer yet, this would be a good time. We even make it easy for you; just go to http://www.ala.org/sts and click on the Committees link under the STS logo. You'll find info on all the committees along with a link to a volunteer form. If you've had a good committee experience already and would

like to try a new one, indicate that on the form too. Typically you'll be making a two-year commitment, so it's not a lifetime sacrifice.

Why would you want to volunteer? You'll get acquainted with other great sci/tech librarians, learn about issues that haven't hit your institution yet, network to your heart's content, contribute your talents to STS, maybe even make a difference in how we function. Best of all, you'll have fun.

I'll be making assignments for 2007-2008 during the winter, so we need to hear from you soon. If you have burning questions before pushing the Submit button, I have lots of hot answers, available via email or phone. Better yet, come to Seattle for Midwinter and ask me in person! I hope to see many of you in January.

Barbara MacAlpine Science Librarian Trinity University bmacalpi@trinity.edu Phone: 210-999-7343

NEWS FROM NEW ORLEANS

Assessment Committee

STS Assessment Preconference: We reviewed the successful STS Assessment Preconference, co-sponsored by the EBSS Higher Education Committee and the STS Issues in Science and Technology Discussion Group. We've received numerous positive comments from attendees and others. Approximately 75-80 librarians registered for the Preconference. Two competitive scholarships were offered and Don Frank recognized these librarians (Kimberly Chapman & Carrie Newsom) at the beginning of the Preconference. Annie Zeidman-Karpinski and Dave Baca contributed as moderator and presenter, respectively. Other presenters: David Consiglio, Fred Heath, Lisa Hinchliffe, Peggy Johnson, & Brian Quigley. Annie Zeidman-Karpinski compiled a series of assessment instruments and these were used to assess the quality of the presentations. John Meier assisted with the distribution and collection of the assessment instruments and provided support as needed during the Preconference. Nathalie Zhou also assisted. The assistance and support of the STS Council as well as Margot Sutton (ACRL) have been, appreciated.

STS Assessment Preconference (II): Don Frank will

send messages to the STS Council and Margot Sutton at ACRL to express the Committee's appreciation for the assistance and support. To follow up, Annie Zeidman-Karpinski and the Committee will be responsible for the analysis and synthesis of the assessment data collected during the Preconference.

STS Council I: Don Frank reviewed the key points of STS Council I.

Transition: Annie Zeidman-Karpinski and Daria Carle will be the Co-Chairs of the STS Assessment Committee in 2006-08. Congratulations!

Submitted by Don Frank & Annie Zeidman-Karpinski

Subject and Bibiographic Access to Science Materials Committee

There was lively discussion around our committee table as we continued to work on refinements to the survey questions for our project exploring issues related to subject and bibliographic access to electronic theses and dissertations. The survey will be distributed to university science librarians in both the U.S and the U.K. in November. The U.S. list of universities was developed from the Carnegie list. We had excellent attendance at the meeting, including our UK partner, Susan Copeland, from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland. Susan is the second of our two UK partners to come to our meeting at ALA and we would like to thank her for her contribution to our project. We would also like to express our gratitude to Bryna Coonin, our 2004-2006 Co-Chair, for the wonderful job she did in leading us in this project and for her continued participation and contribution.

Submitted by Anne Christie and Sophie Bogdanski

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The STS Membership and Recruitment Committee hosted a successful New Members Orientation / Reception on Saturday, June 24, 2006. Turnout was good, with 37 people in attendance. This number included new STS members, several representatives from the Membership and Recruitment Committee and current and past officers of the section. Coffee and beignets were available and attendees were encouraged to mingle to facilitate networking. Small door prizes were also awarded. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and established members spoke on the benefits of STS membership and thier personal experiences in the STS Section.

The Committee also continued its work on various recruitment activities including outreach to library school students enrolled in sci/tech reference courses and contacts with non-STS attendees of STS conference programs.

According to the most recent (May 2006) membership report from ACRL, total membership in the section is up by 2.5% from the same period last year and 4.6% from two years ago.

