

STS SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES
A DIVISION OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair, Amy Paster

September is upon us. We have all recovered from the Annual meeting in New York and that means it is time to get ready for Midwinter in Washington, D.C. The draft schedule is included in this newsletter, so please take a look at it and plan accordingly. Four of the discussion groups will be meeting in February and, as usual, there are a number of open committee meetings. Midwinter is an excellent opportunity to introduce yourself and express an interest in joining a group.

Current overall membership for ACRL is 10,717. As of June 1996, STS had 1,886 members, which is up 18 from the same time last year. This makes us the fourth largest section in ACRL just behind the College Libraries Section. I would really like to see us break the 2,000 member mark this coming year, so please remember to renew and recruit.

At the 1996 Annual Conference, the ACRL Board of Directors voted to approve the 1997 division budget which became effective September 1, 1996. STS received funding for basic services, 2 newsletters, the 1997 annual conference program and 2 sets of mailing labels.

I am looking forward to seeing a number of you in Washington, D.C. in February. Further information will be showing up on STS-L as we come closer to the date. Please feel free to contact me or Allison Level, Chair-Elect, if you have any questions or concerns.

Amy Paster
E205 Pattee Library
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16902-1801
alp@psulias.psu.edu

From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Alison Level

Happy Fall to all new and returning STS members. Before you know it, ALA Midwinter will be here. Washington, D.C. is a great place to visit and the STS discussion groups and meetings will be lively. Midwinter is a good time to attend meetings, learn about upcoming STS programs, and meet with other science and technology librarians.

As part of ACRL, our section continues to provide support for the newly adopted strategic plan. STS members contribute to enacting the ACRL vision and supporting the strategic directions through committee work, programs, activities, and discussion groups. If you are interested in volunteering for an appointment to a committee, please complete the Volunteer Form or contact me via E-mail. We are looking for new and experienced STS members to fill spots on a variety of committees. If you have questions about a particular committee, contact the committee chair or sit in on the meeting at Midwinter. Most of the meetings are open, and committees welcome interested participants.

Now is the time to become involved in STS activities. Let us hear from you.

Allison Level
Science & Technology Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-4750
alev@loc.gov

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. It is also distributed through the STS-L listserv.

1997 Conference Program Planning Committee

The committee finalized the plans for the structure of the program. A panel of speakers will be asked to discuss user behavior and library services in light of changing formats. A list of possible speakers was formed. Publicity via a web page was discussed. The page would include information on the program and reception, as well as some links to local (San Francisco) science-oriented sites. The reception will be held at the National Maritime Museum, on Fisherman's Wharf. Discussion was begun on possible caterers, with decisions deferred until after fund-raising has begun.

Information supplied by Amy W. Shannon

1998 Conference Program Planning Committee

Your desk calendar may say 1996, but the ALA planning calendar says 1998. Do you have creative ideas for upcoming programs? Does your middle name spell "organization"? Have you ever wondered about the behind-the-scenes work for Annual Conference activities? The 1998 Conference Program Planning Committee is looking for volunteers. Appointments will be made prior to Midwinter, so fill out the Volunteer Form soon or contact Allison Level for more information.

Information supplied by Allison Level

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

A small group of college science librarians met Saturday morning to discuss the topic "2011: A Science Library Odyssey". The goal was to try to imagine your library 15 years in the future. Background material was provided by CSLDG Co-Chair Penny Russman of Wesleyan. The discussion ranged over some interesting issues, starting with how science libraries have already had to start dealing with a large number of electronic journals, and their attendant issues and problems (not present with paper journals)—e.g., ILL restrictions, archiving issues, consortia subscriptions, document delivery. Concern was expressed that while moving toward e-journals, document delivery, and the "scholar's workstation" may be great for faculty, the undergraduate student will lose out.

There was some discussion of the varying levels of knowledge among faculty about new information technology. It was suggested that the explosion of electronic information sources (of widely varying quality) will remind people that critical thinking and evaluation skills have been neglected, and that there may be a teaching opportunity here for librarians. We also discussed the relationship between the library and campus computing. There is currently a great degree of uncertainty about "who teaches what", and about libraries entering into new, non-traditional businesses.

