Although we missed those of you unable to attend the ALA Annual conference in Washington, D.C., we had a very successful conference with engaging speakers, enthusiastic audiences, and the usual amazing support from STS members and volunteers.

Events at Annual included the STS program, “Federal Friends: Creating Greater Access to and Support for Science & Technology Information,” which was very well attended and reflected the organizational efforts and talents of STS Chair Maliaca Oxnam and the 2010 Program Planning Committee. This was followed by a bustling, packed poster session accompanied by very tasty snacks. Poster abstracts and supporting information are still available. Kudos go the Research Committee for organizing the poster session, as well as a truly informative and interesting Research Forum – thank you Patricia Kreitz for teaching all of us a few things about research and writing! Other fun events included a new “pizza lunch” immediately following the All Committees meeting, drawings and lively chat at the New Members Breakfast, and table talk and the opportunity to star in your own video at the All Member Breakfast (see the Continuing Education Committee section for more on the videos!).

As STS vice-chair this past year, I was challenged to keep up with the smoking trail of initiatives blazed by chair Maliaca Oxnam. First, we are delighted to announce a brand new “STS Innovation in Science and Technology Librarianship” award, a $3,000 annual award for either individuals or groups, sponsored by the IEEE. The call for nominations for this award will be distributed soon, with the first award to be presented at the 2011 Annual Conference – another good reason for a New Orleans party! The STS is also sponsoring an ALA Emerging Leader for the first time this year, with the recipient receiving $1,000 to attend both ALA conferences. Rumors emanating from the new STS Awards Committee (formerly the Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences Committee) are that they had stellar nominees.

Speaking of new committees, the STS now has a standing Scholarly Communication Committee formed on the recommendation of the Open Access Task Force (TF), which wrapped up its work this year with a very comprehensive report. Scholarly communication is a complex bundle of topics, with only one aspect (open access) producing an engaged and interesting discussion in the Publisher-Vendor Relations DG session. We also have three new task forces hard at work after their inauguration at Annual: Information Literacy Standards Review TF; Subject Librarians TF; and Virtual Participation TF. In addition we are considering initiating a Data Curation Taskforce to follow up on the energy, ideas, and questions that poured forth during the College Science Librarians DG.

We are moving into a very exciting year for the STS as we make plans to commemorate the section’s 50th Anniversary in New Orleans in June 2011 - an appropriate location for a party! The 2011 Program Planning Committee is looking at special venues for an exceptional celebration, and putting together a very timely program around the theme, “Innovation in an Age of Limits”. Look for more information on the STS-L as we move toward ALA Midwinter in San Diego (a special treat this year for those of us stuck solidly in a deep freeze in January).

STS members and volunteers are such an impressive network of librarians (for funsies on what we call ourselves, see What is a Group of Librarians? I am delighted to see so many fresh faces bringing their talent and energy to the section. Thank you, everyone, for stepping up and volunteering your time, which is so limited, for committees and task forces. This looks to be a great year for STS, and I look forward to seeing you in San Diego and New Orleans!

Linda Eells
University of Minnesota Libraries
612-624-4799
Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

I want to thank STS members for electing me to serve as the STS Vice-Chair for 2010-2011. I am honored and more than a bit overwhelmed, but I look forward with great anticipation to the next few years. STS has been a real anchor for me as I explore ALA and ACRL. The programming is always informative and timely, and the networking is the best!

I look forward to appointing individuals to all STS committees and discussion groups for the term that starts immediately after ALA Annual 2011. We have many groups doing great work – take a look at the committee descriptions on the STS website and decide where you would like to contribute! Contact me or the committee chair if you’d like more information before you volunteer.

I encourage all of you to serve on one of the STS committees or discussion groups. The process starts as soon as you fill out a volunteer form to indicate which committee interests you! Volunteering is easy: go to www.acrl.org/volunteer.

