

Volume 23, Number 1 Spring 2008

From the Chair, Barbara MacAlpine

Have you sometimes lost sight of the forest through the trees? Recently I had a conversation with a library school student who was really excited about going to her first ALA conference this summer, in Anaheim. It made me realize that I've been so intent on nailing down details for the program, arranging meeting rooms, and fundraising that I'd forgotten how much fun it is to attend Annual. Anaheim—the magical destination—offers all kinds of great experiences for STS members, and I'm not just talking Disney ☺

If you're coming to Annual, plan on starting off the conference with mingling and munching at the STS welcoming reception Friday at 6:00 p.m. Saturday morning we'll host and toast (pun intended) the new members at an 8 a.m. light breakfast and orientation. Sunday morning brings the All Members Breakfast, and Sunday night it's the STS Dinner at the Tangerine Grill. Moving beyond those basic human needs for social contact and sustenance, we'll have food for thought at two discussion group programs as well as the research forum on Sunday afternoon. On Monday morning please join us for the STS Conference Program:

One Part Inspiration: Creative Trends that Further Science Learning

Felice Frankel, a senior research fellow at Harvard and outstanding science photographer, will dazzle you with her images while addressing the visual component in teaching science. After the program she will be signing her book *On the Surface of Things: Images of the Extraordinary in Science*, which is being published this spring in paperback by Harvard University Press. We'll also be "exposed" to *Bioactive*, the University of Florida's interactive bioterrorism game that was

designed to teach library research skills. Following the program, the reception and poster session will integrate members' posters with a "petting zoo" of new technologies. For the serious conference-attendee, the grand finale will be a tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) on Tuesday morning. It should all be stimulating—and fun.

If Anaheim is not in your future, I welcome your interaction with STS via committee work, communication through STS-L, and input on the issues that drive the section. I am constantly amazed at the projects so many of you are undertaking at your home institutions while still finding time to share your talents and energy with STS. That "forest" is easy to see; thank you for your inspiration and all your contributions.

*Submitted by Barbara MacAlpine,
Trinity University, bmacalpi@trinity.edu*

STS SIGNAL is a biannual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2523. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferred, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Yelena Pancheshnikov, University of Saskatchewan Libraries, 3 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK Canada S7N 5A4 Phone: (306) 966-5997, Fax: (306) 966-6040, Email: Yelena.Pancheshnikov@usask.ca; Jennifer McKinnell, Health Sciences Library, McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3Z5, Phone: (905) 525-9140 x24381, Fax: (905) 528-3733, Email: mckinn@mcmaster.ca

© Copyright American Library Association 2008. STS Signal is published twice annually in May and November. Editorial deadlines for each issue are March 1st and September 1st of each year.

STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. Additionally, it is available on the STS Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>.

From the STS Vice-Chair

What an exciting fifteen months we have ahead! STS Officers and members are finalizing plans for the conference in Anaheim and the planning committee's intriguing program, "One part inspiration: Creative trends that further science learning." Your 2009 Chicago conference planners are designing around a very exciting theme of E-science, in response to the new ARL Initiative "Library Support for E-Science" found at <http://www.arl.org/rtl/escience/index.shtml>. Challenges for science and technology librarians reach new heights as we prepare for more intensive open-access online publication of research data and the development of the cyber infrastructure to support its access and use. The program goal is to give attendees insight into the librarian's role in the conversation.

Thanks to all the volunteers for STS committees and discussion groups. In between work on my sabbatical project I am communicating and considering appointments, to be concluded by March 31. There may still be an opening or two. Please contact my Gmail address if you want to know about openings, or if your request did not get filled. For those of you who are newly appointed, I highly encourage you to get a head start on committee work by reading committee news in this and past issues of *STS Signal*. Doing so will make your entry into committee work more knowledgeable and productive. The STS Website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/sts.cfm> has a link to committees that gives the charge for each committee and the names of the co-chairs, with a contact link to them to use if you would like additional information.

New committee members and those who are considering volunteering for next year may find it valuable to attend committee meetings in Anaheim as a guest. Most committees meet in the same venue on Saturday morning.

