

## From the Chair, Julia M. Gelfand

Final planning is underway for an exciting conference in New Orleans. You may want to check out the preconference workshop on Library Assessment <<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/assessmentandbeyond.htm>>. Mark your calendars to attend the Friday Happy Hour (sponsored by Knovel) and Sunday reception (sponsored by IOP). The STS Program is Monday June 26th, titled “Kaleidoscope of Scientific Literacy: Fusing New Connections,” and will highlight 5 prominent speakers from various institutions sharing commonalities and differences in how we address scientific literacy. This program will be followed by a poster session and reception. Also on that morning, our Government Information Committee co-sponsors another exciting program with GODORT. Other activities to take part in include the various discussion group meetings, the STS Dinner on Saturday night, and the Membership Breakfast on Sunday morning.

I hope you will plan to stay through Tues. June 27 when we will have a “Field Trip” to see how New Orleans is being restored. A bus tour is being planned to run from 8:30-1pm and will include a picnic box lunch. There is every effort to incorporate some “good science” in this trip and it should be very interesting to have a chance to see the extensive damage created by Hurricane Katrina.

STS has joined the NSDL (National Science Digital Library) alliance to compile resources for the NSDL; Stephanie Bianchi and I are involved in that effort in addition to the leadership of our members John Saylor and Barbara DeFelice.

Several STS members attended the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) meeting in St. Louis and met for conversation. This was another great opportunity to share our common interests; perhaps more of us will meet at the AAAS 2007 meeting in San Francisco.

Again, we thank all members who ran in the spring election and hope that all of you will continue your interest and commitment to STS. I continue to be humbled and proud by all the creativity and work everyone is doing and how increasingly visible STS is in the library community. This is certainly shared by all the commitments from our continuing and new Friends and Sponsors.

New Orleans awaits us!

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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 Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Catherine Soehner**

As I write this, I have already made many committee assignments and will be working diligently to complete the rest....it's not too late to get involved! The STS website has more information about each of the committees and discussion groups and the names of the co-chairs if you want to contact them directly for more details about what is involved. Past issues of the STS Signal can also give you a better idea about the work of each committee. Let me know your committee preferences and I will be happy to try to match you up with a committee that needs members. You can e-mail me at [soehner@ucsc.edu](mailto:soehner@ucsc.edu) or follow the STS volunteer link: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscommittee.htm>. The number of people asking to get involved in STS committees has been very encouraging. I have been equally delighted by requests from those of you who are already involved and have asked to remain on committees or start memberships on other committees. The collective dedication and hard work of new and current members is the life and heart of our organization. I remain in awe of your willingness to volunteer your time above and beyond regular work duties.

One other resource I'd like to point out for new and current members is our STS-L listserv. This is the main vehicle of communication between STS members and I want to encourage everyone to join. Again more information about this is available on the STS website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stsl.htm>. I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. See you in New Orleans!

*Catherine Soehner  
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**NEWS FROM SAN ANTONIO**  
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**Continuing Education Committee**

At ALA Midwinter, we discussed the 2005 survey results, the revamping of the mentoring program, and the professional continuing education web site. Terri Freedman and Betsy Spackman distributed the preliminary analysis of survey results, described on pg. 4 in this issue of Signal. We also considered possibilities for disseminating survey results, including posting online, sending the link to listservs, and publication. After some deliberation, we decided to forego doing another hot topics survey in 2006 in favor of focusing on other projects. Hilary Kraus gave an update on the status of the planned changes for the Sci/Tech Library mentors program, which includes pairing interested mentees with appropriate mentors. The committee will focus its efforts on website changes and publicity for the program during the following year.

Finally, the committee considered the Professional Continuing Education Web page (via the STS web site) and discussed possibilities for a new format, including wiki software. Fred Stoss agreed to lead efforts for updating the site. The committee wants to make this site as accessible and useful as possible, to help science librarians improve their skills.