Remember, to serve on a committee, you must:

- Be a member of ALA, ACRL & STS for the duration of the appointment
- Attend ALA Midwinter & ALA Annual conferences during your term (some committees allow virtual attendance)
- Submit an electronic appointment acceptance form

Even if you cannot serve on a committee at this time, I would like to know how STS can be more effective and useful for you. Send me your ideas about programming, section activities, communication, educational opportunities and new interest groups. Your ideas drive change as STS moves forward!

Mary Beth Slebodnik
Purdue University Libraries
Phone: 765.494.2917
Awards

(formerly Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences)

The Oberly Awards Committee is expanding its charge and becoming the STS Awards Committee. In addition to the Oberly Award, this committee will select the ACRL STS Emerging Leader Candidate and the winner of the recently created Innovation in Science and Technology Librarianship Award (sponsored by IEEE). The Oberly Award, given once every two years, is seeking nominations by December 3, 2010, for the 2011 recipient. More information about past winners and how to nominate materials can be found on the Oberly Award webpage. The Innovation in Science and Technology Librarianship will soon be announcing details of how to nominate individuals for this award. Nominations for this will also be due December 3, 2010.

—Luti Salisbury and Marianne Stowell Bracke, Co-Chairs

Continuing Education

At the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., the STS Continuing Education Committee hosted a five-squared table discussion of current issues in science and technology libraries. This lively discussion was attended by about 60 librarians. Topics discussed included: making the best out of the worst of times, subject librarianship and your role in the library, science information/librarianship on mobile devices, website redesign, usability and subject pages, federated searching in the sciences, Nature and the University of California response to increasing journal prices, tips to share with other librarians/ best science librarianship moments, and outreach. Breakfast attendees were also asked to share their best science librarian tip or trick with STS members. The STS Continuing Education Committee set up an impromptu film studio in the back of the breakfast room where librarians could video-record their tips, and 17 librarians took part in this project. The committee is currently editing these video tips and will make them available online to the STS membership this fall. An announcement will be sent out on STS-L when the tips are available. If anyone who was unable to attend the breakfast, or who was feeling camera-shy in D.C., would like to contribute a tip, please send your video tip to Edith Scarletto, STS Continuing Education co-chair, by October 15, 2010.

—Kimberly Chapman and Edith Scarletto, Co-Chairs

Government Information

Attendees at the committee meeting at Annual 2010 included Patricia Kenly, Andrea Wirth, Alison Ricker (outgoing co-chair), Tim Byrne (incoming co-chair), Cheryl McCoy (continuing co-chair), and guest Wayne Strickland. Wayne volunteered to join the committee officially (welcome!). We agreed to try to coordinate attendance at GODORT and other federal document-related meetings at the Midwinter meeting in order to represent STS interests at other ALA groups and to report back to our committee. Legislative Assembly, GODORT, and Washington Office updates are of special concern.

The Assessment Committee created a survey to determine how and to what extent the list of STS Government Information web sites* is being used by STS members and to judge its effectiveness. The invitation to complete that questionnaire was sent to STS-L on August 6. Please respond! Your feedback will be very helpful.

*Now entitled Science and Technology Government Information Sources, on the ACRL Wiki. Find all of the STS entries under the Communities of Practice link in the ACRL Wiki.

—Tim Byrne and Cheryl McCoy, Co-Chairs
Information Literacy

The Information Literacy Committee discussed whether or not First Wednesdays on Facebook continues to be a valuable resource for STS. It was agreed that it does and that Facebook remains the best delivery option at present. There is consensus that the event should be held once a month, although the date and time for the event during the upcoming year have yet to be determined. The committee also discussed the Information Literacy Wiki and the value of creating a “Wiki-master” position to help focus maintenance efforts. Assessment criteria for the wiki was discussed, especially accessibility and sustainability. The committee questioned whether a wiki is the appropriate venue for the project (a tentative “yes”) and whether the marketing is working (a tentative “no”). Other topics included: use of drop boxes instead of direct posting, sponsoring a program to market the wiki (perhaps a Hot Topic), more organized postings to listservs, marketing to science librarianship courses, developing tutorials on IL strategies, and advertising in ALADirect. Finally, the committee decided to continue maintenance and discussed ways to regularize the process.

