Following a successful Annual Conference, I first want to express my appreciation to all the volunteers and committee members that work on behalf of STS to create such wonderful programs and to make our section so productive. I’m very excited to move into this next year in the life of STS, not only will we be one year closer to the section’s 50th Anniversary, but we have had lots of new members, continuing members and members returning after some hiatus with STS, all eager to get involved in the work of the section by volunteering for committees. We had so many volunteers; several of our committees were “maxed out”! I’m excited to see the diversity of perspectives and ideas be integrated into the activities of STS and look forward to seeing what actions and activities emerge.

As your vice-chair this past year I took note of several areas that I’d like to focus some dedicated efforts in this coming year. First I’d like to support the planning of the 50th Anniversary Taskforce by exploring the possibility and sponsorship of an STS scholarship and/or an innovation award for science & technology librarianship. In following discussions from the Annual Conference, I also see the need to further develop our virtual meeting and participation policies for STS. Many of our committees are already successfully using virtual meetings for much of their work, so how can we capture the successes so that other STS groups might also benefit. Lastly, there are the recent discussions around liaison librarianship - how it has changed and what are core competencies for science & technology liaisons. Watch for a call for volunteers in the next few weeks for taskforces on each of these issues.

STS is looking forward to two great conferences in the coming year. ALA Midwinter in Boston, where we will be continuing discussions from this past year’s conference program around e-science and data curation issues, and ALA Annual in Washington, DC, where STS will be hosting the program, “Federal Friends: Creating greater access to and support for science and technology information”. This looks to be a great year for STS!

Maliaca Oxnam
I want to thank STS members for electing me to serve as the STS Vice-Chair for 2009-2010. I am honored and a tiny bit overwhelmed, but I look forward with great anticipation to the next few years. Through STS, I have made friends with many different flavors of “science librarian” from institutions of all sizes throughout North America. Interacting with these colleagues through the STS-L listserv and in sessions at ALA and ACRL conferences always provides me with opportunities to expand my knowledge and gain new insights and perspectives.

This is a fabulous section, and I am delighted to be responsible for appointing individuals to all STS committees and discussion groups for the term that starts immediately after ALA Annual 2010. I am already working on appointments to the Program Planning committee for the 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans, where we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of STS!

I look forward to bringing fresh ideas, energy and talent into the section, and I encourage all of you to volunteer to serve on one of the STS committees or discussion groups. Volunteering is easy: go to www.acrl.org/volunteer.

Remember, to serve on a committee, you must:

• Be a member of ALA, ACRL & STS for the duration of the appointment
• Attend ALA Midwinter & ALA Annual conferences during your term (some committees allow virtual attendance)
• Submit an electronic appointment acceptance form

Even if you cannot serve on a committee, I am very interested in hearing ideas about how we can make STS more effective and useful for you. Send me your ideas about programming, section activities, communications, educational opportunities and new interest groups. I look forward to meeting and working with you this year!

Linda Eells

Note from the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Attention! Attention! Take pictures at committee meetings! Show us who you are! Send group pictures of your committee with your reports and we will spotlight different groups, as space allows. If there is a graphic that you think fits with your piece or information you would like to share about one of your members, send it too. It will take some effort on everyone’s part to make the Signal the best that it can be!
Conference Programming—2009

More than 160 people attended the ACRL Science & Technology Section (STS) 2009 Program Planning Committee’s program on July 13, 2009 at the McCormick Convention Center in Chicago, entitled “Big Science, Little Science, E-Science: the science librarian’s role in the conversation.” The program was designed to raise the comfort level of subject librarians with issues of data and data curation. Speakers for this panel program included:

- **Dr. Chris Greer**, Director of the Coordination Office for Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NCO/NITRD), formerly of the National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure
- **Dr. George Djorgovski**, Professor of Astronomy, Caltech
- **John Saylor**, Cornell University Libraries
- **Melissa Cragin**, Coordinator of the Data Curation Program, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The program was co-sponsored by the ALA Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). Slides and notes are available from the STS web site at: [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/conferences/program09.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/conferences/program09.cfm).

