

# STS SIGNAL



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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is available on ACRL's web site at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/stratplan.htm>. STS will need to integrate our strategic plan (linked from <http://www.acrl.org/sts/>) with the new ACRL plan. Discussions on the new plan and how it impacts STS will likely begin at Midwinter 2005. To make sure your thoughts are incorporated into our planning, please pass your ideas on to any section officer or council member. We want STS to work for you, and the best way for this to happen is to let us know what you think!

I look forward to seeing new and returning colleagues at ALA Midwinter in Boston in January.

*Jeanne Davidson*

*Physical Sciences Librarian/Oregon State University*

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## From the Chair, Jeanne Davidson

Thanks are due to the 2004 Conference Program Planning Committee for bringing STS an excellent program in Orlando: "Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative Approaches to Information Literacy in the Sciences" (see page 2 for details). The session was well attended and the presenters passed along highly useful practices. The presentations and abstracts for the poster session that followed are available on the STS website. We also appreciate the work of the discussion groups and committees that organized the other successful and pertinent STS discussion groups at the conference. And, as always, we thank the Institute of Physics for their delightful reception and the other vendors who supported our conference program, poster session and reception.

In the upcoming year, the STS membership will be involved in several activities. The Information Literacy Standards for Science and Technology will be published this fall in *College & Research Libraries News*, and the membership will be asked to endorse the standards on the ACRL ballot in the spring. ALA and ACRL have developed a new strategic plan for the organization, which

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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/stsignal.htm>.

## From the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Julia Gelfand

Thank you all for your support, and I hope that you join me in looking forward to celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Science & Technology Section in 2006. Some of you have indicated an interest in serving on a STS committee and later in the year, I will be making many appointments. I look forward to including as many members who want to participate in our committee work, section governance and program planning. I welcome your interest in networking, and collaborating with other science librarians. There are many opportunities and I welcome your input and ideas.

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## STS 2004 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The STS Conference Program in Orlando, **“Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative Approaches to Information Literacy in the Sciences,”** was held on June 28th and featured speakers who highlighted projects that have fostered significant collaboration between faculty and librarians to integrate information literacy into the science curriculum. Despite being held at 8:30 a.m. in a distant location several miles from the Convention Center, more than 100 people attended the program and reception/poster session immediately following the program.

Maliaca Oxnam (U. of Arizona) described a partnership to redesign a large general education course in earth sciences and mining engineering to incorporate scalable information literacy instruction. Regina Raboin (Tufts) described how collaboration between herself and a biology professor led to the development of a biology research lab section and web site. Michael Fosmire (Purdue) discussed the use of active learning strategies, and in particular problem-based learning, as a catalyst to create collaborative opportunities. Vicky McMillan and Debbie Huerta, a faculty-librarian team (Colgate), discussed their collaborative teaching efforts that began over 10 years ago when they devised a curriculum in scientific writing. Virginia Baldwin (U. of Nebraska-Lincoln) concluded the program by presenting the work and goals of the STS Task Force on Information Literacy in Science & Technology. Presentations for all speakers are available on the STS website.

*Information supplied by Sherri Jones*

## MORE NEWS FROM ORLANDO

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### College Science Librarians Discussion Group

Twenty-nine librarians attended the session focused on discussing how to bring users back into the library. Julie Miran introduced the topic and shared some of her experiences. Her suggestions included: provide desired equipment such as a powerful scanner, a poster sized printer (for poster sessions), useful software that students need to complete their assignments; hire student assistants from S/T disciplines and ask faculty for recommendations as another way to liaise with them; and perform a syllabus project to gather syllabi for S/T classes. Another method is to collaborate with other units on campus and have the joint project located in the library. Examples of projects include learning and writing centers and tutoring spaces.

The session was then opened up for discussion. Finding and using grants and awards to get materials and staff for the library and also to work with faculty on grant applications was a primary discussion point. Working with limited instruction space was another issue. The importance of offering one-on-one sessions and passing along contact information if the sessions do not take place in the S/T library was emphasized. Several participants suggested offering a two-part session with one part being a physical tour of the S/T library. Calling one-on-one sessions “research consultations” tends to generate more user interest. Participants noted the importance of getting a chance to meet the students, and ensuring that there were a number of different ways for the student to contact them.

