

## From the Chair, Julie Hurd

The new academic year is well underway; there are classes to be taught, and books and journals to be selected and managed. Technology presents us with both opportunities and challenges, and, always, with constant change. Time for reflection is scarce, but I'd like to highlight some recent accomplishments in our section and note some upcoming developments.

The STS Program and Reception at the annual meeting in Chicago was a great success. Jill Newby and the Program Planning Committee assembled an array of speakers who stimulated the audience to think about our collective future in science and technology librarianship. I was encouraged by their vision and the possibilities they suggested. At the poster session following the program presentations, we were able to interact with colleagues already taking leadership in developing new resources and services. Our section reception in the same room was an additional benefit that encouraged lingering to learn from posters and network with colleagues. This model of a program and reception was a departure from our usual schedule; I feel it worked well in Chicago and certainly could be a format worth repeating another year.

The upcoming annual meeting in San Francisco will be a very special one for our section as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. Julia Gelfand is chairing the Program Planning Committee for this event. It will be a memorable program with a splendid reception, generously supported by long-time corporate colleagues. Watch for the details on this — you won't want to miss it!

I want to thank all of you who have chosen to volunteer for STS committees. I appreciate those of you who stayed on for a second term or volunteered for a new assignment; your experience ensures that we accomplish all we plan. I am especially grateful to first-time volunteers; we also need your fresh insights and energy. At this time I have filled all committee vacancies. I have a few forms that have arrived recently, and I will hold these pending any vacancies that may arise unexpectedly. At the same time I will forward your expressions of interest to Chair-Elect JoAnn DeVries who will make next year's appointments. Whether this year or next, we will do our best to find a spot for you in STS.

As I write this I am working with ACRL staff to finalize our plans for mid-winter in Washington DC. Check the draft schedule elsewhere in this issue for committee and discussion group meeting times. As the conference approaches, I'll have rooms and hotels and will post these to STS-L. I look forward to seeing you all there!

*Julie M. Hurd*

*Coordinator of Digital Library Planning and Science Librarian  
University of Illinois at Chicago*

*P.O. Box 8198, M/C 234*

*Phone: (312) 413-3060*

*Chicago, IL 60680-8198*

*E-mail: [jhurd@uic.edu](mailto:jhurd@uic.edu)*

## From the Vice Chair / Chair Elect, JoAnn DeVries

Hello STS members. As vice-chair, I make committee appointments and I would like to know your interests and preferences. I encourage all members, new and active, to consider volunteering to serve on a committee. STS is dynamic and vital because of the interest and active commitment of its members.

STS programs, committees, and discussion groups keep us current on developments and issues in science and technology and also offer the opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues. Please make suggestions for program or discussion topics.

You can learn about activities of a committee by sitting in on a meeting (unless it is designated closed). Introduce yourself to the chair and indicate your interest. Vacancies do occur between appointments.

The 2002 Atlanta Program Committee, chair by Richard Llewellyn, is forming now. Seven to nine members are needed to create a program and plan for a reception.

Committee appointments come with the expectation that you will attend both mid-winter and annual meetings, and perhaps engaging in assignments between meetings as well.

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. 2517. 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: Heather K. Moberly, Science & Engineering Division, Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-1071, Phone: (405) 744-9751, Fax: (405) 744-7579, E-mail: [moberlh@okstate.edu](mailto:moberlh@okstate.edu); Philip Herold, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, Phone: (607) 255-7959, Fax: (607) 255-0318, E-mail: [ph31@cornell.edu](mailto:ph31@cornell.edu)

© Copyright American Library Association 2000. 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/acrl/sts/sts\\_signal.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts_signal.html).

There is a volunteer form on the back of the newsletter, or at the STS web page. Sign up, STS wants you.

*JoAnn DeVries*  
*University of Minnesota*  
*Magrath Library*  
*1984 Buford Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108*  
*Phone: 612-624-7446 E-mail: j-devr@tc.umn.edu*

---

## College Science Librarians Discussion Group

A discussion of the topic “To Branch or not to Branch? Approaches to Providing Science Library Services,” was facilitated by: Alison Ricker, Oberlin College; Victoria Mitchell, Reed College; and Helena Warburg, Williams College.