The Program Planning Committee also sponsored the STS field trip to Adler Planetarium. Thirteen attendees enjoyed a tour of the Planetarium, a brief film about asteroids (“Cosmic Collisions”) and some quality time with the research library staff in the Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy.

Bryna Coonin & George Porter

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Conference Programming—2010

Program Planning for Washington, D.C. in 2010 is shaping up nicely. Our big Monday morning presentation was approved and is entitled “Federal Friends: Creating greater access to and support for science and technology information.” Currently, we’ll have representatives from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Academy of Sciences, Federal Depository, Library of Congress, National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) talk about how federal libraries can support academic science and technology library collections. Each speaker will give short presentations and then there will be time for discussion and questions from the audience. We are looking into various options for a National Zoo fieldtrip that promises to be fun, interesting and educational, everything you have come to expect from the STS fieldtrips. We’re still looking for the perfect spot for our dinner. We want a place that’s centrally located and can hold a large group, and we are considering a few terrific options.

Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, Beth Thomsett-Scott, Damon Austin, Amanda Taylor, Thomas Heverin, and Edward Eckel
Information Literacy

The agenda for our meeting focused on scheduling monthly virtual meetings, and maintaining and publicizing the Science Information Literacy Wiki. The group agreed that a standing schedule of meetings should be established. The Science and Information Literacy Wiki (http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Science_Information_Literacy) “Standards and Teaching Tips” page had been restructured and there was general agreement that the changes were positive. The committee agreed that we should begin accepting teaching tips and other wiki information via email, on a one-year trial basis. The address for submissions is stswiki@gmail.com. Questions arose about obstacles to contributing to a wiki. The group acknowledged that perhaps it is not the format the information is taking, but instead an issue of participation and collaboration. The option to revisit the format of the information at a future meeting was left open. The committee discussed at length the effectiveness of previous venues where the wiki has been publicized, concluding that more work needs to be done to encourage colleagues to contribute and collaborate. The committee’s 1st Wednesdays IL Discussions on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Science-Information-Literacy-Wiki/61526697085?v=info) were discussed, both as a means of publicity and as a place to harvest ideas and information for the wiki. The committee also brainstormed other methods of publicity.

Roxanne Bogucka

Publications

The Publications Committee has many new members. Incoming member Christie Peters is the new co-editor of Signal and Peter Zuber is the new moderator of STS-L. The web editor duties will be taken over by Erin Davis. Robyn Rosenberg and Julie Shen will be the web assistants.

Changes are coming to Signal. Last year Signal went to an electronic-only format as a PDF document. Since a PDF version is not particularly web-friendly, the Committee will investigate alternative publishing formats. The Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 issues will still be electronic-only in PDF format, but we’ll start to move away from a traditional newsletter format in preparation for a new publishing method.

The ISTL subscription list has 4,591 members from around the world. Over time the percentage of refereed articles has increased and the ISTL editorial board has begun preliminary discussions about moving to all-refereed content while continuing to include a board-selected, non-refereed section that covers practical aspects of librarianship. With the electronic format, length is not an issue so more peer-reviewed articles could be accepted, decreasing the delay between submission and publication.

The creation of the science librarian recruitment video series is moving along. A rough cut of the “Maps Librarian” video was sent to Committee members for feedback. Filming of two more videos in the series (Engineering Librarian and Systems Librarian) is scheduled for this summer. The video storyboard template and other information will be available for other section members or committees who wish to produce additional segments for the series.

Alison Bobal

ACRL 2011—Submit a Proposal!