Information supplied by Edward Lener

Organization and Planning Committee

The Organization & Planning Committee focused on two important aspects of our charge: revision of the STS Manual and the development of a new STS Strategic Plan. For the STS Manual revision, the History, By-Laws, Organization Chart, Functions/Duties of Chairs, Committee & Discussion Groups, and Master Calendar sections were identified as areas needing updates/revisions. A preliminary draft has been formulated and a sub-group of the Committee will complete the revisions and bring proposed changes to STS Council at Midwinter for approval. A second subgroup has been assigned to begin development of a new Strategic Plan; one that aligns with the new ACRL Strategic Plan. The existing STS Strategic Plan will be used as our starting point. Many sections are still applicable but may need revision or updating. New content will be added as appropriate. Input from STS Council and STS membership will be solicited during this process. The new Strategic Plan will be drafted and brought to STS Council at ALA Annual 2007.

Submitted by Lori Critz

Publications Committee

STS Webmaster, Paul St. Pierre reported that he had posted several program items related to Annual Conference, as well as the survey for the Continuing Education Committee to the STS website. He has also made the link to STS-L more prominent in our continuing effort to encourage members to join STS-L.

Andrea Duda announced that the ISTL subscription list has grown to 4,148 members. For the first time a supplement has also been published, representing papers from two conferences. Peter Spyers-Duran noted that STS-L subscribers are on the increase after a big drop when the list moved to an ALA server in 2005. Part of this increase may be attributed to greater emphasis on STS-L in the

letter sent to new STS members by the Membership Committee. Signal co-editors are now Caroline Gilson and Jennifer McKinnell. There was continued committee support for the Signal opinion feature entitled "On the Soapbox."

A rough draft of the new science librarians career brochure was discussed by Council members as well as the Publications Committee. Steve Adams, brochure designer, will continue to work on changes. [Note: The brochure was completed and 150 copies were printed in August.] STS Council approved the creation of a video to go along with the career brochure. Incoming co-chair Linda Eells agreed to coordinate a request for funding from ACRL.

Committee members would like to meet virtually rather than getting together at ALA Midwinter 2007. Barbara Blummer is investigating the chat function of the online community software that ACRL has made available. At the request of Council members, the Publications Committee will look into the possibility of starting an STS blog.

Submitted by Barbara MacAlpine

Oberly Award Committee Report

The Oberly Award is given in odd-numbered years for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or natural sciences. The committee sent out a call for nominations on various society and association listservs during the first half of September. This year, the committee will also post the announcement on society and association blogs, wikis, and electronic newsletters. Committee members are updating the lists of agriculture and natural sciences associations and societies to contact. They will also be increasing awareness of the award by targeting various international lists and contacting appropriate science publishers and university presses. The deadline for nominations has been extended to December 31st.

The committee decided to make some changes to the Oberly Award criteria to encourage nominations for electronic works. Bibliographies will need to consist of open access works to be eligible. A list of past winners from 1925 to present will also be posted on the STS Oberly Award web site. A new Oberly Award Procedures manual outlining the awards process has been posted as part of the Oberly Working Pages. The committee is planning to conduct a virtual meeting in advance of Midwinter in order to identify the most outstanding bibliographies for consideration. Every effort will be made to select a winner for 2007.

Submitted by Paul Kelsey

Government Information Committee

Matthew Marsteller reported that the committee cosponsored GODORT program was on track for June 26, 10:30am. Our arranged speaker, Sheila Young, would speak on the use of patents. Marsteller and new member Damon Austin planned to attend.

Amy Prendergast suggested that the title "Top 100 Science/Technology Government Information Links" (part of the Committee's webpage) was somewhat inaccurate. It was tentatively agreed that "Top Science/Technology Government Information Links" might be a good compromise.