Whether committee membership is in your past, present, future, or not in your plans, STS membership and conference attendance provides a wealth of opportunities to obtain insight and guidance for our profession. I look forward to joining you in Anaheim.

Submitted by Ginny Baldwin, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, vbaldwin2@unl.edu

Assessment Committee

We had a busy and productive meeting at mid-winter. Our new charge is: "To provide assessment assistance to STS committees via liaison collaboration, accumulate and provide access to information on assessment pertaining to science and technology libraries, provide continuing education dealing with assessment, and fulfill duties described in the STS strategic plan." Rachel Borchardt has agreed to help with co-chair duties.

To date:

Brian Lym and Beth Blanton-Kent are helping the Publications Committee plan a focus group in preparation for developing and marketing a videocast on science librarianship. Rachel, Amelia Brunskill and Carolyn Hart are helping the Organization and Planning Committee with an assessment of the STS strategic plan. Amelia and Pali Kuruppu will help the Research committee assess the STS research forum when they are ready. Melanee Vicedo, Allison Level and Annie Zeidman-Karpinski are working with the Information Literacy group on short term and long term projects. Helen Smith and Beth are in touch with the Liaison Committee about helping with the assessment component of proposal they are submitting. Helen and Norma Kobzina will develop a web site and repository for materials we've gathered and what we develop as a result of our ongoing collaborations. We're coordinating with John Meier's efforts on the STS site.

If you want help with assessment, let us know! If you are a committee chair and we ask for your participation please get back to us!

Submitted by Annie Zeidman-Karpinski

Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education Committee conducted the biennial survey of the continuing education interests of science librarians during the month of November 2007. The survey was posted to the following lists STS-L, SLA-DST-L (SLA Sci/Tech Division), ELD-L (ASEE-Engineering Librarians Division), and CHMINFL-L (ACS Division of Chemical Information). The 375 responses received was the highest response rate that the survey has ever received. A \$170.00 contribution to registration for a professional conference during 2008 was offered as an incentive to responders. The winner was Betsy Hageman who is the librarian at the Resource Center for the National Association of Chain Drugstores. Linda Shippert, Washington State University, is in the process of compiling the data which will be posted on the STS Web page.

Edith Scarletto, Kent State University, came to the meeting as a visitor but left as a volunteer who will lead the Sci-Tech Mentors Program. Edith hopes to increase participation in the program by publicizing directly to library science students as well as new members of the Section.

Nora Hillyer, University of Nebraska at Omaha, will take on the task of updating the Continuing Education Web site which identifies opportunities for continuing education for science and technology librarians. Nora will also serve on an STS task force that will evaluate and recommend changes to the organization and content of the Section's Web site as well as propose a plan for maintenance of the site.

Finally, Kathleen Degnan, Chicago State University, will be coordinating the 2008 hot topics discussion which takes place at the annual All Members breakfast.

Submitted by Jo Ann Calzonetti and Nora Hillyer

Information Literacy Committee

After announcements from Council 1, the committee spent some time discussing improvements to meeting and between-meeting processes. All agreed that we'd try to have monthly online discussions using the ALA Communities as a good way to keep the committee moving forward. Each subgroup updated the committee on progress. We looked at the SAILS Biology assessment and briefly explored options for how we might want to use it. We discussed options for using the ACRL STS wiki for committee work. Teaching tips relevant to performance indicators from the Information Literacy Standards for Science and Engineering/Technology have been posted, and we all agreed that the bibliography already compiled and assessment ideas would be useful additions to the wiki. The bibliography will also be updated to include potentially useful assessment-related articles. We would also like to add any sci/tech specific tutorials to the wiki to share. Finally, the committee explored the idea of developing a matrix of outcomes, teaching methods and assessment tools representing varying levels of mastery of the Information Literacy Standards for Science and Technology. This idea will be discussed more at our meeting at ALA Annual.

Submitted by Jeanne Davidson and Betsy Hopkins

Membership & Recruitment Committee

Membership & Recruitment has minimal content on the current website; it is likely that it will be tasked with contributing content for the website.

Planning began for New Members Orientation Breakfast at ALA Annual 2008 in Anaheim. Plans are for a minimalist approach, modeled after last year's breakfast allowing for more chit-chat among new and established members.