*Information supplied by Beth Thomsett-Scott*

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### Issues in Sci-Tech Library Management Discussion Group

The Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management group discussed **“The Irresistible Force and the Immovable Object: Alternative Forms of Publishing and Your Faculty.”** Norma Kobzina (U.C. Berkeley) and Mary Ochs (Cornell) led off the discussion with brief talks about what they’ve been doing at their institutions to communicate with faculty about scholarly communication issues. Norma discussed how the library informed faculty on its negotiations and resulting contract with Elsevier, and shared information about letters to faculty and related material that is posted on the UC Berkeley collections web site. Mary noted that

Cornell is a good reflection of the period of experimentation that's going on everywhere right now. She talked about activities at Cornell: an institutional repository, an Open Access Task Force, faculty awareness activities such as their Sticker Shock and Scholarly Publication web sites, outreach activities, and partnerships with societies and publishers, including Project Euclid, AGORA and HINARI. The presentations were followed by many questions and a lively discussion. A variety of topics were covered, including: criteria used for canceling titles, low-use niche journals and usage stats, open access and institutional memberships, faculty tenure and publishing patterns, serial prices for society publishers, librarians and publishers as partners not adversaries, and institutional repositories.

*Information supplied by Victoria S. Mitchell*

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

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group hosted a session on open access publishing entitled: **“Open Access Publishing Models: Florida Entomologist and the Berkeley Online Press.”** In this session, speakers discussed two models of open access publishing, respectively. Dr. Thomas Walker, Professor Emeritus of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville, spoke about the open access initiatives of the Florida Entomological Society and the Entomological Society of America and their relevance to the incipient transition to open access to all journal articles. Dr. Aaron Edlin, Professor, Boalt Hall Law School and Department of Economics at U.C. Berkeley and co-founder, Berkeley Electronic Press, gave a talk entitled: “The Berkeley Electronic Press Publishing Model: Scholars regaining control.”

*Information supplied by Marian Burrig*

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#### **---CORRECTION---**

While the **Sci/Tech Information Discussion Group** did not meet in Orlando, the editors of *Signal* would like to correct a definition included in the group's report for the Spring 2004 issue. Thank you to co-chair Angi Faiks for catching our mistake and supplying the following information: Informatics is the study of the application of computer and statistical techniques to the management of information. For example, in genome projects, informatics includes the development of methods to search databases quickly, to analyze DNA sequence information, and to predict protein sequence and structure from DNA sequence data. Our session [in San Diego] had to do with libraries and librarians assuming a role in this advancing discipline. (Definitions derived from Webster's New World™ Medical Dictionary)

### **Assessment Committee**

Template for the assessment of STS programs: An assessment template for STS programs is being created. The template will be on the STS website. Several examples were introduced and discussed. Additional evaluation forms for programs were collected at the Conference. A proposed template will be distributed to the STS Council for consideration.

Template for outgoing chairs of committees and discussion groups: The template will provide opportunities for chairs to update progress as well as note ongoing activities and initiatives for the next chair. Discussion indicated the template is a good idea.

Other assessment groups: The Committee is following up on the initial list of committees or groups in ALA currently focusing on assessment. The initial list included groups in ACRL, RUSA, LAMA, and ALECTS. A follow-up questionnaire has been developed and will be distributed to specific units in ALA, seeking additional information on these committees or groups.

Potential program or discussion group: We decided that a classic bibliography of articles on assessment is not necessarily needed. The possibility of key websites appears to be more relevant. Discussion then moved to the possibility of cosponsoring a program or discussion group on assessment with one or more of the committees or groups in ALA identified in the survey noted above. Experts on assessment such as Peter Hernon and Charles McClure were suggested as potential contributors on this program.

*Information supplied by Don Frank*

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### **Continuing Education Committee**

The committee decided to create a short yearly survey to gauge interest in “hot topics,” in addition to its usual biennial survey, to provide more timely information to conference planners and discussion group chairs. The group also discussed some possible hot topics to include, such as the invisible web and collaborative information literacy tutorials. Ginny Baldwin announced that a proposal to offer SLA pre-conference workshops to ALA members at SLA member rates has been submitted to the SLA leadership. She will investigate how to request from ACRL a reciprocal agreement for SLA members to attend ALA pre-conference workshops.