It was agreed that the library of the future has to have an electronic classroom for hands-on instruction. To justify

this economically at smaller institutions however, the electronic classroom has to be available to more than just the library. We talked about the future infrastructure and equipment needs of the library building. The discussion concluded on this note: "We have to teach for the present while we plan for the future."

Information supplied by Victoria Mitchell

Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group

Thirty-eight librarians attended the Sunday night session to hear about initiatives and trends in inter-library cooperation as it pertains to electronic resources. Libraries, universities, and state governments are discovering quickly that consortia have far more purchasing power and clout with database providers, and that considerable economies of scale can be realized by banding together various institutions and negotiating as groups. This idea has been adopted by older, existing organizations (such as the CIC and the UC System) as well as new alliances. The impetus has come both from the top, as in statewide initiatives such as Galileo in Georgia, and from the grass-roots level.

The discussion group first heard from four librarians representing the diversity of consortia now in operation. John Butler (University of Minnesota/CIC) spoke of the added impetus traditional modes of cooperation are receiving: Z39.50 protocols, interlibrary lending, and collection development.

Julia Gelfand (UC-Irvine/Melvyl) offered the perspective of a single university system that has a long history of cooperation.

Merryl Penson (Columbus College, GA) provided insights on the effects of a new, state-funded network, the high-profile Galileo project, on smaller institutions.

Alison Ricker (Oberlin College, OH) spoke of the experience of a member of a college consortium, the Five Colleges of Ohio.

Cooperation at the interinstitutional level requires a great deal of paperwork, communication via non-traditional channels, and of course patience. But shared values can be discovered across the board, and the links formed this way can stretch far beyond mere negotiations with vendors. Concerns were raised about the future pricing of products that seem like bargains now, and about the ability of schools to pull out of agreements that don't serve them well. Group purchasing requires multiple commitments over the long term, which may become problematic as prices rise and needs change. The complexity of user restrictions is also an issue that libraries must address: how can contractual agreements with vendors be reconciled with publicly funded initiatives?

At the conclusion, the incoming co-chairs of this discussion group were introduced: Julia Gelfand of UC-Irvine and Barton Lessin of Wayne State Univ. STS members are welcome to submit ideas or requests for upcoming discussion topics.

Information supplied by David Flaxbart & Don Frank

General Discussion Group

The ACRL-STS General Discussion Group met on Sunday, July 7, 1996, at the annual meeting of the ALA to discuss, "Preservation as Common Sense: Practical Tips for Science and Technology Collections." Julie Arnaud, Manager, Preservation Services, SALIENT, opened the discussion by sharing her motto, "Preservation is everyone's job." This motto laid the foundation for Julie's informative talk about improving the everyday tasks of libraries with an eye for preservation.

Tom Claerson, Preservation Manager, AMIGOS, addressed the issues involved with Emergency Preparedness and Recovery. Tom emphasized the need for a strong recovery team with each member having a clearly defined role, the importance of having a good communications person consistently giving all the same information to all the various inquiries, and an up-to-date disaster plan that has been practiced.

Information supplied by Marcia King-Blandford

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

This meeting of the Publisher-Vendor Relations Committee consisted of a moderated discussion of three main topics. The first was the shift in the electronic publishing of journals, abstracts and indexing databases from CD-ROM based products to the World Wide Web. The advantages and problems of this type of publishing from both the academic library and publisher points of view were covered.

The second topic of discussion concerned the use of hypertext links in electronic journal articles that are links to the references cited by the journal articles or actual links to an electronic copy of the cited article. The problems of actually linking to other articles in terms of obtaining copyright clearance, payment of royalties, and expenses for libraries were discussed.

The third topic of discussion was the increasing role of library consortia in licensing electronic publications. Libraries of smaller academic institutions especially find that they do not have the resources to obtain electronic publications on their own, but that the pooled buying and negotiating power of consortia facilitate their acquisition. This is a gradually-evolving situation that is waiting on the availability of 1) a critical mass of electronic journals, 2) differing economic pricing models to fit the needs of different sized institutions, and 3) development of selection criteria for assessing print versus electronic journals.