Update on the action plan to send postcards to STS members attending Annual 2008 who joined

post-Annual 2007, inviting them to the New Members Breakfast. This idea was generated during our Annual 2007 meeting to increase attendance of new members at the Breakfast.

Discussion of the proposed project to identify the cohort of science librarians and determine if they belong to at least one science librarianship organization, what they are looking for in an organization, etc.

Murphy will continue Hubbard's project of outreach to library schools.

It is quite likely that Membership & Recruitment may be tasked with disseminating the brochure promoting librarianship to science majors.

Peter steps down as co-chair in June. A call for new co-chair was issued. Ryan expressed interest.

Submitted by Peter Larsen

Organization and Planning Committee

The Executive Committee approved the recommended changes to the STS Manual. Once the new version has been posted to the STS Web site we will do another review for further corrections. David met with Rachel Borchardt and Annie Zeidman-Karpinski of the Assessment Committee to come up with some ideas for assessing the STS Strategic Plan. They suggested doing an online focus group with representatives from all the STS committees prior to the next Annual Meeting, and the committee came up with some discussion questions for the focus groups.

Submitted by David Romito

2008 Program Planning Committee

The STS Program for the ALA Annual meeting in Anaheim is titled "One Part Inspiration: Creative Trends that Further Science Learning." Our media-rich society is transforming the expectations of learners. Visualization and

interactivity have been shown to enhance understanding and retention, but how do we apply these in our profession? Please join us and our distinguished panelists as we explore successful new initiatives that employ games and images to teach scientific concepts.

STS ALA Program

Monday, June 30, 2007

Program 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Poster Session and Reception

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Speakers

Felice Frankel, Senior Research Fellow,
Harvard University

Winner of the 2007 Lennart Nilsson Award for Medical, Technical and Scientific Photography
<http://web.mit.edu/felicef/>

University of Florida Libraries BioActive Game Group: Sara Russell Gonzalez, Physical Sciences Librarian; Valrie Davis, Outreach Librarian for Agricultural Sciences; Chelsea Dinsmore, International Documents Librarian; Laurie Taylor, Digital Projects Librarian
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/games/bioactive/>

Submitted by Margaret Mellinger

2009 Program Planning Committee

ACRL Science & Technology Section (STS) 2009 Program Planning Committee has begun planning for the program in 2009 in Chicago. The working title of the program is "**Working Title: Big Science, Little Science, E-Science: the science librarian's role in the conversation.**" The Committee has identified three outcomes for the program:

- Raising awareness of data projects of a size librarians can manage and be involved in
- Raising comfort level of subject librarians with these issues

- Empowering science librarians to approach faculty members about the issues of data, data curation

Speakers for the panel are still under discussion, but it is expected that one will be from the National Science Foundation Office of Cyberstructure, an academic science faculty member, a librarian involved in a relevant project, and a metadata librarian.

Submitted by Bryna Coonin

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee met via ALA Communities Chat in December, and a sub-group met again in Philadelphia. Member activities: STS-L now has 1174 subscribers, up slightly. The Fall *Signal* had no submissions for the "On the Soapbox" column but we hope to continue that feature. Editors will solicit content for the Fall issue earlier in the summer. We hope to have a special section on the STS Liaison program this spring. We discussed the pros and cons of electronic versus print distribution. The ISTL mailing list has 4,386 subscribers. The next few issues will include refereed articles only due to the high number received. The Summer 2008 *ISTL* will be an "all topics" issue.

An STS Website Redesign Taskforce has been assigned by STS Council. Members include webmaster John Meier, Erin Dini (web assistant), STS past chair, STS committee chairs from Assessment and Continuing Education, and 2 general members. A progress report will be submitted by Annual 2008, with a final report due at Midwinter 2009.

The Science Librarian Recruitment Video Action Plan received funding for 2009-2010. The project subcommittee met with Assessment Committee liaisons to discuss next steps, and plan to convene student focus groups this spring to define a marketing plan.

The ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) is working with us on developing an "engineering"-focused science librarian recruiting brochure. The ASEE-ELD chair will

provide us with content more focused on their constituents. We need to update the existing recruiting brochure with new photos and testimonials, and then convert it into a poster format.