The committee discussed the low usage of its Sci/

Tech Library Mentors and ways to publicize the service. The group agreed to create a bookmark publicizing the program to be included with the STS brochure recently published by the Membership and Recruitment Committee. The brochure is distributed at conferences and sent to library school science reference instructors and placement offices. The group also approved adding a paragraph to the Membership Committee's welcoming letter to new STS members, to promote the mentor program. A suggestion that we pair new mentees with appropriate mentors generated considerable discussion. The committee favored the idea, but did not come to a resolution on how to carry it out.

Discussion of the web page "Professional Continuing Education on the Web" had to be postponed till the next meeting, though work on it via email will continue.

*Information supplied by Chris Desai*

## Government Information Committee

The committee agreed to post the most recent update of its "Top 100" Science/Technology Government Information Links, which has a new subject content area: Federal Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The committee meeting focused on members' interest in sponsoring a program for 2005. This may be a discussion group forum on government-supported information repositories or a continuing education program on effective searching strategies for government sci/tech-related information. Given the role of the federal government in creating major print and online repositories, the former program idea may constitute an informal review of the history of repositories, and provide valuable perspective at this point. **If any STS member is interested in one of these program ideas, and has a suggestion for a panel facilitator, speaker, etc., the committee would appreciate your input.**

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

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#### 2005 Conference Program Planning

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Kavita S. Mundle, Co-Chair /05  
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Committee members Amy Prendergast and Randall Halverson will serve as committee co-chairs for 2004/2005.

*Information supplied by Randall Halverson*

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### **Membership and Recruitment Committee**

The STS Membership & Recruitment Committee hosted a very successful New Member's Orientation/Reception at Annual on Saturday June 26, 2004 at the Embassy Suites/Jamaican Court. Despite the less than desirable location of the event – several miles from the Convention Center – the program was well attended. Sixteen new or potential STS members were present along with many of the Committee members, and several STS Officers. While enjoying a tempting array of food and beverage offerings, attendees were introduced to current STS members who offered advice on successfully navigating through an ALA Annual, and also on sci/tech librarianship as a profession. The Membership Committee unveiled the new STS brochure at Annual – culminating almost 15 months of preparation. Response to the new design and content was extremely positive. This new brochure will be used in STS membership mailings and recruitment activities, and will also be available at the ACRL booth at all conferences. The Membership Committee is currently working on various recruitment activities, including outreach to library school students and non-STS attendees of STS conference programs, and the development of an informational webpage on sci/tech librarianship and the benefits of membership in the Section.

*Information supplied by Lori Critz*

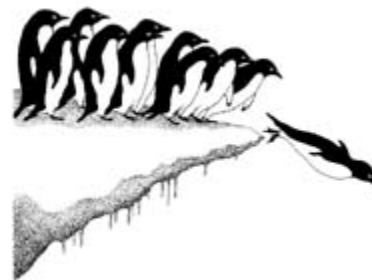
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### **Organization and Planning Committee**

The Organization and Planning Committee plans to review the STS Manual and make revision recommendations to Council. All of the committees in the section will need to assist in this work. Lea Wade attended the Council meeting on Monday evening in Orlando and solicited input from all committee chairs about which sections of the Manual should be revised first. Each chair will need to review the sections of the Manual that pertain to their committee and send suggested revisions to Lea ([lwadatorres@hotmail.com](mailto:lwadatorres@hotmail.com)) or Jo Ann Calzonetti ([jc44@uakron.edu](mailto:jc44@uakron.edu)), the committee

co-chairs. The Organization and Planning Committee plans to begin this work prior to Midwinter. Committee chairs can expect to be contacted by email!

*Information supplied by Jo Ann Calzonetti*



### **Publications Committee**

In the all-important numbers game, it was reported that membership on STS-L is up to 1,220, while there are 3,725 subscribers to ISTL. On the down side, usage statistics are no longer available for the STS website. Andrea Duda noted that the Library Instruction Round Table named issue #37 of ISTL as one of LIRT's Top Twenty for 2003 (see page 8.) Congratulations were in order to Andrea for her editorship and to webmaster Jennie Duvernay for additions to our website, especially those related to conference programs.