Following introductions, Alison Ricker discussed her experience librarian in a branch science library serving the biology, chemistry, geology, neuroscience and physics departments at Oberlin. Although technical services are centralized at the main library, public services and reference are branch responsibilities. She believes that the proximity to her client base is critical but also values the independence and freedom to make decisions that the branch approach affords. Interestingly, she has observed that compared to the students who use the main library, the science students tend to show more loyalty and feel more connected to the branch science library as evidenced by fewer reserve fines and better recall response than the main library. The construction of a new science library, nearly three times the size of the current facility, will be an integrated part of the new science center continuing Oberlin's commitment to the branch model of providing library services in the sciences for the foreseeable future.

Victoria Mitchell, provided a very different viewpoint, an integrated science collection. Influenced by a small campus, Reed College decided to build an addition to the main library with a separate science area. The mathematics faculty felt so strongly about losing the proximity to their collections that their offices were incorporated into the library renovation. Reference services are also integrated at Reed. Victoria noted that she has many commitments to the library as a whole including serving on committees and staffing the reference desk making balancing her responsibilities as science librarian a challenge. She stressed that proximity to her colleagues is helpful allowing them to identify interdisciplinary needs that might not have been recognized otherwise. The small size of the campus makes it possible to interact with science faculty and students without being in the same building.

Helena Warburg spoke from the perspective of transition. Until recently, the science collections at Williams College were split among six unstaffed departmental libraries located within individual departments. Currently they are in the final phase of moving to the new Schow Science Library in the Unified Science Center. She discussed some of the major drawbacks of a departmental library system including the lack of faculty awareness about library services and loss of materials. Although the branch library approach may not be as efficient for the College, the patrons receive superior service from expert staff and the faculty can be close to their collections. Helena also noted that with this move interdisciplinary departments will enjoy improved journal access.

The consensus of the discussion was that there are pluses and minuses in each approach and that the model chosen ultimately depends on institutional resources, campus size, culture, and educational and research priorities.

*Information supplied by Susan J. Kimball & Rocco Piccinino*

## General Discussion Group

The “Bibliographic Instruction in Sci-Tech Libraries: Best Practices” session began with each of the four facilitators describing the unique programs at their institutions offering experience and innovation and prompting discussion from audience members.

Julie Wood began by describing Georgia Tech's instruction program emphasizing their bibliographic instruction approach: teaching and learning. Georgia Tech's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has done several studies on the learning styles of Tech students, and the library's instructional program has incorporated this information into library instruction. She suggested that the best way to get students to come to instruction sessions is for them to be an integral part of a course.

Laura Smart of the University of California at San Diego stated that the best thing that you can bring to library instruction is enthusiasm. She talked about reaching many groups including students, teaching assistants and faculty by effective marketing, increasing the visibility of the instruction program. She explained that funding for the library instruction program comes from an endowment earmarked for literacy, and that library staff had to promote the concept of information literacy to be included in the endowment. She also talked about the importance of assessing your program.

Joan Reuelle of the University of Virginia also highlighted marketing of instructional programs and building personal contacts in order to effectively know your users' instructional needs. Joan also pointed out that if the faculty trust the librarians as teachers, they can be your best referrals.

The final facilitator was Randall Halverson of Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. Randall is part of an instruction program which involves active learning in the classroom in an effort to incorporate information literacy.

Information literacy is a concept that seems to be on the minds of all librarians. Each of the facilitators gave their own brief definition of information literacy. Among the many explanations given, information literacy was described as including lifelong learning as well as specific learning objectives. The definition of the term was read from the ACRL standard. It was also mentioned that it is very difficult to integrate information competencies into actual coursework.

For-credit information literacy courses were discussed. The general consensus was that not many institutions offer such a course, but most were very interested in developing one. Online tutorials are also of considerable interest to librarians involved in instruction. Some institutions have programs that integrate information competencies into online instruction and required the one or two credit course for graduation.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of science, team teaching should be considered. Participants agreed that it is indeed a luxury, and if instruction programs are short-staffed, tapping the teaching faculty is often effective. The facilitators were asked to respond to the issue of faculty resistance to integrating bibliographic instruction into their courses. One helpful comment was for the librarian to prepare a handout for a particular assignment, which may lead to a library portion within the course the following year.

