From the Chair, Jill Newby

At the recent ALA Annual Conference in Toronto, there were many topnotch STS programs and discussion groups. The STS Conference Program on Monday, June 23rd, “Partners in Science: an Exploration of a Scientist-Librarian Relationship,” featured a very effective model of a librarian-faculty collaboration between Paul St. Pierre and Carolyn MacGregor, University of Waterloo. Steve Hiller, University of Washington outlined assessment studies carried out at the UW libraries to measure information seeking habits of scientists and engineers. For more details on other programs and quality STS discussion group meetings held in Toronto, see articles in this issue of the STS Signal.

What is in the works at STS?

STS Committees are working on a number of fronts to promote increased awareness and accessibility to science and engineering information. The Information Literacy Task Force has completed a bibliography and is working on information literacy standards and outcomes for science and engineering disciplines. This work will be highlighted at the 2004 STS Conference Program in Orlando, “Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative approaches to information literacy in the sciences.” The Continuing Education Committee has a listing of “Sci-Tech Library Mentors,” STS members willing to serve as resources for librarians needing assistance or mentoring. The Assessment Committee is developing a survey to learn more about assessment practices in libraries that will be shared with the membership. The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee completed a selected annotated bibliography on grey literature. The Publications Committee continues to keep the STS membership informed through the Signal and the STS listserv. It also provides leadership and editorialship for the e-journal, ISTL. Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, and the STS website. For those of you who haven’t visited the STS website lately, the site has been successfully converted to the new ALA web format, due to the diligence of Jennifer Duvernay, STS web editor. Please contact Jennifer at jennifer.duvernay@asu.edu, if you have questions or comments or just plain can’t find what you are looking for at the STS website.

ALA & ACRL

ALA and ACRL have several new initiatives of interest to STS members. The new ACRL Scholarly Communication Committee provides a forum through their email discussion list and programs at ALA Midwinter and Annual and the ACRL National conference.

ALA’s @ your library® campaign has a wealth of resources, including a marketing toolkit, information
NEWS FROM THE TORONTO MEETINGS

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The College Science Librarians Discussion Group cancelled our session at ALA because both speakers decided not to come to Toronto. The topic of the discussion was to have been “Drawing people to the library: providing services and support to lure them in.” We’re hoping to be able to reschedule this for a later session. The College Science Librarians Discussion Group and the Sci-Tech Library Management Discussion Group organized a dinner for SciTech librarians on Sunday evening, so nineteen librarians met at Le Saint Tropez Restaurant and enjoyed an evening filled with good food and pleasant conversation.

Information supplied by Terri Freedman

General Discussion Group and Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

The General Discussion Group joined forces with the Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee for a panel discussion titled “Fading of the Greyness in Grey Literature: Is Grey Literature Still Grey?” Three speakers offered different approaches to the increasing world of Grey Literature.

Unfortunately, Julia Gelfand, of the University of California, Irvine, and a leading expert on the subject of Grey Literature, was unable to attend the conference, but Irwin Weintraub of the Brooklyn Institute very generously stepped in and presented Julia’s paper. After an interesting introduction and overview of the topic, where everything from chest x-rays to datasets to preprints were identified as Grey Literature, Eric Childress of OCLC presented his paper, which covered the challenges of cataloging (or NOT cataloging, as is often the case) Grey Literature. The final presentation was by Ed Pentz of CrossRef, who confessed to “not being a librarian or knowing anything about Grey Literature,” but his topic of descriptive metadata fit in very well with the other two presentations. For those wishing to learn more about the topic of Grey Literature, a bibliography may be found at http://personal.ecu.edu/cooninbb/Greyliterature.htm.

Also, anyone wishing to be sent the PowerPoint presentations of the three talks given, may contact Meg Spencer at mspence1@swarthmore.edu.

Information supplied by Meg E. Spencer

From the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Jeanne Davidson

Do you have ideas you would like to share with other science/technology librarians? Would you like opportunities to network and meet others? Do you have questions you would like help in answering? Working with others on STS committees provides opportunities to do all of these things. As Vice Chair/Chair Elect I will be appointing new committee members over the coming months. I encourage you to go to the STS website to read more about what the various STS committees do. Then fill in and submit the committee-volunteer form to let me know of your interests, or contact me directly at jeanne.davidson@oregonstate.edu.