Criteria for selecting sites for the webpage was also discussed. It was decided that chosen sites should do one or more of the following:

- Contain substantial content or be good gateways to sci/tech information
- Be aimed at students, faculty, or the general public
- Be appropriate for higher education or scientific research
- Link to current legislative information related to sci/tech government issues
- Be an overarching agency site if subsidiary pages are obvious or easy to find
- Be subsidiary pages on an agency site if not obvious or easy to find on parent site

Alison Ricker asked about an advocacy role for the committee such as monitoring ALA Policy Office or legislative issues affecting Sci/Tech libraries. Marsteller suggested funding, regulation and policy change as areas to monitor. It was decided that Ricker, with Austin's assistance, would investigate if other groups were already doing this through such means as wikis, RSS feeds, or blogs.

Submitted by Amy Prendergast

Hot Topics Discussion Group

The Hot Topics Discussion Group met on June 25, to talk about Science libraries as a "third place." Lori Critz, Assistant Department Head of Information Services Department at Georgia Tech Libraries, led off the discussion with a brief slideshow of ways the library at Georgia Tech has been working to attract students to the physical library: they have worked with the campus clubs to sponsor a "gaming night", the libraries have published an in-house newsletter (the "T-Paper") displayed only in library restrooms and they offer "Tuesday Talks" where a

faculty member provides a layperson session on his/her research. Stephanie Hartman, a librarian at the Barker Engineering Library, also shared her experiences with changes they've implemented with both the web space and physical space at MIT.

After the presentations, a discussion opened and many attendees took the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. Several people emphasized that allowing food and drink (with some controls) was essential to increasing physical visits to the library. Two attendees added that their libraries have removed the food and drink policy completely and put out extra garbage cans without any problems. Others noted that providing flexible furniture (moveable) to support group learning increased traffic in their libraries. Another attendee added that since they created a lounge area, faculty drop by to interact with the students.

Submitted by Katie Clark and Maliaca Oxnam

Research Committee

The Research Committee does not meet during the Annual Meeting, but hosts two programs. At the STS Research Forum in New Orleans, two guest speakers and guest commentator David Stern, Director of Science Libraries and Information Services at Yale's Kline Science Library provided the program. The STS Annual Poster Session and Reception had nine groups of authors presenting on the program theme, "Kaleidoscope of Scientific Literacy: Fusing New Connections." The abstracts and handouts are available on the STS website. Please contact William Simpson at wsimpson@udel.edu if you would like abstracts from the Research Forum.

Information provided by William Simpson

College Librarians Discussion Group: Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Support at the College Level

Sue O'Dell presented a slide show based on her research. Ninety Three liberal arts campuses were surveyed on the level of library GIS support. Participants discussed how GIS is supported on their campuses. There was great variation. A very lucky library has a full-time person in the libraries who is the GIS contact for the campus. Several other schools have librarians and sometimes student workers involved with their GIS program. Other schools have GIS software on one or more library terminals but do not have a dedicated person. A couple of attendees

noted that their libraries are working towards having a dedicated GIS position.

The research showed that one-on-one training was the most popular when compared to other options such as group or online training. The attendees thought this might be due to the fact that there are so many different GIS products available and that each situation is different. The discussion then focused on the issues of multiple softwares and GIS data types and the difficulties in being properly trained for all circumstances.

Several helpful resources were provided:

- http://mapzlibrarian.blogspot.com/
- http://mapzlibrarian.blogspot.com/2006/04/wantto-be-gis-librarian-10-things-you.html
- http://www.nitle.org (National Institute of Technology in Liberal Arts Education)
- http://www.amherst.edu/it/software/gis/gisintroduction/ (basic tutorial providing an overview of GIS concepts from Amherst College)

The group thought that an ideal GIS set up would have a librarian to handle the administrative side of things and a paraprofessional or student to provide technical skills.

Submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott and Sue O'Dell

What Has the American Chemical Society (ACS) Been Doing? A Report from the ACS 2006 Fall Meeting

The Chemical Information Division of the American Chemical Society has been doing some neat things. They have now podcasted two sessions from the Spring Meeting symposium "Social Software and Chemical Information" which can be found on the CINF site (http://acscinf.org/dbx/mtgs/231nm/231cinfprogram.asp). Speakers were Beth Thomsett-Scott, Teri Vogel, Brian Maurice Lynch, Barbara Greenman, Jeremy Garritano, Randy Reichardt, Martin Walker and Jonathan Coffman. Podcasts from the Fall Meeting symposium "Rediscovery of older information" are not yet available but you can review the sessions on the ACS web site (http://acscinf.org/dbx/mtgs/232nm/symp/S20947.asp).