This lead to suggestions for discussion for the next meeting in Washington at ALA Midwinter. What criteria do

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1997 Midwinter Conference • Washington, D.C.

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, February 14		Sunday, February 16	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	8:30-11:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (Closed Meeting)
9:30-10:00pm	Executive Board	9:30-12:30	1997 Program Planning Committee
Saturday, February 15		9:30-12:30	1998 Program Planning Committee
9:30-11:00am	PUBLISHER/VENDOR RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP	9:30-12:30	Continuing Education Committee
9:30-12:30	Discussion Group Leaders Meeting	9:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	Membership & Recruitment Committee	11:30-12:30	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DATABASES DISCUSSION GROUP
9:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)	2:00-4:00pm	NO CONFLICT TIME (ACRL)
9:30-12:30	Publications Committee	8:00-10:00pm	HEADS OF SCIENCE LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP
9:30-12:30	Subject & Bibliographic Access	Monday, February 17	
2:00-4:00pm	GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP	8:30-11:00am	STS Council II
2:00-4:00pm	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries	12:30-2:00pm	NO CONFLICT TIME (Exhibits)
8:00-10:00pm	Legislation Committee	4:30-5:30pm	NO CONFLICT TIME (President's Forum)

*Time in parentheses is for official listing in ALA Schedule, if different from actual time.

Comparison of Science and Technology Libraries

Judith Johnson, Chair 96/97
Reference Librarian
Sci/Tech Library
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-3100
Phone: 801-797-3331
Fax: 801-797-2677
E-mail: judjoh@cc.usu.edu

1997 Conference Program Planning

Amy W. Shannon, Chair 96/97
Science Reference Librarian
University Libraries
University of Oklahoma
401 W. Brooks
Norman, OK 73019-0001
Phone: 405-325-4231
Fax: 405-325-7618
E-mail: ashannon@uoknor.edu

Continuing Education

Katherine M. Whitley, Chair 96/97
Chemistry Information Specialist
Science and Engineering Library 0175E
University of California-San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093
Phone: 619-534-2480
Fax: 619-534-5583
E-mail: kwhitley@ucsd.edu

Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

Dana Boden, 96/97
Associate Professor
C. Y. Thompson Library
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0717
Phone: 402-472-2802
Fax: 402-472-7005
E-mail: danab@unllib.unl.edu

Legislation

Allison V. Level, Co-Chair 96/97
Reference Librarian
Science and Technology Division
Library of Congress
Washington DC 20540-5581
Phone: 202-707-6752
Fax: 202-707-1925
E-mail: alev@loc.gov

Richard Llewellyn, Co-Chair 96/97
Science Reference Librarian
Science Library
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7412
Phone: 706-542-6642
Fax: 706-542-7907
E-mail: rllewuga.cc.uga.edu

Membership and Recruitment

Carol S. Robinson, Co-Chair 96/97/98
Engineering Collection Manager
Barker Engineering Library,
Room 10-500
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge MA 02139
Phone: 617-253-7749
Fax: 617-258-5623
E-mail: csrobins@mit.edu

Helen Smith 96/97/98
Agricultural Sciences Librarian
Life Sciences Library
Pennsylvania State University
E205 Pattee
University Park, PA 16862
Phone: 814-865-3706
Fax: 814-865-1015
E-mail: hfs@psulias.psu.edu

Nominating

Katie Clark 96/97
Acting Chief
Reference & Instructional Services
Pennsylvania State University
E308K Pattee
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-5093
Fax: 814-865-1015
E-mail: kec@psulias.psu.edu

Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences

JoAnn DeVries, Chair 95/96/97
Associate Librarian
St. Paul Campus Central Libraries
University of Minnesota
1984 Buford Avenue
St. Paul MN 55108-1012
Phone: 612-624-7446
Fax: 612-624-9245
E-mail: j-devr@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Organization and Planning