Another opportunity for you to help STS is by responding to the member survey that will be linked on our website this fall. The results from this biennial survey are passed along to program committees, discussion group planners and the STS leadership. The information we gain from you helps in planning programs and activities for the section that will serve you better.

I hope to hear from many of you in the coming months and I look forward to seeing you at Midwinter in sunny San Diego!

Jeanne Davidson
Physical Sciences Librarian
Oregon State University
jeanne.davidson@oregonstate.edu
Phone: 541-737-7275

Jill Newby
Science-Engineering Library
University of Arizona
newbyj@u.library.arizona.edu
Phone: 520-621-6387

about the ALA logo and branding and case histories of how librarians have used the @ your library® brand to market library services. Check out the website (http://www.ala.org/acrl/@yourlibrary) and add your library’s story to the list of case histories!

I look forward to seeing colleagues at the STS meetings scheduled for the ALA Midwinter meeting in San Diego in January.

Jill Newby
Science-Engineering Library
University of Arizona
newbyj@u.library.arizona.edu
Phone: 520-621-6387
Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group hosted a discussion on science and technology reference sources. Stephen DeCroes from John Wiley and Sons spoke about Wiley Interscience online interactive chemical databases. He talked primarily about three chemistry products: e-EROS (The Encyclopedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis; Organic-Chemical Drugs and Their Synonyms); and Occupational Toxicants and MAK Values. Subscribers can search these works individually or across databases. Tom Rosenthal from Elsevier Science and Technology Books talked about his company’s online products, which include 1200 STM titles including 30 major reference works. He also discussed the pricing of online subscriptions. Several librarians brought up the need for more flexibility among science/tech publishers in pricing their online reference works. In many cases, libraries handle their reference collection budgets differently from their serials budgets and in certain cases, it is preferable to pay a one time up-front fee for permanent access to reference titles. In other libraries, it might be preferable to pay a yearly subscription fee for access. The discussion revealed that publishing representatives were not always aware that science librarians often make purchasing decisions for both reference works and serials. Furthermore, although science librarians make the purchase decision, they may not handle the actual acquisition or contract negotiations for online products.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey

Sci/Tech Information Discussion Group

The Science & Technology Information Discussion Group hosted a discussion, “Genomics databases: Big Science, biology and libraries” about the genomics information explosion and the role libraries can play during this exciting time in the field of biology. The January “database” issue of Nucleic Acids Research contained over 350 database descriptions, despite its being a selective list. These large datasets, the large numbers of databases, and the computational techniques necessary to manage and understand the data are radically changing how some biology is done. Libraries are rich with expertise that could help manage the explosion of data.

Kathy Chiang, Public Services Librarian at Mann Library, Cornell University, gave an overview of genomics databases today and how they are being used. This was followed by a lively discussion of how library staff are currently contributing their expertise and experience to enhance the research and learning process as well as ideas for what they could be doing in the future.

Over 35 people attended the session and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We will be continuing this discussion at ALA Midwinter in San Diego, where we will discuss the library’s role in teaching informatics. We look forward to seeing you there.

Information supplied by Ann E. Robinson
Assessment Committee

The STS Assessment Committee, formerly known as the Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee, continued the discussion of its assessment survey begun during the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. The survey is intended to compile data on the patterns and trends of assessment current in sci/tech libraries, as well as the methods and techniques used to measure assessment. Members reviewed a draft of the survey and suggested improvements to clarify the purpose and outcomes. Of particular interest to the group was developing a series of questions to discover any changes implemented at an institution following an assessment project. After final Committee approval of the survey, it will be sent out to the STS membership, which will be the focus for now. If results are encouraging, distribution could be expanded to include other related organizations. As part of its charge, the Committee is currently compiling...
a bibliography of assessment articles, and is developing a list of other ALA committees whose charge includes assessment or some similar type of evaluation of library collections, services, and programs.

A number of guests attended the meeting, including three Canadians who offered various ideas for programs. A discussion of the results from the assessment survey was also suggested as a future program.