Submitted by Linda Eells

Research Committee

The STS Research Committee reviewed four paper proposals for presentation at the Research Forum for Science & Technology Library Research, which will be held on Sunday, June 29, 2008, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at ALA Annual in Anaheim, CA. Two papers were selected for presentation:

"Subject and Bibliographic Access to Sci-tech Electronic Theses and Dissertations via Digital Institutional Repositories (IRs) and Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs): Perspectives from US and UK Science Librarians," by **Sophie Bogdanski, West Virginia University Libraries; Susan Copeland, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland; Anne Christie, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.**

"Library-based Bioinformatics Support: Who and How? An Exploration of Librarian and Scientist Perspectives," by **Michele R. Tennant, Health Science Center Libraries and UF Genetics Institute, University of Florida.**

The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at Annual on Monday, June 30, 2008. Eight colleagues have been invited to present posters about their activities and research, including:

"The Chemistry between Library Services and Web 2.0: Providing "Traditional" Library Services via New Technologies to USC Chemistry Users," by **Sara Tompson and Norah Xiao, Science & Engineering Library, University of Southern California.**

"Del.icio.us: A simple extension to science subject research guides," by **Andrea Wirth and**

Hannah Rempel, Oregon State University Libraries.

“Google Earth Opens the Door,” by **Carrie Miyoshi Macfarlane, Kathryn E. Clagett, and Christopher M. Rodgers, Armstrong Library, Middlebury College.**

“An Undergraduate Science Information Literacy Tutorial in a Web. 2.0 World,” by **Jeanine Scaramozzino and Cathy Palmer, Science Library, University of California, Irvine.**

“Science Experiments: Reaching Out to Our Users,” by **Laura Barrett, Maureen Nolan, Matthew Parsons, Lori Tschirhart, Linda Whang, and Stephanie Wright, University of Washington Libraries.**

“Instant Help: Creative Approaches to Chat Reference,” by **John J. Meier, Physical and Mathematical Sciences Library, Penn State University.**

“Science Info on the Go: Enhancing Traditional Sci-Tech Library Services with Mobile Devices,” by **Joe Murphy, Kline Science Library, Yale University.**

“Web 2.0, Library 2.0, Science Learning 2.0 – The ComPADRE Digital Library,” by **Jutta Wunder, Graduate Assistant, School of Library and Information Studies; Bruce Mason, Associate Professor, Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy; and Cecelia Brown, Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma.**

In addition, the Research Committee discussed a proposal to change the format of the Research Forum from two lengthy paper presentations with detailed critiques by a guest commentator, to one that includes several short papers and a brief question and answer period. The rationale for such a change is to provide our science library colleagues with additional opportunities for presentation at a national conference, and to allow presenters to discuss research in progress

or to solicit feedback on research ideas that may not be fully formulated. The Committee supported this modification in principle, but did not wish to lose the “long” paper format entirely. Therefore, they recommend that the format be adapted in 2009 to include one lengthy “featured paper presentation” that includes a detailed critique, followed by three shorter papers of 10 minutes each with 5 minutes each for questions. The Research Committee will work with the Assessment Committee to determine the success of this change and to recommend whether or not it should be continued.

Submitted by Janice Jaguszewski and Sarah Jeong

Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

The committee met at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia to continue work on their research paper “Subject and Bibliographic Access to Sci-Tech ETDs via Digital Institutional Repositories and OPACs: Perspectives from US and UK Science Librarians.” Committee Co-Chair, Jin Ma created a wiki for the committee to help organize their work and write the research paper. Committee members and UK project partners, Simon Bevan (Cranfield University) and Dr. Susan Copeland (The Robert Gordon University) analyzed the survey data collected May 2007 from the two countries. The research paper has been accepted for presentation at the STS Research Forum at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim CA, Sunday, June 29, 2008, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. and has been accepted for presentation at the NDLTD 2008 ETD Conference in Aberdeen Scotland, Friday, June 6, 2008, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sophie Bogdanski

College Science Librarian's Discussion Group

Springshare's *Libguides*, OSU's Open Source *ICAP* (Interactive Course Assignment Pages) and other systems are making it easier to

create web-based research guides that appeal to the aesthetic sensibilities of our patrons and lead them to the scholarly resources they need. "Research Guides Remixed" is the topic of the discussion group at ALA Annual. We will talk about these research guide management systems and explore best practices for their use in science libraries.