*Submitted by Betsy Spackman*

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**Assessment Committee**

The STS Assessment Committee focused on planning the assessment preconference scheduled at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Actual or potential participants were proposed and discussed. We'd like to offer several scholarships to the preconference for recently hired science/technology librarians and this proposal is being reviewed by the STS Council. We also discussed publicity for and evaluation of the preconference.

We recommended that key websites associated with the assessment of science/technology libraries be available on the STS website. Members of the Committee are following up with the STS Website Editor.

*Submitted by Don Frank*

## **Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee**

The committee has made a great deal of progress with its project to explore subject and bibliographic access to electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) from the perspective of science librarians. During the Fall, committee members each examined selected publications for a literature review. Sophie Bogdanski traveled to the UK in November to meet with our British collaborators, Simon Bevan (Cranfield University) and Susan Copeland (Robert Gordon University). Simon and Susan are both well-known in the ETD world and have worked together on several projects in the UK. The committee was delighted to welcome Simon to Midwinter and hear about Cranfield and his experience with ETDs. During the November visit, Sophie, Simon and Susan developed the first draft of the survey to be distributed to science librarians in both American and British universities. At Midwinter, committee members worked hard to firm up the methodology and provide very helpful input on the survey draft, several staying almost an hour after the official meeting to get through the proposed questions. Everyone's efforts are much appreciated. The current plan is to send out the survey in the spring. We are looking forward to having Susan Copeland with us in New Orleans.

*Submitted by Anne Christie*

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## **Membership and Recruitment Committee**

According to the most recent membership report from ACRL (November 2005), personal membership in the section is up by 4.9% from the same period last year. The committee sends welcome letters to all new members to inform them about the web page, STS-L, ISTL, committees and discussion groups, and other ways to become active in the section. In addition, a short survey is sent to anyone who has dropped membership in the section to try to learn the reasons why they left. The committee also continues 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.

The STS Membership and Recruitment Committee again plans to host a New Members Orientation Breakfast meeting at Annual in New Orleans. This will be open to all new STS members along with those who have not been active for some time and need a refresher. Officers of the section will also be in attendance. An informal setting should allow for plenty of networking. New members will have a chance to ask questions and established members can speak on the benefits of STS membership and their personal experiences in the STS Section.

*Submitted by Edward Lerner*

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## **Government Information Committee**

The committee discussed the need to update our webpage, "*Top 100 Science/Technology Government Information Websites.*" Each committee member selected a section to review for updates, to be completed by May 15, 2006. The committee's co-sponsorship with GODORT of a program at 2006 Annual was discussed, with Matthew Marsteller reporting the difficulty that the program was scheduled at the same time as the STS program. The program is titled, "Information Literacy is the Destination: Government Information on the Road."

Ideas for possible future program topics were discussed, for example, digitization of government publications and accessibility and dissemination of sensitive government information. The Committee will volunteer to test the virtual meeting software being investigated by ACRL and STS.

*Submitted by Amy Prendergast*

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## **Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee met virtually via conference call in December, 2005. Eleven members and two guests gathered around the phone lines. Webmaster Paul St Pierre was welcomed back after his long absence from New Orleans. Andrea Duda reported that the ISTL subscription list now numbers 4,071. In addition to some reassignment of responsibilities within the committee, the conversation focused on the following items.

There is concern that STS-L, now subscribed to by 1026 people, is not a means of communication for about one-third of our members. We will try to encourage new members especially to subscribe, in conjunction with the Membership Committee. One of the changes in Signal is the addition of an opinion column, On the Soapbox. Members discussed ways to encourage submissions for this column. The committee has offered to develop a brochure on careers in sci/tech librarianship, pending approval by STS Council. [Approval was given at Midwinter.] Finally, members agreed that the Publications Committee would be willing to be early testers of the new software that ACRL has purchased for virtual meetings.

*Submitted by Barbara MacAlpine*

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### **Continuing Education Survey Results**

Learning new technologies and promoting science information literacy top the list of science librarians' continuing education interests, according to the Continuing Education Committee biannual survey in 2005. The survey was administered during Oct-Dec 2005, in collaboration with SLA Sci-Tech Division and ASEE Engineering Libraries Division, continuing the collaboration from 2004 on the Hot Topics Survey. Distributed via the listservs of the three organizations, the 2005 survey resulted in 133 responses.