New Business consisted of a brief discussion of Task Force on Science Information Literacy Standards, of which Elizabeth and Roxanne are members.

--Peter Larson and Roxanne Bogucka, Co-Chairs

Membership & Recruitment

Membership numbers have declined from last year, but this is currently a trend across ALA. Also, ACRL membership numbers in general tend to spike in an ACRL conference year, so seeing a decline in numbers in 2010 is not outside the norm. The membership committee is currently in the process of uploading past membership data to ALA Connect for archiving.

The membership committee once again held the STS New Members Breakfast. There were 35 attendees, including 10 new members, each of whom received a door prize. The membership committee also had a presence at ACRL 101, where several new ACRL members expressed interest in STS activities.

—Robin Dasler and Rachel Borchardt, Co-Chairs

Organization & Planning

This past spring, the Organization and Planning (OP) Committee coordinated the creation of the STS Implementation of the ACRL Strategic Plan Summary for FY2010, which was submitted by STS Chair Maliaca Oxnam to ACRL in May, 2010. Each OP committee member served as a liaison to other STS committees to assist committee chairs with their activity reports for the summary. This was the first time that the OP Committee served in this role. By all accounts, the process worked well and will be continued next year. In reviewing the completed summary, the committee identified two ACRL strategic areas with potential for further development – scholarly communications and advocacy.

—Mary Linn Bergstrom and Jill Dixon, Co-Chairs

Publisher/Vendor Relations

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group welcomes Edward Kownslar to our membership. The responsibility of the group is “to provide a forum for exchanging information between science and technology publishers and vendors and science and technology librarians”. The discussion group held an online meeting via ALA connect on August 18 to consider topics and format for the 2011 midwinter meeting in San Diego. The topic of the session will be patron-driven acquisitions for books in science and technology. Please plan to attend to share your experiences and opinions on this developing model of acquisitions in academic libraries.

—Judith Emde and Matthew Marsteller, Co-Chairs
Nominating Committee

STS Nomination committee members have arranged to have information about STS officer candidates printed in STS Signal for the benefit of potential STS voters. This information is supplemental to and provided earlier than that which appears on the ballots. Because there are currently no formal guidelines for the type of information candidates should submit, an array of information was provided by candidates. For the sake of consistency, all information supplemental to the statement itself has been removed. This is a first time trial of the process and is subject to modification by future Nomination Committee members.

--Ginny Baldwin, Chair

Nominating Committee Candidate Statements

Member-at-Large

John Meier

“I strongly believe libraries have many vital roles in higher education; for teaching and learning, in scholarship and research; and in access and preservation of information. Academic libraries must use technology appropriately to serve the information needs of library users; in particular, the interdisciplinary pursuits of science and engineering require an increasing scope and amount of information and data. It is my duty as a Science Librarian to assist students and scholars with accessing information and facilitating their connections at my institution and in the global scholarly community. My first years as a professional were spent learning more about librarianship and exploring opportunities in the profession. Now I am working to create new initiatives and opportunities to the benefit of science and technology librarians around the globe. As Member-at-Large I will provide leadership and help to our work in the Science and Technology Section and carry it beyond.”

Member-at-Large

Peter Larsen

“The Member-at-Large position is meant to support the Chair and Executive Committee in their functions. Having served STS in a variety of positions over the last seven years, I have a good sense of what those functions might be and how I can work to help the section function more effectively. Those of you who have attended the New Member’s Breakfasts at Annual over the years have a good idea of how I organize social functions (a key role of the Members-at-Large). I am also skilled at keeping numerous projects going at once, and carrying out my duties for the sake of the organization rather than ego. In the end, I want to see a Section that functions more smoothly, more effectively, and with a better sense of fun.”
Vice-Chair/Chair Elect
Lori Critz