Many useful and innovative ideas were presented during the session with the audience raising interesting points about bibliographic instruction that proved to be common concerns. Bibliographic instruction is rising in popularity in sci-tech libraries and with the keen interest among sci-tech librarians and the innovations that are emerging in STM libraries, the momentum will clearly continue.

*Information supplied by Kim Lyon-Mitchell & Julia Zimmerman*

## Heads of Sci / Tech Libraries Discussion Group

The future of Interlibrary Loan and its impact on the libraries that we serve benefited from three discussion facilitators, each of whom shared her thoughts about interlibrary loan and trends in academic libraries.

Mary E. Jackson, Senior Program Officer for Access Services at the Association of Research Libraries, started the evening by suggesting that Interlibrary Loan would be around for a long time. Calling upon her experience with access issues at ARL, Mary provided attendees with some interesting statistics about Interlibrary Loan. She noted that since 1986, borrowing is up at a rate of 8% per year and lending is up at a rate of 4% per year in ARL libraries. She explained that patron expectations are changing and some wonder why Interlibrary Loan can't be as efficient as some of the better Web retailers. The statistics suggest that it currently takes 15.6 days on average to fill a loan request but the best libraries average less than 10 days per request. Jackson considers neither of these times satisfactory. One question she posed was how to get vendors to deliver needed services. Jackson also discussed the matter of patron-initiated Interlibrary Loan and the standard that is pending approval in August, which will allow variant systems to handle Interlibrary Loan operations. It is generally agreed that there is a need for faster and more efficient user-focused Interlibrary Loan.

Jill O'Neill, a writer in Corporate Communications at ISI Thomson Scientific, considered Interlibrary Loan from the perspective of the corporate document delivery provider. She explained that document delivery is separate and complimentary to Interlibrary Loan and that most document delivery vendors do not want to be in the Interlibrary Loan business. They do it only because customers want it. She provided some interesting background on the ISI services and how they developed. O'Neill suggested that from the vendor's view document delivery represents substantial overhead. She offered that the market will determine how and under what circumstances ISI and other vendors will continue in the document delivery business.

Nan Butkovich, Head of the Physical Sciences Library at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), discussed ILL and commercial document delivery as pieces of a larger document delivery program. She has prepared a proposal at PSU to streamline the way ILL and commercial document delivery requests are handled. This proposal suggests that all ILL and Document Delivery requests from Physical Science faculty and students should be entered on one secure form via the Web and sent directly to the Physical Sciences Library. Then the information will be verified and a decision made on how to fulfill the request. It is hoped that the new system will make it easier for patrons while encouraging the use of the OPAC to help them determine more quickly if PSU owns something in which they have an interest. If the proposal is accepted and is successful in the Physical Sciences Library, it could be expanded to other parts of the University Libraries. A future meeting of this discussion group will be used for an update on this effort to simplify the Interlibrary Loan/document delivery process.

*Information supplied by Laura Lane & Barton Lessin*

---

## Publisher / Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group hosted 55 participants in a discussion of electronic books. Susan Macicak from the University of Texas began the discussion by describing her library's decisions and experiences using e-books from netLibrary. In the sciences,

she noted that the books most frequently checked out were computer science and technology titles. Brad Norris, Director of Library Programs at netLibrary, focused on three aspects of e-books: new features to netLibrary based on customer response, new technology and user acceptance and the future of e-books. The discussion afterward was very lively and included more details of the acceptance and use of e-books at the University of Texas as well as policies and restrictions put in place by netLibrary to protect copyright and encourage publisher participation.

*Information supplied by Catherine Soehner & Richard Llewellyn*

---

## Sci / Tech Databases Discussion Group

Judith Gilmore, a senior librarian from the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (DOE/OSTI), returned to bring ALA members up to date on activities of the DOE. The OSTI web page ([www.osti.gov](http://www.osti.gov)) welcomes users to "The Virtual Library of Energy Science and Technology." Ms. Gilmore briefed the audience on a blue ribbon panel convened by the DOE in May. Workshop panelists included R. Stephen Berry, University of Chicago; Martin Blume, American Physical Society; Jose-Marie Griffiths, University of Michigan; Lee Holcomb, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Kirk McDonald, Princeton University; Krishna Rajan, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Kent Smith, National Library of Medicine; and Derek Winstanley, Illinois State Water Survey. Results of the workshop have been issued in the "Workshop Report on a Future Information Infrastructure for the Physical Sciences," available electronically at [www.osti.gov/physicalsciences](http://www.osti.gov/physicalsciences). Ms. Gilmore posted an announcement on the STS-L on August 2, 2000 in which she states:

"The workshop findings support the need for a common knowledge base that provides comprehensive access and facilitates the reuse of worldwide sources of physical sciences information as well as a point of convergence for ensuring awareness, availability, use and development of information, technologies, and tools. The workshop report notes that the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information could well serve as this point of convergence and lead an initiative through a collaborative effort that encompasses government, industry, academia, and professional associations."