The 2006 Herman Skolnik Award address by Hugo Kubinyi is available as a video (a format ACS is experimenting with). This talk covers the role of statistics in experiments.

The sessions is both informative and interesting and I encourage you to check out. You don't need to be a chemist to appreciate Kubinyi's remarks! For access to the video, go to http://myacsweb.org/, click on "Videos" under multimedia then look for the "Herman Skolnik Award Symposium".

There is also an interview with Eugene Garfield located at http://acscinf.org/docs/publications/Interviews/Garfield/2006/ discussing, of course, citation patterns! This interview is the first in a series to be published in the Chemical Information Bulletin.

From a business perspective, CINF has been considering the creation and implementation of a formalized liaison program (similar to STS's program) and I have wormed my way onto the committee looking at this. CINF has traditionally had informal liaison relationships with a number of organizations but feels that a more formal connection is needed. We are also planning our 5 year strategic plan progress with a membership survey and focus groups at the upcoming Spring meeting. This should be very interesting to watch and may provide some ideas for STS.

As always, there was an exceptional array of receptions and parties to attend. ACS, and CINF in particular, make sure that there is lots of time for socializing.

Please check out the ACS web site at http://www.acs. org. It's more than just plain chemistry! There are lots of multidisciplinary items that may be of interest. Please contact Beth Thomsett-Scott at bscott@library.unt.edu for more information.

Submitted by Beth Thomsett Scott, STS Liaison to ACS

Liaison Report on Activities of the Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) 2006 Annual Conference

The theme of American Society for Engineering Education Annual Meeting (held June 18-21 in Chicago, Illinois) was Advancing Scholarship in Engineering Education. The conference opened with society-wide picnic held at Navy Pier to the theme "Roar Into the '20s!" The next day, things were off to a great start with the Main Plenary discussion session, where leaders from industry and engineering education debated the issues associated with advancing scholarship in engineering education. This set the tone for the rest of the conference. The ELD followed this session with a power-packed first day

including the Get Acquainted Session which incorporated breakout discussion groups on topics such as collaborating with Faculty/Liaisons, collections issues, evaluating services, information literacy, access/ scholarly communications, technology use and the future of academic libraries. The following lunch session, entitled "Taking Back What is Ours", featured Charles Steele, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford. The accompanying panel included Rob Kirby (Prof. of Mathematics, UC-Berkeley) and a librarian and publisher respondent. The session focused on scholarly communication issues and Prof. Steele's experiences leaving his post with the International Journal of Solids and Structures and establishing the alternative journal, Journal of Mechanics of Materials and Structures. Other sessions hosted by ELD included Engineering Librarianship 101: Mastering the Craft with talks by Bob Schwarzwalder (U of Hawaii-Manoa), Anita Colby (UCLA) and Deborah Kegel (UCSD). This was followed by a conference-wide poster session and the ELD Welcome Reception.

Highlights of the second day of programs for ELD included a session on staying relevant to our users. Speaker Michael Stephens (St. Joseph Public Library, South Bend, Indiana) spoke on new technologies for reaching customers in new ways. The talk was followed by papers on the use of GIS in Science Libraries (Anne Graham, MIT) and designing a customized information delivery system (Amy Van Epps, Purdue). A session exploring the assessment of information literacy programs for engineers (including papers on Information Literacy in the Context of ABET 2000 Criteria, the Art of Research in a Technical Engineering Communications Class and Faculty/Librarian Partnerships for Information Fluency Instruction) followed.

The final day of the conference opened with a Poster session highlighting 19 different posters followed by a choice of conference plenary sessions. ELD's final session was a Forum on Collaborative Information Literacy Programs highlighting papers from Lisa Bullard & Honora Eskridge (NCSU), Christine Drew (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Larry Schmidt (Univ. of Wyoming), Diana Wheeler (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), Scott Warren (NCSU).