“I recently celebrated my 10 year anniversary as an academic science/engineering librarian, and as I reflected on the past decade I realized how significant a role STS has played in my journey. As a new librarian I was fortunate to find STS, and its membership of enthusiastic professionals committed to the arena of science/technology/engineering librarianship. I was delighted to find colleagues to provide support, encouragement and much needed advice. My path began in STS as an intern on the Membership and Recruitment Committee, and I have, since that first appointment, felt welcomed and appreciated. My service in STS has included a variety of duties, and each has helped me gain a deeper appreciation for STS as an organization, and myriad opportunities to learn and grow as a librarian. I have been a member of the Membership & Recruitment Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Information Literacy Committee; have Co-chaired the Organization & Planning Committee, the Open Access Task Force, the Membership & Recruitment Committee, and the Hot Topics Discussion Group; and have served a 2 year term as STS Secretary. Tenure on these committees, and on STS Council, has helped me develop a broad understanding of issues -- both long-standing and emergent – that we will continue to address over the next few years. The need for collaborative response to these issues has also become apparent. As we address new roles in instruction and research for liaison librarians, a changing scholarly communication landscape, and the need to maintain visibility and demonstrate continued value to our institutions, STS will remain a respected and indispensable influence. The commitment of STS leaders and membership will continue to be an essential factor in our continued success. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to support the Section. I would be honored to serve STS as Vice-Chair/Chair-elect.”

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect
Kara Whatley

“I have been a science librarian for eleven years, and during that time I have found STS to be a strong source of information, activities, and resources to promote my professional growth. As I have grown as a science librarian, it has given me great satisfaction to contribute to STS and science librarianship in ways that provide growth opportunities for others. As co-chair of the Hot Topics Discussion Group I helped generate discussions on E-science, assessing science information literacy sessions, and the education and training of science librarians. As STS Publicity Officer I helped raise awareness of the programs, discussions, and other events that STS offers its members. This year, as a member of the STS Continuing Education Committee, I am working with other librarians to establish a video library of tips. These tips, shared from one science and technology librarian to another, will help all science librarians hone their craft-- especially new librarians and those who find themselves working in an organization without other science librarian colleagues. STS has provided me with incredible opportunities for my growth as a science librarian, and I would relish this change to serve the section as STS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, paying forward what I have received to other science and technology librarians by providing them with continued leadership and professional growth opportunities.”
Nominating Committee Candidate Statements

Secretary

Marianne Bracke

“My very first job after library school was in a science library. I am not sure I was all that prepared, but they were willing to give me a chance. My supervisor encouraged me to join STS, as a way to meet other science librarians and to learn about the profession. Thirteen years later, I find myself still working in science libraries – in fact I can’t imagine doing anything else – and a devoted and grateful member of STS. The professional and collegial atmosphere of the section not only improved my skills as a librarian, it helped me find my way to a profession that I love. I have been on numerous STS committees through the years and chair of the Oberly Award Committee for the last three years. Now I am hoping to be able to serve STS in a new capacity, as Secretary. Clear, consistent, and regular communication between the Council and the membership is crucial, especially as we enter a time of change and uncertainty in the profession. I will focus my efforts on ensuring that the goals and objectives of the section are met through good communication.”

Secretary

Ed Lener

“The ACRL Science and Technology Section has been central to my professional growth as a science librarian. Over the years I have played an active role in STS through a variety of means such as serving as Publicity Officer, co-chairing three committees and co-editing the STS Signal. Most recently, I completed a term as co-chair of the STS Organization and Planning Committee which gave me an opportunity to lead revision of the section’s governance procedures and to help develop a new approach to strategic planning. I believe I can contribute to the continued success and vitality of the STS Section through a position as Secretary.”

Please note that all candidate statements are unedited
In the spring, the ISTL Board sought applications for an open position on the Board. After narrowing the submissions, the Board, in conjunction with the rest of the Publications Committee, selected Ed Eckel for the position. Background information on Ed can be found below.

The STS website was updated prior to Annual with the ALA schedule, poster sessions, and other conference-related materials. The home page was recently updated with links to the STS Information Literacy Standards as well as the current roster of STS board members. On July 1, Julie Shen took over as webmaster of the STS section. We want to thank Erin Davis and Robyn Rosenberg for working hard on the website.