New responsibilities were assumed by Peter Spyers-Duran (co-moderator for STS-L) and Caroline Gilson (co-editor of Signal). Peter and Margaret Mellinger will be working to migrate STS-L to ALA this year.

There was further discussion of sending an electronic version of Signal to the STS membership; a proposal may be developed for Council consideration in the future. Committee members agreed that they would like to substitute a virtual meeting for one at Midwinter in Boston, and this was approved at Council II.

*Information supplied by Barbara MacAlpine*

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

The Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee jointly sponsored a successful program with the General Discussion Group at Annual. The panel program was entitled “**Subject Analysis of Theses, Dissertations, and EDTs in Science and Technology Libraries: an in-depth look.**”

Panelists included Bob Wolverton (Mississippi State U.), who set the stage by presenting details of a

2002 study, the results of which were later published by Wolverton and his co-author Lona Hoover. Their article, called "Cataloging and Treatment of Theses, Dissertations, and ETDs," appeared in *Technical Services Quarterly*, v.20 no.4 (2003), p.3-57.

"Points and Counterpoints from a technical services perspective" followed. Cathy Gerhart (U. of Washington) discussed her library's practice of assigning subject headings to theses and their participation in SACO. Leslie O'Brien (Virginia Tech) explained why her library decided to stop assigning subject headings to theses.

"Points and Counterpoints from a public services perspective" featured Cindy Levine (North Carolina State U.) who argued in favor of adding subject headings. Susan Case (U. of Kansas), drawing upon her own experiences as a scientist and science librarian, countered that this practice was unnecessary and wasteful.

Diane Vizine-Goetz of OCLC discussed future trends. A brief question/answer session involving audience participation followed. A fuller accounting of the contents of the program is available from the web pages of both sponsoring committees.

*Information supplied by Bryna Coonin, Sophie Bogdanski, Bao-Chu Chang, Katharine Clark, and Julia Kelley*

## 2005 Program Planning Committee

The 2005 STS Program Planning Committee met on June 26 in Orlando. The committee plans to have a program at the annual conference in Chicago (June 2005) under the title, "The new crossroads: science librarians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." The members discussed various issues related to the program planning and arrived at a tentative program outline. The committee has received confirmation from two speakers—Mary Case and Mel Desart—and is also looking for additional speakers. The members discussed the possibility of arranging a field trip. They felt that the field trip should be planned for STS as well as non-STS members and that Tuesday (June 28, 2005) morning would be the most suitable time for that event. All the members voted for the idea of arranging a tour to Fermilab (a national science laboratory of the Department of Energy's Office of Science).

*Information supplied by Kavita Mundle*



## OBERLY AWARD

Nominations for the 2005 Oberly award are currently being accepted. This biennial award is given in odd-numbered years for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or a related science. Bibliographies published in English during 2003 or 2004 are eligible.

Nominations may be made in the form of a letter. A copy of the bibliography may accompany the nomination. Send nominations to Kathy Fescemyer, 621 Old Farm Lane, State College, PA 16803; Phone: 814-865-3703. If you have questions, please contact Kathy via email at kaf12@psulias.psu.edu.

Deadline for submission: December 3, 2004



## Science and Technology Information Literacy Standards Approved by STS Council

In January of 2002 JoAnn DeVries, Chair of the Science & Technology Section, charged the STS Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology with developing standards, performance indicators, and outcomes for library instruction in science and technology, based on the ACRL Information Literacy Competency (ILC) Standards for Higher Education (<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/standards.pdf>).

The STS Council approved the resulting product in June of 2004 at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. The STS Task Force identified five standards, with the fifth standard being entirely new and different from the ACRL ILC Standards for Higher Education. The STS standards can be accessed from the STS website, <http://www.acrl.org/sts/>.

This work is the product of more than two years of reviewing sources, communication, conference meetings, soliciting reviews through several science/technology listservs, and collaboration among the members of the Task Force. Currently, those members are:

Virginia Baldwin, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Task Force Chair

C.J. (Catherine Woodworth) Wong, Quinnipiac University  
Sheila Young, Arizona State University (also on ARL Learning Outcomes Workgroup)

Ibironke Lawal, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Daureen Neddill, University of Utah

Barbara MacAlpine, Trinity University.