Ms. Gilmore presented an update of OSTI database projects. An overview of DOE research and development activities is available on a web page called "Portfolio" at [www.osti.gov/portfolio/](http://www.osti.gov/portfolio/). PubScience ([pubsci.osti.gov/](http://pubsci.osti.gov/)) added Kluwer to the list of 26 publishers participating in that initiative which provides online access to peer reviewed scientific and technical journal literature with a focus on physical sciences and related disciplines.

Over 1,000 sites are now linked to the gateway PrePRINT Network at [www.osti.gov/preprint](http://www.osti.gov/preprint). A new Alerts service will be launched on the preprint network in August. The International Energy Agency hosts an Energy Technology Data Exchange (ETDE), called ETDEWEB at [bia.osti.gov/etdeweb/](http://bia.osti.gov/etdeweb/) which contains 3.5 million pages of full text. Federal R+D Summaries ([www.osti.gov/fedrnd/](http://www.osti.gov/fedrnd/)), launched in April, offers one-stop shopping for information on NSF, DOE, NIH and other government agencies by making it possible to search across agency files, many of which are full text. "The world's most comprehensive portal to Federal gray literature," is the GrayLIT Network ([www.osti.gov/graylit](http://www.osti.gov/graylit)) which is useful for searching DoD, DOE, EPA, and NASA files. Another service, called OpenNet ([www.osti.gov/opennet/](http://www.osti.gov/opennet/)), provides a searchable database of declassified documents.

*Information supplied by Suzanne Fedunok*

## Committee on Comparison of Sci / Tech Libraries

The committee reviewed the status of the first electronic mini-survey, addressing personnel issues, which had been sent out shortly before the Midwinter meeting. Responses are coming in at a good rate, with positive feedback so far. The data from the first mini-survey will be processed, and an article written, subject to committee review, by Barton Lessin and Laura Lane. Possible topics for the next mini-survey were discussed, and "database access" was selected. Focus will be on how databases are purchased, funded, and distributed, with a particular look at possible differences between public versus private institutions.

*Information supplied by Judith R. J. Johnson*

---

## Continuing Education Committee

The meeting began with a discussion of the committee's charge: "To coordinate, promote and encourage all continuing education efforts within the Science and Technology Section". In order to fulfill this charge, the four suggestions were made by the committee members. In the years that the Continuing Education survey is done (fall every other year), the committee could reserve a time slot at the Mid-winter STS Council meeting to discuss those issues highlighted by the survey. The committee could develop a "hot topic" discussion group session on collection development in the sciences, or based on the most current continuing education needs as identified by the most recent CE survey. The committee could create liaisons to other committees, including Membership and Recruitment and the STS General Discussion Group who can report and coordinate activities between the committees. The committee could promote using Collegial Council volunteers as speakers or program leaders.

The committee is taking steps to be sure that only the most recent version the Collegial Council list is available. In order to make the site more easily accessible, the committee decided to mount the list of counselors [with their permission] on a web site that is not password protected. Hopefully the the process will be completed by mid-September. The new site will be arranged in several ways: geographically, by type of library, and by area of expertise. It was also decided that the list will be updated every year in the spring.

The committee has added a section to the STS Continuing Education web site (<http://osu.orst.edu/dept/library/davidsoj/STS/>) focusing on professional education web sites. This list of links was compiled by former committee member, Fritz Getze a few years ago. If you have suggestions for additions or corrections, please send them to Pat Viele [ptv1@cornell.edu](mailto:ptv1@cornell.edu).

*Information supplied by Patricia T. Viele*

---

## Forum for Sci / Tech Library Research

No report submitted

---

## Government Information Committee

Jennifer Laferty has agreed to serve as editor of the Committee web page.