The conference provided an opportunity for much discussion, collaboration, and learning and was very well received. Those interested in learning more can view breakout session notes, presentations and posters on the ELD Website at http://eld.lib.ucdavis.edu/.

Submitted by Maliaca Oxnam, STS Liaison to ASEE

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section * 2007 Midwinter Meeting * Seatle, WA

Date/Time Committee

Friday, January 19

2:00 - 4:00pm ACRL Leadership Council

4:30 - 5:30pm Sections Council 6:00-8:00pm STS Executive Dinner

Saturday, January 20

10:00-11:00am ACRL Conference Program Planning 2007 10:00-11:00am ACRL Conference Program Planning 2008 10:30-12:30pm All STS Committee Meetings for Continuing

Education, Government Information, Information Literacy, Library Assessment, Membership & Recruitment, Organization & Planning, Publications, Subject & Bibliographic Access,

Discussion Group Chairs

10:30-12:30pm Nominations 2007 (closed) 10:30-12:30pm Nominations 2008 (closed) 10:30-12:30pm Research Committee (closed) 1:30-3:30pm Hot Topics Discussion Group

4:00-5:00pm ACRL/SPARC Scholarly Communication

Forum

4:00-6:00pm Oberly Award Committee (closed)

Date/Time Committee

Sunday, January 21

8:00-10:00am Liaisons Task Force

10:30-12:30pm Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion

Group

1:30-3:30pm 2007 Program Planning Committee 1:30-3:30pm 2008 Program Planning Committee 4:00-5:30pm ACRL Scholarly Communication Discus-

sion Group

6:00pm - STS Dinner - off-site

Monday, January 22

8:00-10:00am STS Council

10:00-11:00am Executive Council Wrap Up

EDITOR'S NOTE:

some times are tentative as of press time....
check the ALA conference website for confirmed times and locations.

Call for Nominations: STS Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences

www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlawards/oberlyaward.htm

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 a related science.

Eligibility: English-language bibliographies in any format in the field of agriculture or a related science published during the 2 year period preceding the year in which the award is presented. Bibliographies may be a monograph, a completed series viewed as a body of work, or an ongoing publication. Electronic works openly accessible to the public are especially encouraged.

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

Submissions: Nominations for the 2007 award are currently being accepted and may be made in the form of a letter. They should point out the reason the bibliography should be considered. A copy of the bibliography, if possible, should accompany the nomination. Send nominations to the award committee co-chairs, Paul Kelsey, Louisiana State University Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, T: 225-578-9433, E-mail: pkelsey@lsu.edu or Martin Kesselman, Rutgers University, Chang Library, 59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, T: 732-932-0305 ext. 163, E-mail: martyk@rci.rutgers.edu.

Deadline: December 31, 2006

Thanks and appreciation to the following Friends and Sponsors of the Science & Technology Section:

Elsevier/Scopus, Morgan & Claypool, IEEE, Taylor & Francis, Institute of Physics, Thomson ISI, Knovel, YBP Library Services

Visit the STS Program blog

During the STS program in New Orleans we asked for your feedback. We hoped to encourage follow-up discussion on how libraries can find new and non-traditional partners.

We received some excellent suggestions.

We've decided that creating a blog would be a good way to share your feedback with our community.

The STS BLOG can be found at:

http://sts-kaleidoscope.blogspot.com/

Please contribute

NOTE: this blog has not been officially endorsed by ALA or ACRL.

The STS Publications Committee is responsible for its content and presentation

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

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

STS-L is running on the Sympa software on the American Library Association servers. You can subscribe by logging into the web interface: http://lists.ala.org/wws/info/sts-l. Moderators: Peter Spyers-Duran and Linda Eells

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)

http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/ Editor: Andrea Duda

STS Web Page

http://www.acrl.org/sts Webmaster: Paul St-Pierre

STS Signal on the Web

Available as a pdf file at: http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm

Editors: Jennifer McKinnell & Caroline Gilson

Non-Profit Org.

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STS SIGNAL

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50 East Huron Street

Chicago, IL 60611-2795