First, respondents were asked to list three important issues or topics in science and technology librarianship. Next, respondents rated the importance of twenty-four preselected topics on a Likert scale. The survey then solicited information about professional involvement and professional development.

Top issues from the open-ended questions included new technologies, keeping current, and institutional repositories/digital archives, whereas the top results for the preselected topics were promoting science information literacy, collaboration between faculty and librarians, and finding free high-quality online data. Survey respondents reported that they would prefer to receive continuing education both at in-person workshops and through web-based information. Additional data and analysis will be available shortly on the STS Continuing Education website <<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscontinuingeducation.htm>> for use in program planning and other research.

*Submitted by Betsy Spackman*

### **Publisher/Vendor Relations Group Hosts Midwinter Discussion**

The Publishers Vendors Relations discussion group held a discussion session at Midwinter on January 22. The discussion was on best practices for electronic resources focusing on the American Society for Engineering Education /Engineering Libraries Division (ASEE/ELD) punchlist. The purpose was to open conversations between librarians and content providers in order to effect changes that will benefit all parties involved. There were nine publishers/vendors represented, including American Institute of Physics, CSA, Elsevier, IEEE, Institute of Physics, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Thomson Scientific, and Wiley Interscience. About eighty-five people attended the session. Issues discussed included archiving, security, licensing, missing content, interlibrary loan, reserves and institutional repositories. Members of the panel posed questions to the audience as well. The question as to what is missing from the punchlist generated a list of responses:

- accessibility (ADA) issues
- how some of the PL content would apply to search engines
- issues related to secure PDF
- digital rights management
- cookies, tracking vs. privacy, etc.
- format friendliness of electronic reprints (e.g. for use in course reserves)
- usability/functionality of platform interfaces

Overall, the session achieved its goal of addressing concerns of both sides. The punchlist can be found at: <<http://eld.lib.ucdavis.edu/punchlist/PunchlistRevision2005.pdf>>.

*Submitted by Ibrinke Lawal*

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### **Midwinter Hot Topics Discussion Group 2006**

More than fifty people attended the STS Hot Topics Discussion Group at Midwinter in San Antonio. The discussion focused on the issue of recruiting science librarians, and a panel of science librarians, administrators, and educators led this spirited discussion. Issues discussed ranged from the shortage of science librarians and the need for recruiting in this field to what makes a good science

librarian. Attendees were particularly struck by the need for librarians and library groups, such as STS, to take on a greater role in recruiting new science librarians. Ideas generated for undertaking such a task included an STS-sponsored tool-kit for recruiting science librarians, viewing college laboratory instructors as potential science librarian recruits, and science librarian participation in undergraduate career fairs. For more information on issues discussed at this Hot Topics Discussion Group, please contact Kara Whatley at [kara.whatley@nyu.edu](mailto:kara.whatley@nyu.edu).

*Submitted by Kara Whatley*

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### **College Science Librarians Discussion Group: GIS Discussion Planned**

The topic at the College Science Librarians Discussion Group will be "GIS: Support at the College Level." Do you wonder how Geographic Information Systems gain campus support? Do you wonder what all the talk is about? We'll start with the results of a survey of 93 liberal arts campuses, and continue with a conversation about the promise and pitfalls of supporting GIS use on our campuses. Please join us Sunday June 25th.

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## **ON THE SOAPBOX**

Question: What are you doing to promote scientific literacy?

**Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, Science and Technology Services Librarian, University of Oregon** writes that she is preparing a proposal to collaborate with a chemistry professor on creating scientific literacy assignments within the Intro. to Chemistry course at their institution. Annie states that "students will gain experience in library research, information management, and effective use of networked technologies in the academic setting. The goal is to reinforce the critical thinking and scientific literacy skills that are already an important part of this course, and of a scientific education in general. Imparting these principles in the context of this course benefits a significant number of students at an early stage in their undergraduate experience." For more details, contact Annie: [annie@uoregon.edu](mailto:annie@uoregon.edu); you can also check out the reference blog she maintains: <http://bibliothec.blogspot.com>

**Denise Brush** writes: " At **Rowan University** (part of the New Jersey public higher education system) the Writing Arts department has been very active in collaborating with the science and engineering departments to teach first and second year students writing and research skills. My mission (as the **Science and Engineering Librarian**) to teach information literacy and library research skills to these same students has dovetailed nicely with this effort. Last fall, a Writing Arts faculty member contacted me about running library instruction sessions for her College Composition/ Biology and her College Composition/ Engineering Clinic courses. I took advantage of the opportunity to tailor my regular College Composition library orientation (discussing information sources, searching techniques, and the use of bibliographic databases) to Biology and Engineering students by including discussions of the scholarly publishing cycle and scientific literature, appropriate print and web resources, and specialized databases and indexes for science and engineering. One of the reasons I think this program has been successful is that we supplement the presentation with hands-on practice on the computers. The professor requires students to turn something in at the end of class, which motivates them to immediately apply what they learned. My experience with this program demonstrates how much more you can accomplish if you have active faculty support!"

**Gregg Sapp, Head of the Science Library, University of Albany** writes that the Science Library sponsors a science writers' colloquia series. According to the series website, "the series promotes science literacy for all by bringing in scientist authors and science journalists to speak about their work and the unique challenges and importance of communicating science accurately to non-scientists. " Series events are free, open to the public and include a reception and book signing. For more information: [http://library.albany.edu/science/What's\\_New\\_Colloquia.htm](http://library.albany.edu/science/What's_New_Colloquia.htm)

The University of Albany Science Library also offers a for-credit, core-curriculum course on "Science Information Literacy." For more information: <http://library.albany.edu/science/Syllabus206.htm>

The Science Library also sponsors a blog that highlights new science resources: [http://liblogs.albany.edu/science\\_resources](http://liblogs.albany.edu/science_resources).

## 2006 Program Committee

The STS Program for the ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans will be Monday June 26, 2006, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and is titled "Kaleidoscope of Scientific Discovery: Fusing New Connections." Five speakers from a variety of science learning communities will share ideas about enhancing scientific information literacy. Time will be given for questions from the audience; the Program will be followed by the Poster Session and Reception.

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## Research Committee

The STS Research Committee reviewed several different paper proposals for presentation at the upcoming Research Forum for Science & Technology at ALA Annual in New Orleans. Two papers were selected for presentation:

*"Assessing Chemical Information Literacy Skills using the ACRL Standards as a Guide"* by **Ada Emmett**, Anschutz Library, University of Kansas and **Judith Emde**, Watson Library, University of Kansas

*"Open Access to Legacy Taxonomic Literature: The Biodiversity Heritage Library and Index Animalium"* by **Suzanne C. Pilsk** and **Martin R. Kalfatovic**, Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at ALA Annual. Nine posters have been invited to present their activities and research in New Orleans, including:

"Science Friction: Overcoming Staff Resistance to Science Questions at the Reference Desk" by **Kimberly Chapman**, University of Texas at San Antonio

"MLIS<sub>1</sub> + Students<sub>145</sub> + PhD<sub>1</sub> → ∞ Critical Thinking: Teaching Critical Thinking and Library Skills to Students at a Medium Sized Public University" by **Annie Zeidman-Karpinski**, University of Oregon

## *STS Field Trip*

**Tuesday, June 27, 2006**

**8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**(times are approximate, box lunch included)**

Join us for a post-Katrina tour of disaster recovery in New Orleans, led by a Tulane Professor of Civil Engineering.

Registration is required and more information is forthcoming. Watch for announcements on STS-L and on the STS website.

"Science for the Non-Scientist: Science Information Literacy for Everyone" by **Kara M. Whatley**, New York University

"Freshman Year Seminar: A Faculty-Librarian Collaboration" by **Katherine O'Clair**, Arizona State University

"New Collaboration Methods for Laboratory Liaisons" by **Nancy Allmang** and **Mylene Ouimette**, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Information Services Division

"Why Are We Doing This? The Method of Science as an Organizing Principle for Teaching Information Literacy in Engineering" by **Wayne R. Montgomery**, Cal Poly University.