Judy Russell, Deputy Director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), provided an update on the proposed closure of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Last spring, the Commission held three public meetings on the matter. In its "Preliminary Assessment report,

submitted to the President and Congress this March, NCLIS recommended that NTIS be retained temporarily in the Department of Commerce at a minimal satisfactory level of service until core issues could be studied more thoroughly.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has requested that NCLIS launch another study to identify reforms necessary in the federal government's overall public information machinery. This study, to be completed by December 15, 2000, will involve four panels. One panel will recommend changes in the NTIS business model. The other panels will focus on the needs and concerns of various key stakeholder groups including federal agencies, government contractors, libraries, and other public and private sector organizations. (For more information, see [www.nclis.gov/govt/ntis/ntis.html](http://www.nclis.gov/govt/ntis/ntis.html) or [www.nclis.gov/govt/assess/assess.html](http://www.nclis.gov/govt/assess/assess.html).)

Members reported on news from the ALA Legislative Update and the Government Documents Task Force meetings:

1. Letters and input from ACRL members protesting cuts in the Government Printing Office (GPO) appropriations were effective in convincing legislators to reconsider funding allocations. The House had earlier proposed drastic cuts, however, the Senate voted for a small increase. A Conference Committee has developed a compromise bill. The final vote will take place in early September. Representatives from GPO believe that even if there are slight increases in funding, higher overall costs mean that they will have to cut services and publication of such titles as the U.S. Code during the upcoming fiscal year.

2. At the ALA Legislative Update, librarians from Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware described efforts to discourage passage of the Uniform Computer Transactions Act (UCITA) in their respective states. UCITA would enforce "shrink-wrap" and computer "click-on" licenses and erode "Fair Use" rights.

*Information supplied by Susan Norrisey*

---

## Membership and Recruitment Committee

The new section brochure was distributed. It contains updated information and mirrors the STS web site colors and logo. 300 new brochures were to be included in the NMRT package. The STS New Member Orientation was attended by 16 people. At the 2001 annual meeting, the 40th anniversary of STS, Martinus Nijhoff will sponsor the STS New Member Orientation session. Falling membership figures and strategies to increase membership were discussed. It was noted that recruiting into the profession as a whole and specializations within academic librarianship in particular (e.g. sci/tech) constitute a growing problem. A member of the Continuing Education Committee will be assigned as liaison. The committee will design and distribute new STS stickers.

*Information supplied by Nirmala S. Bangalore*

---

## Oberly Award Committee

The Committee met in closed session with all members in attendance. The main item of business was assignment of responsibility for issuing the call for nominations. The best bibliography in the agricultural or natural sciences written in 1999-2000 will be selected at the midwinter meeting, and the award will be presented at the 2001 annual meeting in San Francisco. The call for nominations was reviewed and edited for clarity. Committee

members will post the call for nominations to various listservs, and mail the publicity leaflet to pertinent professional societies, commercial publishers and university presses in late August and early September. The Chair will send a letter of acknowledgement to those submitting nominations and route copies of the nominated bibliographies to other committee members if necessary. An evaluation form will be used to streamline the selection process.

*Information supplied by Jeannie Miller*

---

## Organization and Planning Committee

The Organization & Planning Committee conducted a brainstorming session on possible strategic issues for the Science and Technology Section. Some of the comments and proposed initiatives were noted at the STS Council II. The Committee will compile all of the recommendations of the brainstorming session and distribute to the members of the STS Council.

*Information supplied by Don Frank*

## 10th Annual ACRL National Conference

Explore the critical issues facing academic librarianship and higher education at ACRL's 10th National Conference

Join ACRL in Denver, March 15-18, 2001 for ACRL X: Crossing the Divide. Stimulate your thinking with our diverse slate of keynote speakers and featured presenters. Choose from over 200 peer-reviewed programs and gain skills to take back to your library. Network with colleagues during poster sessions and roundtable discussions. Visit with over 200 vendors and learn about state-of-the-art products and services at the exhibits. See what the Mile High City has to offer - participate in a tour or hit the deep March powder on the slopes!

Reserve your space today for the only conference focused on the issues and topics facing academic librarians! Complete details and registration forms are available on the Web at [www.ala.org/acrl/denver.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/denver.html).

Questions? Call 800-545-2433; ext. 2522 or e-mail: [acrl@ala.org](mailto:acrl@ala.org).