Submit a proposal for the ACRL 2011 National Conference, “A Declaration of Interdependence,” to be held in Philadelphia, March 30 - April 2, 2011. The ACRL National Conference attracts and engages many of the brightest minds in our profession. We invite you to participate in this exciting and energizing exchange of ideas—bring your latest research, cutting-edge practices, and innovative developments to share with your colleagues. Complete details and submission forms are online at www.acrl.org (click “Conferences & Events”).
Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

We would like to thank outgoing committee members for their valuable insights and work. Co-chair Jin Ma initiated, created, and maintained a wiki for our committee work. Anne Christie, Judith Emde, Nancy Sprague, and Marijo Wilson have also left. Although their assistance will be missed, we now welcome new members Betty Landesman, Kavita Mundle, Anthony Oddo, Jack Maness, and Margaret Mellinger.

Committee members are compiling an annotated bibliography about e-science that focuses on the role of librarians and libraries in promoting, developing and using e-science data.

Kathy Wheeler and Kathy Szigeti

Association of College and Research Libraries
A Division of the American Library Association

The Oberly Endowment
present the
2009 ACRL Science and Technology Section Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences to
The International Rice Research Institute’s Rice Database

The award is given for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or a related science.

Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences

The International Rice Research Institute’s Rice Database (http://ricelib.irri.cgiar.org:81/screens/opacmenu.html) was selected as the 2009 recipient of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Science and Technology Section (STS) Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences. The cash award and plaque are normally presented at the ALA Annual meeting, and the IRRI accepted in absentia.

Marianne

ACRL division and section committee volunteers are an integral part of the association. If you have been looking for a way to become more involved, ACRL Vice-President/Present-Elect Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe invites you to volunteer for a section committee for the 2010-2011 term. The ACRL volunteer form at http://www.acrl.org/volunteer will be available until February 15, 2010.
Government Information

The Government Information Committee wants you to tell us about your state’s best Web sites for Science and Technology. Start at the ACRL Wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page) and click your way to the Science and Technology Section Wiki. Within the description for Government Information Committee you will find a link to "Top Science/Technology Government Information" web sites. Just a few more clicks and you’re there, at the "State-specific web sites" list. Anyone can add information by simply clicking on [edit] to the far right of the title for that section (for those of you who love shortcuts: [http://tinyurl.com/mqbaac](http://tinyurl.com/mqbaac)).

Please follow the format used for other web sites, and make your descriptions succinct and instructive. Notice the site listing for Alaska! It’s a thing of beauty.

Alison S. Ricker

Assessment

The STS Assessment Committee continues to partner with other committees to provide assessment assistance. Some of our ongoing work includes collecting and reporting on attendance to various STS-related programs, working with the publications committee to assess the science librarian publication videos, and the creation of a standardized attendance sheet to be used at future STS programs. We recently helped develop an assessment questionnaire for the Embedded Librarian pre-conference at ACRL and created a survey for the Liaison committee. We are also currently exploring the area of assessment of science collections with regard to making book moving and weeding decisions, starting with a review of the current literature in the field, and we will report on our progress. Finally, we plan on meeting virtually in lieu of our Midwinter 2010 meeting, and will assess the continuing feasibility of virtual meetings after midwinter.

Rachel Borchardt

Publisher / Vendor

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group co-chairs are spending the fall semester identifying a topic for discussion at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston in January of 2010. An online meeting was held via ALA Connect on September 10, 2009 to narrow the list of possible topics. The membership will be sent a brief informal survey on STS-L to see if any particular topic is resonating with the membership and panel members will be invited to spark the conversation. The work of the discussion group co-chairs and interested parties can be followed on the Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group Member Community on ALA Connect at: [http://connect.ala.org/og/search/65527?type=page](http://connect.ala.org/og/search/65527?type=page)

Judith Emde and Matt Marsteller
Continuing Education

It’s time again for the biennial STS Continuing Education Survey. The Committee is reviewing questions from previous years and is seeking input from GLBTRT and the Assessment Committee to improve the questions. The survey is expected to be available for the month of October 2009, and will be advertised to STS members as well as ACS CID, ASEE/ELD, and SLA members. In 2007 there were 362 responses to the survey, and we hope to meet or exceed that number this year, through the addition of ALA Connect to our dissemination options. Results of the 2007 survey can be found in “The 2007 STS Continuing Education Survey: Continuing Education Needs of Science/Technology Librarians,” Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, no.57 (Spring 2009), http://www.istl.org/09-spring/sts.html.