"Use of Digital Educational Resources in a Science Information Literacy Program" by **Barbara DeFelice**, Dartmouth College

"Taking the Fusion Reaction Beyond the Reactor's Walls" by **Adriana Popescu**, Princeton University

"Scientific Literacy for the Everyday Consumer" by **Kimberly Babcock Mashek**, Wartburg College

*Submitted by William Simpson and Karen Griggs*

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2006 Annual Meeting \* New Orleans, LA

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
<b>Friday, June 23</b>		<b>Sunday, June 25</b> (continued)	
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Preconference on Assessment	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	College Science Librarians Discussion Group
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	STS Executive Council	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Research Forum
6:00 - 7:15 p.m.	STS Welcome Reception/Open House	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	2007 Conference Program Planning Mtg.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	STS Council I	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	all STS Members IOP Reception
<b>Saturday, June 24</b>		<b>Monday, June 26</b>	
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	New Members Orientation Breakfast	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	STS 2006 Conference Program
10:30 - noon	all STS Committees Meetings	10:30 - noon	Gov't Info. Cttee / GODORT Program
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	New & Continuing Chairs Orientation	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Poster Session & Reception
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	2006 Program Planning Meeting	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
6:00 -	STS Dinner (tentative)	8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	STS Council II
<b>Sunday, June 25</b>		<b>Tuesday June 27</b>	
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	all STS Breakfast and meeting (NEW!)	@8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	STS Field Trip
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Hot Topics Discussion Group		

EDITOR'S NOTE: some times are tentative as of press time; check the ALA conference website and/or the STS website for confirmed times and locations.

## MEMBER NEWS:

**John J. Meier** is now Science Reference Librarian at Earl K. Long Library at the University of New Orleans. John writes that since his arrival to New Orleans in December, the library building has been the hub of activity during the repairs of the campus.

**Kris Alpi** has been appointed Associate Library Director at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

**Fred Stoss**, University of Buffalo SUNY, has joined the ranks of about two dozen Upstate New Yorkers as members of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Speakers Bureau <<http://www.srb.com/speakers.htm>>. The Speakers Bureau is an extension of the Commission's outreach program and is intended to help spread the word about the nation's sixteenth largest river. The Susquehanna River is the largest river lying entirely in the United States that flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

**Alesia McManus**, Head of the Science Library, Binghamton University, gave a presentation at the 2006 Computers in Libraries conference on Grokker, a visual search tool in use at the Binghamton University Libraries.

**Denise Brush** is the new Public Services Librarian and liaison for Sciences and Engineering at Rowan University's Campbell Library.

**Beth Thomsett-Scott**, Chemistry and Biology Librarian, University of North Texas, is one of the organizers of the 2006 Natural Resources Information Council Annual Conference <<http://www.nric.info>>, and encourages STS members to consider attending this meeting in Las Vegas in July. Resources and services sessions will focus on the needs of librarians and library staff working with natural resources information but will also appeal to other disciplines. NRIC is an intimate conference of about 30-40 people and offers superior networking opportunities. If you are interested in joining NRIC in Las Vegas, please contact Beth at [bscott@library.unt.edu](mailto:bscott@library.unt.edu) for details.

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YBP Library Services

# **STS ALA Program Monday, June 26, 2006**

*Kaleidoscope of Scientific Literacy:  
Fusing New Connections*

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

**Poster Sessions and Reception**  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## **Panel of speakers:**

### **Shirley M. Malcolm**

Head, Education and Human Resources,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science

### **Tom Moritz**

Boeschstein Director of Library Services,  
American Museum of Natural History

### **LeRoy Lee**

Project Director, Wisconsin Science Network

### **Sidney Perkowitz**

Charles Howard Candler Professor of Physics,  
Emory University

### **James L. Mullins**

Dean Of Libraries, Purdue University

## **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/www/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: Caroline Gilson and Jennifer McKinnell

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**STS SIGNAL**  
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