An STS Facebook group was started prior to Midwinter 2010. Members of the Publications committee will be identified to create policies/procedures for posting to the page. The Facebook group will also work with the STS Publicity Officer to promote STS events on Facebook.

The science librarian recruiting video is complete and needs to be posted. At the minimum, it will be posted to YouTube. The committee will work with the Assessment committee to evaluate the video.

—Alison Bobal, Past Co-Chair

Ed Eckel
—New ISTL Editorial Board member —

Ed Eckel is currently the Engineering and Applied Sciences Librarian at Western Michigan University, where he started in 2006. Prior to his time at Western, he worked one year as a reference/instruction librarian at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and for four years at Delaware County Community College Library in Media, Pennsylvania. While at Aquinas College, he taught an introductory freshman-level course in information literacy.

Ed’s research interests include graduate engineering plagiarism, and how graduate engineering students learn information searching skills.

He has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and a Bachelor’s degree in Plant Biology from Cornell University.

Congratulations, Ed!
Liaison Committee

Call for an AAAS Liaison

ACRL STS invites all interested librarians to consider serving as the ALA Liaison to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This is a three year term that begins February 22, 2011 and extends until after the AAAS meeting held in 2014. There will be three annual AAAS conferences held during this term (2012, 2013, 2014), usually over the Presidents' Day Weekend in February in different cities with more frequent meetings in Washington, DC since AAAS Headquarters are located there. The schedule of future meetings can be found on the AAAS website and is summarized below.

- 2011 will be February 17-21, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 will be February 16-20, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 will be February 14-18, Boston, MA
- 2014 - [location and dates to be announced]

The ALA Liaison will serve as an Affiliate Representative to the Section Committee of the AAAS Section on Information, Computing, and Communication, known as Section (T). As an Affiliate Representative to an AAAS Section Committee, you must be a member of AAAS. You are responsible for all costs associated with serving in this position, including conference registration and membership. AAAS provides no financial compensation, subsidy or reimbursement. The ACRL Science & Technology Section may be able to offer some nominal support (maximum of $500), but that is not assured for every year.

Responsibilities to STS and ALA include promoting the conference to relevant ACRL sections, attending the conference, filing a conference report, informing ACRL and ALA of any important issues that may serve as reasons for additional collaboration or to be aware of issues and decisions that may affect the library and academic communities, and also participating as an affiliate representative to the STS Liaison Committee.

If you are interested in being nominated by the ALA Board to serve as this Representative, please send a statement expressing your interest in the position indicating the following:

1. Your background and interest in the sciences, science policy, science literacy, science education.
2. Confirm your membership in the AAAS (or expectation to join once nominated by ALA);
3. Your understanding that there may not be consistent financial support accompanying this position, which is for 2012-2014 AAAS Annual Conferences with an attached resume or CV.

Provide your contact information submit your information to William Simpson, Chair STS Liaisons Committee by Friday, November 26, 2010.

The STS Liaisons Committee will submit its recommendations to ALA. A decision will be made by the ALA Executive Board for consideration at the spring 2011 meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact William Simpson or Christie Peters, Co-Chairs

AAAS Mission

AAAS seeks to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." To fulfill this mission, the AAAS Board has set these broad goals:

- Enhance communication among scientists, engineers, and the public;
- Promote and defend the integrity of science and its use;
- Strengthen support for the science and technology enterprise;
- Provide a voice for science on societal issues;
- Promote the responsible use of science in public policy;
- Strengthen and diversify the science and technology workforce;
- Foster education in science and technology for everyone;
- Increase public engagement with science and technology; and
- Advance international cooperation in science.
Liaison Committee

Call for Mini-Grants

Do you or your STS committee need funds for projects that involve collaborations with other science librarian associations or groups? Do you have an idea on how to advance STS and academic science librarianship within professional science societies and associations? The STS Liaisons Committee is funding projects (up to $1500.00) in 2011 that are strategic opportunities for STS Committees and members that support collaborative activities with science and technology sections of library-related associations or that foster leadership within professional science scholarly on issues of importance to science & technology librarianship. Proposals by STS committees or STS members with other groups within ALA are welcomed.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include the following:

- Collaborative research projects between STS and another library association or group within ALA.
- Shared development of educational opportunities of high interest to STS members.
- Support for STS committees/members to highlight the work of STS to a non-librarian professional association meeting.
- Development of guidelines/best practices with other library associations.
- Shared programs for recruitment of scientists and science students into librarianship.