*Information supplied by Daria O. Carle*

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**Continuing Education Committee**

Current members discussed the composition of the new committee since there will be few returning members. The first task of the new committee will be to finalize and circulate the biannual survey of continuing education needs of STS members. Results will be distributed at ALA Midwinter to STS Council for dissemination to groups involved in planning conference programs and discussions sessions.

Other projects include the Sci/Tech Library Mentors and Continuing Education on the Web. Progress has been made in contacting mentors to verify addresses and continued availability. The committee will review procedures for collecting data on how the service is being used, and for contacting mentors. Discussion of the Continuing Education on the Web resource was deferred till Midwinter. The committee also agreed to survey members about the SLA proposal to enter into reciprocal agreements to allow ALA and SLA members to attend each other’s workshops and pre-conference programs at member cost. The committee will convey the results to STS Council, which asked for a recommendation reflecting members’ wishes on this matter.

*Information supplied by Randall Halverson, Brian Quigley, and Julie Williamsen*

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**Membership and Recruitment Committee**

The STS New Members Orientation/Reception was held on Saturday, June 21st from 8 – 9 am in the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. We had 10 ‘new’ or potential members in attendance and 7 STS Council and Membership Committee members. Each Council member introduced himself/herself, and spoke for a few minutes on STS (benefits of membership, committee work, etc.). Then, each new/potential member talked briefly about his/her interest in sci/tech librarianship. This was followed by a brief question and answer period, then informal networking. The continental breakfast offerings were a very welcome addition.

*Information supplied by Christina M. Desai*

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**Government Information Committee**

The committee will create an “Earth and Environmental Sciences” content category, and will continue to update our “Top 100 sci/tech government websites” webpage. We will monitor ALA listservs for government information news items relevant to STS members.

**Government Documents Round Table Highlights:**

The Round Table heard about the Canadian government’s service-oriented, award-winning website, which provides subject groupings of links; see science links at: http://canada.gc.ca/cdns/science_e.html. Superintendent Judy Russell presented an update on GPO news. All remaining physical bookstores will close, and the GPO is investigating print-on-demand services for depository libraries. The GPO and the Office of Management and Budget have agreed to a “solution for federal printing.” Agencies will contract directly with printing contractors, expecting each contract to mandate two print copies and one electronic copy of each document for GPO. The upcoming book *Tapping State Government Information Sources* will provide an overview of publication programs by state. ALA’s Patrice McDermott presented the “Washington Update,” during which attendees learned that increasingly, government information is being withdrawn in reference to “national security.” The eGov Act helps to establish standards and policy for online public access to government information.

*Information supplied by Randall Halverson, Brian Quigley, and Julie Williamsen*
Organization and Planning Committee

Only two members of the committee (Alison Ricker and Randall Halverson) were able to meet together during Midwinter. We continued our process of reviewing the STS Strategic Plan, specifically considering how the section’s plan supports the goals of ACRL, as stated in the division’s strategic plan. We also brainstormed activities that STS could pursue to support ACRL’s goals more directly, such as engaging more systematically in outreach and collaboration with other professional organizations. The one incoming member of the committee is Jo Ann Calzonetti, University of Akron. Continuing members include Barbara Kern, University of Chicago, Lea Wade of Silver Spring, MD, Julie Yang, UC San Diego, plus Alison and Randall for a total of 6 members for 2003/04. Making progress as a committee will require more contact through email and possibly a telephone conference call in the fall, to continue the discussion more widely well in advance of the next Midwinter meeting. The committee must also continue its work to update the STS Manual pages on the web site.

Information supplied by Alison Ricker

Publications Committee

Prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Toronto, the Publications Committee conducted a survey of STS-L subscribers regarding the Section’s newsletter, Signal. Although there was a small response, the survey results provided useful information, including recommendations for improvements. The Signal editors brought forth several recommendations for change, both to visual/layout aspects and to content, and these changes were endorsed by the STS Council. Expect to see some changes in the newsletter in the coming months!

Other current Publications Committee projects include the redesign of the STS brochure, a marketing and informational resource for the section, in coordination with the Membership and Recruitment Committee. The Committee will also make an STS letterhead available for members conducting Section business correspondence. And, the STS website has a new design as part of the new ALA website. Thank you to Jennie Duvernay for her tremendous efforts in migrating STS Web content to the new site.