At the 2009 Annual Conference, the Continuing Education Committee hosted table discussions at the STS All Members Breakfast, on July 12, 2009. Popular subjects discussed included the user experience and dealing with journal cuts. Of 65 attendees, 24 filled out ACRL Program Evaluation forms. 100% of responses indicated that the round table discussions were “relevant” or “very relevant,” but the general consensus was that more time was needed.

The Committee is exploring some new opportunities for 2009/2010, including co-sponsoring a program at Midwinter 2010 and producing training videos.

Linda Crook

Research

The STS Research Committee does not meet during the Annual Conference but instead is responsible for implementing two programs: the STS Research Forum and the STS Annual Program Poster Session.

The format of the STS Research Forum was modified this year to highlight one 30-minute featured paper and 3 10-minute short papers. Julia Gelfand, editor of Science & Technology Libraries, acted as the guest commentator and offered critiques of all 4 presented papers. The short papers were as follows: One Person, Many Responsibilities: An Analysis of Science and Technology Library Job Descriptions was presented by John Meier from the Physical and Mathematical Sciences Library at Pennsylvania State University, Rocket Science Can Be Understood: Librarians as STEM Faculty Outreach Partners was presented by Melanie Sellar, Instruction Librarian from Marymount College, and The Case for a Scientific Institutional Repository: A View from the Laboratory was presented by Cecelia Brown and June Abbas from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. The featured paper, Assumptions of Originality: Plagiarism, Patchwriting, and the Engineering Master’s Thesis, was presented by Edward Eckel from the University libraries, Western Michigan University. Slides from the presentations are available at http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/conferences/research09.cfm

Six posters were presented at the STS Annual Program Poster Session. They are available at http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/conferences/posters09.cfm

Data was collected at both programs by Helen Smith of the Assessment Committee to help the Research Committee evaluate the new format of the Research Forum and to increase attendance.

Mindy Thuna

Assumptions of Originality: Plagiarism, Patchwriting, and the Engineering Master’s Thesis

Edward Eckel
Engineering and Applied Sciences Librarian
Western Michigan University

ACRL STS Research Forum
July 12, 2009
Liaison

The Liaison Committee had a busy spring conducting a survey of STS members who hold association memberships outside of ALA. The purpose of this survey was to assess liaison potential and to determine directions for changing the focus of the program. According to the survey, five STS Liaisons attended other professional library and science association conferences in the U.S., (one participated virtually). Fourteen (out of a total of forty-eight survey respondents) indicated a willingness to serve as a liaison, in varying levels of participation. The results continue to be fully analyzed in order to determine whether an STS-sponsored stipend will provide sufficient incentive either to initiate or to guarantee travel, participation, and reporting.

At Annual, the Liaison Program was one of the round table topics for discussion at the STS All Members Breakfast, which was hosted by the STS Continuing Education Committee. Currently serving liaisons were introduced at the Breakfast and participated in the round table discussion. In the five months between the 2009 Midwinter and Annual meetings four STS Liaisons, who were awarded stipends in 2009, attended five professional library and science association conferences held in the U.S. In return, these liaisons shared their experiences with the partner organization and colleagues within STS. This was achieved by sharing their experiences at the Members Breakfast and in reports posted to the STS website (http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/liaison/STSLiaison.cfm), All members are encouraged to read these reports.

Following Annual, the committee continued working with STS Council members. Subsequently, a proposal was submitted to ALA for funding in FY2011. If granted, this funding will allow STS to experiment with a mini-grant program that will encourage STS committees and members to seek out and take collaborative and inter-agency leadership opportunities. Examples of mini-grant projects will be announced on STS-L and the Liaison Program web page in the coming year. The committee also welcomed its newest members at Annual!