This session will feature two presentations from librarians who have experience with these systems. Following the presentations, we will have an open discussion about these systems and share creative ways to enhance web-based research guides using Web 2.0 technologies. Join us and share your experiences .

Speakers: **Steven M. Adams**, Biological and Life Sciences Librarian, Princeton University and **Margaret Mellinger**, Engineering Librarian, Oregon State University Libraries

Submitted by Steven Adams

**STS Field Trip: JPL
July 1, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a tour of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA. Registration is required. 40 people max. More information is forthcoming. Watch for announcements on STS-L and on the STS website.

**EBSS 40th Anniversary Program,
cosponsored by STS: Knowledge Wants to be
Known: Open Access in the Social Sciences.**

Saturday, June 28th: 1:30-3:00. Speakers: John Willinsky, Professor, Stanford University School of Education; Ray English, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries, Oberlin College; Alison Mudditt, Executive Vice President, Higher Education Group, Sage Publications.

**Thanks and appreciation to the following
Friends and Sponsors of the Science and
Technology Section: Elsevier, H.W. Wilson,
IEEE, Morgan & Claypool, Nature
Publishing Group, ProQuest, and Thomson
Scientific**

**Science & Technology Section
Meeting Schedule at ALA Annual:
Anaheim, CA, June 26-July 2, 2008**

Preliminary

Friday June 27

9:30 am - 11:00 am STS Executive Committee

11:30 am - 1:30 pm ACRL New Leader
Orientation

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm ACRL Leadership Council

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm ACRL Sections Council

6:00 pm - 7:15 STS Welcoming Event - all
members welcome!

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Council I

Saturday June 28

8:00 am - 10:00 am New Members Orientation
& Welcome

9:00 am -10:00 am ACRL Conference Program
Planning Committee 2008

10:00 am -11:00 am ACRL Conference Program
Planning Committee 2009

10:30 am - 12:00 pm All Committees Meeting -
(includes Continuing Education, Government
Information, Information Literacy, Library
Assessment, Membership & Recruitment,
Organization & Planning, Publications, Subject
& Bibliographic Access, Liaison Program)

10:30 am - 12:00 pm STS Oberly Award
Committee (Closed Meeting)

1:30 pm -3:30 pm STS Nominations 2009
Committee (Closed Meeting)

1:30 pm -3:30 pm New & Continuing Chairs'
Orientation (All continuing and new co-chairs to
attend; coordinated by Vice-Chair).

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm STS Program Planning
Committee 2008

Sunday June 29

8:00 am -10:00 am All STS Meeting & Breakfast

10:30 am -12:30 pm Hot Topics Discussion
Group

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm College Science Librarians
Discussion Group

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm STS Research Forum

6:30 pm STS Dinner - Tangerine Grill and Patio
- RSVP REQUIRED

Monday June 30

8:30 am -11:00 am STS Program: "One Part
Inspiration: Creative Trends that Further Science
Learning"

11:00 am - 12:30 pm STS Program Poster
Session & Reception

1:30 pm -5:30 pm ACRL President's Program

7:30 pm -9:30 pm Council II

Tuesday July 1

8:00 am - 1:00 pm STS Field Trip to JPL

STS Electronic Communications Update

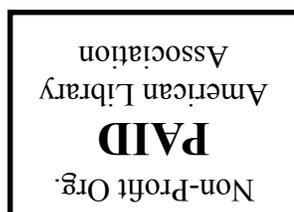
STS-L Listserv is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. STS-L is running on the Sympa software on the American Library Association servers. You can subscribe by logging into the web interface: <<http://lists.ala.org/www/info/sts-l>>. Moderator: Alison Bobal

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: John J Meier

STS Signal on the Web Available as a pdf file at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm> Editors: Yelena Pancheshnikov and Jennifer McKinnell



STS SIGNAL
The Newsletter of the Science & Technology Section
ACRL -- American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795