SUBMISSIONS: Each proposal must include a statement of purpose and project description that demonstrates alignment with the strategic goals of STS and ACRL. A detailed budget is required with justifications, timeline, and deliverables. Funding will not be provided for travel-related expenses. Also required is a plan for assessment and how the project measures success.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: May 1, 2011. Proposals will be considered on a continual basis until the funding ($1500.00) is depleted. The STS Liaisons Committee will select proposals for 2011 through a blind review process on the basis of timeliness, thoughtfulness, and relevance to sci/tech librarianship.

Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to William Simpson and Christie Peters, Co-Chairs of the STS Liaisons Committee. Be sure to include your name, institution, phone, fax, and e-mail address.

Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

Several committee members finished their terms in June 2009 and we would like to them for their valuable insights and work. Co-chair Jin Ma initiated, created, and maintained a wiki for our committee work. Anne Christie, Judith Emde, Nancy Sprague, and Marijo Wilson also completed their terms with the committee. They worked on the electronic dissertation and theses survey and were there when we started our e-science project; we thank them for their hard work and contributions. For July 2009 we welcomed new members Betty Landesman, Jack Maness, Margaret Mellinger, Kavita Mundle, and Anthony Oddo.

Our Committee composition had a few notable changes for July, 2010. Kathy Wheeler ﬁnished her term as co-chair, but we are happy she was willing to stay on for another year to help complete the work on our e-science bibliography. Her editing and writing skills, as well as her knowledge of the project, were integral to the process. Our new co-chair is Jack Maness, who comes to the position with Emerging Leader qualiﬁcations. We also welcome Hope Leman and Leora Siegel to SBASM, who were put to work right away!

Various iterations of the Committee searched for, compiled, and annotated a bibliography on e-science that focuses on libraries and librarians with an emphasis on providing an overview and basic information. The manuscript has been submitted for peer-review with ISTL.

—Jack Maness and Kathy Szigeti, Co-Chairs

This report includes information that was inadvertently left out of the Spring, 2010 newsletter.
Research Forum

This year the STS Research forum featured three papers presented on Sunday Afternoon. The Research Forum provides a venue for Science and Technology Librarians to present research that is on its way to publication and receive feedback from a commentator in the field. This then allows the presenters to move their research forward to submission and publication.

This year the forum featured two short paper presentations, of 10 minutes each and a featured paper presentation of 30 minutes. Each presentation was followed by commentary by Patricia Kreitz, Director of Technical Information Services at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory. The first short papers presented was Science 2.0: A Nationwide Unobtrusive Study of Large University Physics and Biology Departmental Web Sites by Diane Covington and Matthew R. Marsteller (from Carnegie Mellon University) and Bo Baker (from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga). The researchers examined science department web sites to determine the use of Web 2.0 tools by department faculties. The second short paper was Assessing the Information Needs of Computer Scientists and Engineers, by Valerie Tucci of the College of New Jersey. This study detailed the use of focus groups to gain an understanding of faculty needs in the Engineering departments at the College of New Jersey in order to build an effective liaison program.

The featured paper was Integrating the Medical Literature into Undergraduate Instruction by Katherine O’Clair, Kennedy Library, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. O’Clair detailed her work with undergraduates at Arizona State. She discussed the use of office hours as instruction sessions and being involved in the class by attending class and grading assignments.

The commentator provided each of the presenters with helpful suggestions for improving the research and moving it on to publication. The STS Research Committee receives proposals for the Research Forum in the Fall and uses a blind peer review process to select the featured and short papers for the session at a meeting at the ALA Midwinter meeting. The call for papers for the next Research Forum will be coming in mid-November.

Poster session abstracts are available on the STS website.