### \*STS Committee & Discussion Group Chairs \* STS Committee & Discussion Group Chairs \*

**College Science Librarians  
Discussion Group**  
Susan Kimball, Co-Chair /01  
[skimball@amherst.edu](mailto:skimball@amherst.edu)

Rocco Piccinino, Co-Chair /02  
[RPICCINI@email.smith.edu](mailto:RPICCINI@email.smith.edu)

**Comparison of Science and  
Technology Libraries Committee**  
Mitchell Brown, Chair /02  
[mcbrown@princeton.edu](mailto:mcbrown@princeton.edu)

**Continuing Education Committee**  
Nancy Hayes, Co-Chair /01  
[NLHayes@uakron.edu](mailto:NLHayes@uakron.edu)

Pat Viele, Co-Chair /01  
[ptv1@cornell.edu](mailto:ptv1@cornell.edu)

**Forum for Sci/Tech Library Research**  
Marlena Wald, Chair /01  
[mwald@sph.emory.edu](mailto:mwald@sph.emory.edu)

**General Discussion Group**  
Bryna Coonin, Co-Chair /02  
[cooninb@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:cooninb@mail.ecu.edu)

Kimberly Lyons, Co-Chair /01  
[klyons@uop.edu](mailto:klyons@uop.edu)

**Government Information Committee**  
Susan Norrissey, Co-Chair /01  
[lismn@LIB.TTU.EDU](mailto:lismn@LIB.TTU.EDU)

Jennifer Laherty, Co-Chair /02  
[jlaherty@csuhayward.edu](mailto:jlaherty@csuhayward.edu)

**Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries  
Discussion Group**  
Don Frank, Co-Chair /02  
[frankd@pdx.edu](mailto:frankd@pdx.edu)

Laura Lane, Co-Chair /01  
[lane@astro.ocis.temple.edu](mailto:lane@astro.ocis.temple.edu)

Judy Johnson, Co-Chair /02  
[Judjoh@cc.usu.edu](mailto:Judjoh@cc.usu.edu)

**Membership & Recruitment  
Committee**  
Nirmala Bangalore, Co-Chair /02  
[nbangalo@uic.edu](mailto:nbangalo@uic.edu)

J.B. Hill, Co-Chair /01  
[jbhill@selu.edu](mailto:jbhill@selu.edu)

**Nominating Committee**  
Billie Jo Reinhart, Chair /01  
[B.REINHART@csuohio.edu](mailto:B.REINHART@csuohio.edu)

**Oberly Award Committee**  
Jeannie Miller, Chair /01  
[JMILLER@lib-gw.tamu.edu](mailto:JMILLER@lib-gw.tamu.edu)

**Organization & Planning Committee**  
Don Frank, Co-Chair /02  
[frankd@pdx.edu](mailto:frankd@pdx.edu)

Amy Shannon, Co-Chair /01  
[ashannon@unr.edu](mailto:ashannon@unr.edu)

**Publications Committee**  
Edward Lener, Co-Chair /01  
[lener@vt.edu](mailto:lener@vt.edu)

Heather K. Moberly, Co-Chair /01  
[moberlh@okstate.edu](mailto:moberlh@okstate.edu)

**Publisher/Vendor Relations  
Discussion Group**  
Richard Llewellyn, Co-Chair /02  
[rlllew@arches.uga.edu](mailto:rlllew@arches.uga.edu)

Catherine Soehner, Co-Chair /01  
[soehner@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:soehner@cats.ucsc.edu)

**Science and Technology Database  
Discussion Group**  
Suzanne Fedunok, Co-Chair /01  
[suzanne.fedunok@nyu.edu](mailto:suzanne.fedunok@nyu.edu)

Donna Gagnier, Co-Chair /02  
[d.gagnie@usip.edu](mailto:d.gagnie@usip.edu)

**Subject & Bibliographic Access  
Committee**  
Janice Christopher, Co-Chair /01  
[jchristo@mines.edu](mailto:jchristo@mines.edu)

Steven Reil, Co-Chair /02  
[sriel@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:sriel@oeb.harvard.edu)