Information supplied by Philip Herold

Research Committee

The Research Committee sponsored the STS Forum for Science and Technology Library Research and the STS Poster Session at ALA 2003 in Toronto. Papers and posters were selected by the Research Committee through a blind review process.

This year’s Forum on Saturday afternoon featured presentations by two sets of researchers. Pamela Jacobs and Wendy Rodgers, U. of Guelph Library, Canada, reported on their development of an online tutorial as an effective information literacy tool called “Creative Solutions through Collaboration: Information Literacy for a Large First Year Biology Class.” Charity Hope, San Jose State U. Library, reported on a research project conducted with her colleague, Shannon Staley, titled, “Student Expectations for Library Web Site Organization” which used data from a student card sorting test to redesign the Library’s website.

Following the presentations, Guest Responder Julie Hurd, Science Librarian and Coordinator of Digital
SCHEDULE

ACRL  Science & Technology Section * 2004 Midwinter Meeting * San Diego, CA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date/Time</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 9</td>
<td>STS Council I</td>
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<td>8:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 10</td>
<td>Oberly Award Committee (closed)</td>
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<td>8:30 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>2004 Program Planning Committee</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>9:30 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Assessment Committee</td>
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<td>Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Discussion Group Chairs Meeting</td>
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<td>Sunday January 11</td>
<td>General Discussion Group</td>
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<td>8:30 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Organization and Planning Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Research Committee (closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Government Information Committee</td>
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<td>Monday, January 12</td>
<td>Continuing Education Committee</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Science/Technology Information Discussion Group</td>
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<td>Membership and Recruitment Committee</td>
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<td>STS Council II</td>
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Library Planning, U. of Illinois at Chicago, provided insightful comments on the authors’ presentations and a discussion with the audience followed.

The Poster Session was held in conjunction with the reception following the STS Program on Monday morning. Six posters were displayed and presented by authors:

- “The Librarian and Technology Transfer,” Michael Shochet, Technology Transfer Information Center, National Agricultural Library and U. of Maryland, College Park.
- “A Science Literacy Tutorial for First-Year Biology Students,” Tracy Thrasher Hybl, Katherine Kearns, Ardelle Legg, Boston U.
- “Partnering for Better Health: Physician/Librarian Collaboration at a University Student Health Service,” Jeff Williams and Mary Linn Bergstrom, Biomedical Library, U. of California, San Diego.

Abstracts and presentations are available on the STS website.

Information supplied by Kathryn Kjaer

2004 Program Planning Committee

The committee met to narrow the list of potential speakers for the 2004 Program, which is tentatively titled: “Making Connections on Campus: collaborative approaches to information literacy in the sciences.” We hope to invite one or more librarians who have worked collaboratively with teaching faculty to create innovative information literacy components within a science or engineering curriculum. We also hope to invite a (non-librarian) faculty member to get the perspective from the other side of the equation. This presentation will fit well with ACRL’s presidential theme for 2004: “Partnerships and connections: the learning community as knowledge builders.” The plan is also to combine the program with a poster session in cooperation with the Research Committee, and the STS reception to follow. The program and budget were later approved by the ACRL Executive Board.

Information supplied by David Flaxbart
"Survey Says..."

This spring STS members had the chance to sound off on Signal via a survey on the STS website. Recommendations (some of which have been incorporated in this issue) included:

- larger print
- more color (for the web version)
- graphics and occasional pictures
- membership news (see p. 4)
- feature articles about STS programs or members
- change to a web-exclusive Signal notification by email of web version availability

The last two items have been discussed by the Publication Committee and continue to be considered.

The editors welcome additional comments from members. We encourage communication about your job changes, publications, awards, etc. Please share news about your sci/tech colleagues as well.

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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 (do not include a period after EDU):

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name

The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.

Moderators: Margaret Mellinger and Jeanine Williamson

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

http://www.library.uchicago.edu/istl/

Editor: Andrea Duda

**STS Web Page**

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ACRL/About_ACRL/Sections/Science_and_Technology/STS.htm

Webmaster: Jennifer Duvernay

**STS Signal on the Web**


Editors: Elizabeth Cooksey & Barbara MacAlpine