Posters

1. “Public Attitude Adjustment: 27 Year Trends about Science and Technology,”
   Stephen Woods, John Meier, and Amy Paster; Penn State University

   Valerie S. Allen, DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information

   Michael C. Witt, Purdue University

   Will Hires and Stephanie Braunstein, Louisiana State University

   Carol Jacobson, Defense Technical Information Center

   Mel DeSart and Sinai Wood, University of Washington and Baylor University

7. “Where is the Science in Congress? Walking the Line to Research Information from Bill to Law,”
   Jenette Prescod, Thura Mack, and Sandra Leach; University of Tennessee Libraries

8. “Discover and Provide Feedback for the Wealth of Atmospheric, Climate Geophysical and Oceanographic Data at NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration),”
   Mary Lou Cumberpatch, NOAA Central Library

   Peter Kirlew, University of Minnesota Libraries

10. “AgSpace: The National Agricultural Library’s Digital Repository,”
    Susan Fugate, AgSpace Coordinator, National Agricultural Library
Where is the Science in Congress? Walking the Line to Research Information from Bill to Law

Jenette Prescod, Thura Mack, and Sandra Leach;

Information for All: The Federal Agency University Partnership for Research

Will Hires and Stephanie Braunstein

Louisiana State University
2011 Program Planning Committee

Members of the 2011 Program Planning Committee (PPC) have been working diligently to plan for our 50th anniversary as a section!

Our program theme is “Innovation in an Age of Limits”, and we are lining up some great speakers to address that topic! The program description is, “While the tendency in hard economic times is to be conservative and avoid risks, this environment creates the need, and opportunities, to innovate. STS began 50 years ago in an era of seemingly unlimited possibilities, with the Cold War driving investment in scientific research, big technology, and higher education. Now we face grand challenges in science, engineering and library services. Current economic conditions are limiting, but our only real limit is our ability to innovate.”

Our Members-At-Large Matt Marsteller and Maxine Schmidt are collaborating with PPC members (and New Orleans residents) Tony Bremholm and Paul St. Pierre to find a fantastic venue for our 50th anniversary event! Be prepared to celebrate in New Orleans style!!

Members of the 2011 PPC include Margaret Mellinger and Maribeth Slebodnik, co-chairs, Tony Bremholm, Jeanne Davidson, Mel DeSart, Nathan Hall, Janice Jaguszewski, Marianne Stowell Bracke, Paul St. Pierre and ALA liaison Megan Griffin.

—Margaret Ann Mellinger and Mary Beth Slebodnik, Co-Chairs

Subject Librarian Task Force

The newly formed Subject Librarian Task Force is charged with: (1) Examining the state of subject liaisons in science and technology libraries; (2) Determining if a set of formal guidelines should be recommended and approved by the section and ACRL or if informal support materials in this area would be beneficial to members and the section; and (3) Working to establish guidelines and/or support materials for this section.

The task force will create and distribute a survey this fall, which will be used to assess the state of subject liaisons in science and technology libraries as mandated above. The data obtained by means of this survey will help us determine if formal guidelines are necessary, what they will be and, if so, whether support materials would be helpful for this section.

—Christie Peters
Data Curation/Archiving

Approximately 60 people attended the Discussion Group titled: The Data Game: Libraries and Data Repositories.

The discussion was framed by these questions:

- Given the push to preserve and maintain data, are libraries the logical curators?
- If so, what do we need to know?
- How will this influence our professional practice and LIS education?
- What are good examples or models of data repositories and research collaborations?

It became clear almost immediately that people in the audience have been thinking about this issue. The discussion was energetic and freewheeling, and ended up raising even more questions. Of the four questions asked, the first evoked the most response. The general consensus was that libraries clearly have a central role to play in the curation and archiving of data.

Several themes emerged from this conversation:

Career issues – Practicing librarians will need to learn new skills and new ways to use those skills we already have in order to be relevant/credible partners, and the next wave of LIS graduates will need to learn new ways of looking at the profession. Is there a role for archivists?