**2001 Conference Program Planning**  
Julia Gelfand, Chair /01  
[jgelfand@uci.edu](mailto:jgelfand@uci.edu)

## Publications Committee

Web guidelines for the ACRL Science and Technology Section were drafted by our new Webmaster, Jennifer Duvernay, and reviewed by the committee. These were presented at Section Council and approved with minor changes. The committee will also be proposing changes to the appropriate sections of the Section Manual to formalize the role of the Section Webmaster. A demonstration site for streaming audio of STS programs was prepared by David Atkins and Philip Herold. Discussion centered on how best to proceed with this initiative and the committee will work to identify the issues associated with broader implementation of this new technology. Teresa Berry reported STS-L is running smoothly with the new software and averages about 1,000 subscribers. Andrea Duda reported that ISTL is refining the appearance of its website for greater ease of navigation. The number of hits each month at the site continue to rise. A referred section has just been added and several thematic issues are planned. For the STS Signal newsletter, Edward Lener will be stepping down as co-editor. A new co-editor, Philip Herold, was selected by the committee. Heather Moberly will continue in her role as co-editor for the present time.

*Information supplied by Edward Lener & Heather Moberly*

---

## Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

The Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee is working on a project that will address librarians' perceptions of the successes and failures of various methods of access to electronic journals: catalog records, HTML lists by subject and title, and aggregator sites. We plan to survey public services librarians at institutions of various sizes in order to see how science and technology e-journal access methods are developing. Our literature survey is complete; we are designing our survey instrument at this time and plan to distribute it in early fall. Our goal is conference presentation and/or publication in order to share our data and conclusions with other librarians working with science and technology e-journals. At our meeting at Annual, in addition to this project we also discussed briefly and in general terms problems with recruiting and hiring science librarians.

*Information supplied by Janice Christopher*

---

## 2001 Conference Planning Committee

No report submitted.

---

## 2000 Conference Program

Communication and Information Models for the New Millennium: Scientists and Librarians Face the Future

The annual STS program featured four speakers who exemplified how scholarly communication channels are changing and librarians'

roles in this evolving new communication system. As one of the speakers, Roy Tennant stated: "Librarians can be the grease for the wheels (faculty) for making changes in scholarly communication." As an example of librarians playing a direct role in the publishing process, Robert Pisciotta described the technical process that staff at the Dykes Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center are using to develop *Photochemistry and Photobiology Online*. For details of Robert Pisciotta's presentation see: <http://www.aspjournals.com/ala>.

Julia Blixrud, from SPARC, outlined SPARC's focus on supporting new STM journals providing alternatives to established, expensive commercial counterparts, and e-journals with no print equivalent that are on the cutting edge of new electronic formats. SPARC is also partnering with several new e-journal ventures including BioOne, MIT's Cognet, the California Digital Library, and Columbia's Earthscape.

R. Michael Barnett, a physics educator and researcher from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was invited to provide the scientist's perspective. Dr. Barnett described the old model of scientific communication in high energy physics as the "journal" and the new model including the electronic preprint archive, the SPIRES database of bibliographic information at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center Library (directed by Pat Kreitz, 2000 STS Chair), physics journals, and reviews and summaries of relevant data and research which is coordinated by Dr. Barnett's Particle Data Group. Dr. Barnett said that physicist need is a unified source for information — universal access to a rich array of information in text and graphics integrated and cross-linked.

Roy Tennant, just beginning his position with eScholarship, a University of California program through the California Digital Library, offered some predictions for the future: digital forms of "publication" will diversify and gain importance; librarians will continue to do what we have always done with regard to information, but the methods and services of this role will change. Some examples are collaborating with faculty to build new communication systems, designing interfaces for web publishing, infrastructure management and maintenance, capturing metadata, archiving and preserving e-content, "filtering" information by producing bibliographies of quality information sources, and providing current awareness services. Roy Tennant echoed Michael Barnett's vision of the scholarly communication future by stating that an important role for librarians is to provide information aggregation: to knit together information across a wide variety of sources in transparent fashion. To prepare for the future, librarians need to "stay flexible and watch for opportunities," which requires continual learning.

After the speaker presentations and questions/comments from the audience, everyone was invited to the adjacent ballroom for poster session presentations that demonstrated how librarians are meeting the challenges of the changing world of scientific information. For a list of poster session participants and abstracts, see: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/2000poster.html>

The STS reception was also held in conjunction with the poster session. The STS Council agreed to try a different venue for the annual STS reception this year in order to reduce costly expenses for hosting a reception. The large group of attendees enjoyed mingling and carrying on the conversation from the program and poster session presentations.