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2005 Midwinter Meeting \* Boston, MA

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
<b>Friday, January 14</b>			
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.*	STS Council I	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Nominating Committee (closed)
		8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Government Information Committee
<b>Saturday, January 15</b>			
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Oberly Award Committee (closed)	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Continuing Education Committee
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Assessment Committee	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Combined Discussion Groups:
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee		College Science Librarians
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2005 Program Planning Committee		Publisher/Vendor Relations
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2006 Program Planning Committee		Sci/Tech Information
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Organization and Planning Committee	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Membership and Recruitment Committee
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Discussion Group/Committee Chairs Meeting	Evening dinner	College Science Librarians & Issues in Sci/Tech Library Mngt.
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	General Discussion Group	<b>Monday, January 17</b>	
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Research Committee (closed)	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	STS Council II
		*8:00 - 10:00 p.m. per ALA Schedule	

Former members also made contributions to the development of the final product:

Sherry Durren, Georgia Perimeter College

Jennifer Laherty, California State University at Hayward

Elizabeth I. Hanson, Indiana University.

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### ACRL Board of Directors to Vote on Dues Increase

At the June 2004 Annual Meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors passed a resolution, at the recommendation of Budget and Finance Committee, to consider a dues increase for certain categories of ACRL membership.

A variety of factors contributed to the development of the resolution, including the following:

- Although the "cost of doing business" has risen steadily over the past 15 years, ACRL has not raised member dues since 1991. Therefore, the dues revenue collected from each member has failed to keep pace with natural increases in operating expenses due to inflation.
- Advertising revenue from ACRL publications has decreased over the past few years and is not projected to rebound in the foreseeable future. Advertising revenue helps subsidize many member services including programs at the ALA Annual Conference, section newsletters, and committee activities such as standards development, awards, as well as recent major initiatives in the areas of scholarly communication and information literacy. The dues increase will help offset the reduction in advertising revenue and ensure that important ACRL programs and services receive the funding they need.
- Development of new programs and services that add value to membership will require funding. As outlined in our recently

adopted strategic plan, in the coming years ACRL will be developing additional programs and services that assist members in the areas of technology, delivery of services, standards development and implementation, issues papers, and local and national advocacy as requested in the recent member survey. The dues increase will provide necessary funding to make immediate progress on these important initiatives.

After reviewing several options, the Budget and Finance Committee determined that a dues increase would be the best funding mechanism to provide the necessary capital to sustain ACRL's quality publications, continuing education programs, awards, standards development, and advocacy initiatives.

**The proposed dues increase for personal members of ACRL is \$20, bringing annual dues to \$55.** Student and retiree members will experience no dues increase at present. The Board plans to vote on adopting the resolution at its Midwinter Meeting in January. If the motion passes, a ballot to approve the dues increase will be distributed to all members in the spring of 2005.

The Board of Directors would like to hear from you as they consider this important decision. The first Board meeting at the Midwinter Meeting will include a 30-minute question and answer session in which we encourage you to participate. You may also contact individual board members (see the roster on the Web at <http://www.ala.org/acrl>, click on "About ACRL," then "ACRL Board of Directors," and "ACRL Board of Directors Roster") at your convenience to share your comments, questions, and ideas.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support of ACRL.

## ISTL WINS THE GOLD!

Congratulations are in order to *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* editor Andrea Duda and contributors to issue #37. Andrea received the following letter from Ericka Arvidson Raber, Chair of the ALA/LIRT Continuing Education Committee.

"As Chair of the Continuing Education Committee of the ALA Library Instruction Round Table, I am pleased to inform you that the entire issue of *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* 37 was selected to be included in "LIRT's Top Twenty" library instruction articles of 2003. The committee read and evaluated over 100 articles published in 2003 as part of the selection process.

The issue exemplified our criteria of quality writing, useful research, and stimulating ideas. The entire list of selected articles is published in the June 2004 issue of the LIRT Newsletter, Library Instruction Round Table News. ...

Congratulations! Thank you for sharing your expertise and knowledge with your colleagues."

If you missed it the first time around, check out issue #37 at <http://www.istl.org/03-spring/index.html>.



## 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):

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 Peter Spyers-Duran

### 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: Jennifer Duvernay

### STS Signal on the Web

Available as a pdf file at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>  
Editors: Barbara MacAlpine and Caroline Gilson

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