William Simpson and Marty Kesselman

Membership & Recruitment

STS Membership decreased 1.65% from May 2008-May 2009. However, membership in other ACRL sections is also down, with the exception of the College and Instruction sections. The committee suspects that this decrease is due to the economic downturn and travel budget decreases. With this being said, STS is the fourth largest section in ACRL.

A proposal was made to add a question to the Exit Survey: “Do you hold a membership in another organization, or is there another organization that better meets your needs?” The implementation of a STS Membership survey was also proposed. This survey would ask members what they most value in the ACRL-STS organization. It could also open up other avenues for exploration on the issue of member retention.

Robin Dasler

Organization & Planning

The Committee drafted a new charge, which was approved with modifications by the STS Council. The new charge continues the Committee’s role in providing long-range direction for the Section and with maintaining the governance procedures and section manual. New language was added to reflect the greater role the Committee will assume in assessing implementation of strategic plan activities for the Section. Members of the Committee will now serve as liaison to other STS committees and discussion groups for evaluation of strategic plan activity. The Committee also wrote a set of recommendations for incorporating sustainable practices within STS. This document was approved by STS Council and has been posted to ALA Connect. The Committee will be responsible for keeping the recommendations there up to date.

Edward Lener and Nestor Osorio
College Science Librarians

The STS College Libraries Discussion Group gathered on Sunday July 12, from 1:30-3:30pm, to answer the question, “What’s Your Hook? Getting the Attention of Faculty and Keeping It.” There were about 40 lively participants who generated two full hours of animated conversation. A dominant theme soon emerged as many comments were prefaced with the words “In these economic times…”

We understand that we must do more to engage faculty (often with smaller staffs) using resources and opportunities we already have at hand. Some examples are: promoting primary materials in the library’s collection, hosting events in the library, and using blogs, newsletters, or RSS feeds to communicate with faculty.

Other strategies appeal to a faculty member’s pride, like congratulating her or him when a new paper is published, creating posters of journal covers when a faculty member has a cover story published, or creating special links to catalog records of faculty-authored books.

With smaller staffs, it might be helpful to create a Faculty Library Toolkit to replace some bibliographic instruction. The group had several suggestions for libraries able to take on more classroom instruction: break the one-shot into smaller chunks, post helpful tips on the course management page, conduct a workshop outside class time, or take over a class when the instructor is away.

Hot Topics

The STS Annual Hot Topics Discussion Group was held on Sunday, July 12, 2009, from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Chicago Hilton’s Northwest 4 Room. It immediately followed the STS All Member Breakfast and Discussion. This year’s topic was “STS Librarians Confront the Economy.” Forty-one people attended the discussion which covered topics ranging from journal cuts, examining oversubscription, how to use usage statistics to make informed decisions on cuts, cuts in travel budgets, and the reexamination of the liaison librarian model. The results from a STS-L survey about how the economy is impacting libraries and the results of an ARL survey on the same topic were also discussed.

The complete notes taken during the discussion are available at http://connect.ala.org/node/79605.

Donna Braquet

Go mobile @ ACRL Midwinter Workshops

Friday, January 2010 - Boston, Massachusetts

Anytime, Anywhere, Any Device: Developing a Mobile Website for Your Library

Learn about the current state of mobile technologies both within and outside of libraries, and learn how to launch a mobile library Web site.

Text Messaging, Twitter, and Libraries

Learn about text messaging and Twitter and their various roles and value for libraries. Registration is now open, with an advance registration deadline of Dec. 4, 2009. Complete workshop details including registration materials are available at www.acrl.org (click “Conferences & Events”).
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Request for Feedback

As many of you know, the STS Signal is undergoing a face-lift. This is by no means the final look of the Signal, but it is a start. It is our hope that within the next couple of years we can find a format that works for everyone. Please, send us your feedback. What do you like about this issue of the Signal? What needs to change? Don’t be shy. We really want to hear what you have to say!

Yelena Pancheshnikov & Christie Peters—Co-editors