*Information supplied by Jill Newby*

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2001 Midwinter Meeting \* Washington, D.C.

### Day/Date/Time   Committee

#### Friday, January 12

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.      STS Council I (8:00-10:00)\*  
 9:30 - 10:30 p.m.      STS Executive Board

#### Saturday, January 13

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.      Oberly Award Committee  
 (closed)  
 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.      Comparison of Sci/Tech  
 Libraries Committee  
 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.      2002 Program Planning  
 Committee  
 9:30 - 12:30 p.m.      2001 Program Planning  
 Committee  
 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.      Publications Committee  
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.      Subject & Bibliographic  
 Access Committee  
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.      Discussion Group Chairs  
 Meeting  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.      Organization & Planning  
 Committee  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.      Forum for Sci/Tech Library  
 Research Committee  
 (closed)  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.      General Discussion Group  
 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.      ALA No-Conflict Time -  
 Reception

### Day/Date/Time   Committee

#### Sunday January 14

8:00 - 9:00 AM      Membership Committee  
 8:30 - 11:00 AM      Government Information  
 Committee  
 9:30 - 11:00 AM      Continuing Education  
 Committee  
 9:30 - 11:00 AM      Databases and Publisher/Vendor  
 Relations Discussion Groups  
 (combined)  
 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.      ALA No-Conflict Time -  
 Exhibits  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.      ACRL No-Conflict Time -  
 Board  
 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.      Heads of Sci/tech Libraries  
 Discussion Group

#### Monday, January 15

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.      STS Council II  
 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.      ALA No-Conflict Time -  
 Exhibits  
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.      ALA No-Conflict Time -  
 Pres. Candidates Forum

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

### ACRL Science and Technology Section Continuing Education Committee **COLLEGIAL COUNSEL**

Librarians do many different things as part of our job. In addition to reference work, our assignments may include collection building, evaluation of reference collections and services, stack organization and shifting, creating home pages, designing instructional flyers or any one of a million other special projects. If your job has ever required you to do something you did not learn in Library School, **Collegial Counsel** may help. The STS Continuing Education Committee has gathered a list of individuals willing help to less experienced librarians in all aspects of librarianship. The list includes the names of volunteers, area of expertise, and contact information. You may choose to contact anyone on the list whose experience and expertise matches your needs or interests.

Next time you are asked to write, shift, present, catalog, teach, organize or administer something for your job and do not know where to start, start with STS's **Collegial Counsel**. You may (or may not) be surprised to encounter colleagues who have successfully completed similar projects.

To request the list please contact Nancy Hayes (see below) or check out the  
 STS Continuing Education homepage at: <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/library/davidsoj/STS/>

The STS Continuing Education Committee is recruiting volunteers for Collegial Counsel.  
 If you are an experienced sci/tech librarian and would like to share your expertise, we would be happy to hear from you!!

For more information contact:

Nancy L. Hayes, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-6192, NLHayes@uakron.edu, Phone: (330) 972-6192, Fax: (330) 972-5558

**ACRL Science and Technology Section  
Committee Volunteer Form**

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program Planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oberly Award   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization & Planning                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Science & Technology   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Research                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Information           | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject & Bibliographic<br>Access to Science Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Recruitment         |   |

I am interested in chairing the following discussion groups:

- College Science Librarians
- General
- Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries
- Publisher/Vendor Relations
- Science & Technology Databases

Topics of interest for programs and discussion groups:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Mail to: JoAnn DeVries, University of Minnesota,  
Magrath Library, 1984 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

**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.

To join STS-L, send the following message to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU) (do not include a period after EDU). The SUBJECT line should not be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name

Moderators: Gayle Baker and Teresa Berry

**Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)**

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/>

Editor: Andrea Duda

**STS Web Page**

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts.html>

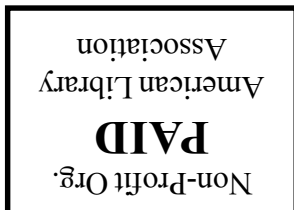
Webmaster: Jennifer Duvernay

**STS Signal on the Web**

Available in portable document format (pdf)

at: [http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts\\_signal.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts_signal.html)

Editors: Heather K. Moberly & Philip Herold



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