Capacity – Do we have time? How will we learn the things we need to learn? What kind of support do libraries need? How do we convince our administrations that we need more support?

Culture – This will require a change in library culture—what will that look like? How will we manage the traditional roles that we are still required to fill? This will also require a change in the culture of research. To succeed, data curation must be faculty-driven, rather than librarian-driven. We must convince current researchers that we can add value to their data, and graduate students should be taught the importance of data management and sharing.

Prospects – Much of the future is unknowable. How much responsibility will publishers take on? There are changes in information technology that we cannot predict. What will be the impact on research of citing data?

Practical issues – What disciplines should we target? What kind of data—raw, finished, clean? Sensor- or software-dependent? The whole data lifecycle? What about inter-institutional or institutional research? How many copies of existing datasets should be kept (LOCKSS)? How does a local repository relate to a discipline-wide repository?

Toward the end of the discussion, we began thinking of actions that STS might take:

- Standards
- Teaching data curation
- Best practices/guidelines
- Task force or working group to work on these
Hot Topics Discussion Group

Open Access

The panel included:

- Tyler Walters, Associate Director for Technology and Resource Services, Georgia Tech
- Martin Halbert, Dean of Libraries, University of North Texas (UNT)

The session opened with Tyler Walters discussing four economic models for Open Access (OA).

1. **Author Pays** – Currently the leading way to fund OA. One example is the IEEE journals. Usually in field where grants can pay for it.
2. **Corporate Sponsorship** – where gifts from corporations support the publication. Tyler cited the Journal of Information Technology for Development, which is sponsored by Microsoft. Tyler felt that there was no editorial pressure from Microsoft, but the corporation had an interest in the subject.
3. **Institutional Sponsorship** – this model involves a group of universities coming together to subsidize the costs of publication and making the journal free to other users. One example of this model is Molecular Vision, which is sponsored by the Emory Eye Center, Georgia Knights Templar Educational Foundation, and Emory University.
4. **Sweat Equity** – where people believe in the journal and put time into it, without additional sponsorship. The International Journal of Facility Management is published via Open Journal Systems at Georgia Tech.

There are about seven thousand OA journals world-wide, and the number is increasing about 10% a year. This is a world-wide phenomenon, which is particularly strong in Europe and Australia. There may be certain perceptions that OA is something that only really large library systems can do, but Tyler gave examples of smaller libraries that were successfully implementing Open Access projects.

Martin Halbert then presented “Observations from a Dean of Libraries on Implementing Open Access.” He gave a brief overview of Open Access models, and then began discussing Open Access Mandate adoption by faculty world-wide. Martin presented the timeline for UNT’s adoption of a mandate. This mandate was drafted by faculty and library representatives and focused on peer-reviewed articles. They resolved to support a green OA mandate, with an active request for opt-out. The policy draft was released to coincide with a campus meeting on OA by policy makers, with external experts presenting the following day. This draft then got a lot of attention (and editing) in the blogs of Stevan Harnad and Stuart Schreiber. Martin discussed the cost of running Institutional Repositories and Open Access journals, including workflows and operations, and potential places for increases in funding.

The floor was then opened to questions, which included a discussion of how to get support at a University level. The presenters suggested engaging the Provost and showing some of the evidence of OA impact. It is important to partner with these offices, so that the discussion is seen as a scholarship issue, not just a library issue. There was also a question about the relationship of publishing to tenure. The speakers were firm that faculty get the choice of where to publish. Deposit in a local repository does not interfere with publication in non-OA prestigious journals. Open access just increases the exposure. One of the discussion group attendees noted that some of the citation studies supporting OA were not well designed—only one was randomized and it didn’t support the OA advantage. The final comment from the audience was that it was disappointing that there was not a publisher included among the speakers to provide balance to the discussion and to more fully address the complexity of the issues. The speakers acknowledged the omission of the publishers’ perspective from their presentation; however, they also reminded the audience that there were other presentations at the ALA Conference that focused on publishing issues related to Open Access. It was also noted by several attendees that STS sponsored a publisher/vendor panel on this issue at Midwinter.

—Carla Lee
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