C. Ruth Nellis, Chair 96/97
Head
Chemistry-Biochemistry Library
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-1200
Phone: 913-532-6530
Fax: 913-532-6666
E-mail: nellis@ksuvm.ksu.edu

Publications

Gayle Baker, Co-Chair 95/96/97
Electronic Services Coordinator
Hodges Library
University of Tennessee
1015 Volunteer Blvd
Knoxville TN 37996-1000
Phone: 423-974-3519
Fax: 423-974-2708
E-mail: gsbaker@utk.edu

Susan Starr, Co-Chair 95/96/97
Head, Science and Engineering
Library
University of California-San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla CA 92093-0175
Phone: 619-534-1214
Fax: 619-534-5583
E-mail: sstarr@ucsd.edu

Subject and Bibliographic Access

William Baer, Chair 96/97
Engineering Librarian
Engineering Library
Brigham Young University
2220 HBLL
Provo UT 84602
Phone: 801-378-6011
Fax: 801-378-6708
E-mail: william_baer@byu.edu

DISCUSSION GROUPS

College Science Librarians

Penny Anne Russman, Co-Chair 96/97
Head Science Librarian
Science Library
Wesleyan University
Church St.
Middletown, CT 06059
Phone: 203-685-3733
Fax: 203-685-2661
E-mail: prussman@wesleyan.edu

Helena F. Warburg, Co-Chair 96/97/98
Science Librarian
Sawyer Library
Williams College
Williamstown, MA 01267
Phone: 413-597-3085
Fax: 413-597-4106
E-mail:
Helena.F.Warburg@williams.edu

General

R. Jean Hudgins, Co-Chair 96/97
Georgia Tech Library
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332-0900
E-mail:
jean.hudgins@library.gatech.edu

Marcia King-Blandford, Co-Chair 96/97
Reference and Instruction
Carlson Library
University of Toledo
Toledo OH 43606-3399
Phone: 419-530-2842
Fax: 419-530-2726
E-mail: mkingbl@uoft01.utoledo.edu

Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries

Julia Gelfand, Co-Chair 96/97/98
Applied Sciences Librarian
Science Library
University of California-Irvine
Irvine, CA 92713-9556
Phone: 714-824-4971
Fax: 714-824-3114
E-mail: jgelfand@uci.edu

Barton Lessin, Co-Chair 96/97
Director
Science & Engineering Library
Wayne State University
5048 Gullen Mall
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313-577-4373
Fax: 313-577-3613
E-mail: blessin@cms.cc.wayne.edu

Publisher and Vendor Relations

Joseph Galbraith, Co-Chair 96/97/98
Sales Representative
EBSCO Subscription Service
1163 E. Shrewsbury Ave.
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4321
Phone: 800-526-2337
Fax: 609-866-2972
E-mail: jgalbrai%ess-
rb.ebsco@iss.ebsco.com

Robert B. McGeachin, Co-Chair 96/97
Agriculture Reference Librarian
West Campus Library
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-5001
Phone: 409-862-1066
Fax: 409-862-2977
E-mail: r-mcgeachin@tamu.edu

Science and Technology Databases

William Baer, Co-Chair 96/97
Engineering Librarian
Engineering Library
Brigham Young University
2220 HBLL
Provo UT 84602
Phone: 801-378-6011
Fax: 801-378-6708
E-mail: william_baer@byu.edu

Bille Joy Reinhart
Science & Engineering Librarian
University Library RT100C
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216-687-2369
Fax: 216-687-9380
E-mail: b.reinhart@csuohio.edu

librarians use to decide on acquiring electronic versus print journals? Will advertising in electronic publications be a viable supplement to subscription revenues? Are electronic publications cost-effective for publishers? Is there a role for periodical vendors in the electronic publication model or will libraries deal directly with the publishers? We look forward to discussing some of these topics at Midwinter.

Information submitted by Ann Schaffner

Science Databases Discussion Group

The Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group met on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.. The topic, "Traditional Sci-Tech Resources Get a Facelift with the Web", was introduced by two representatives from publishers who have embraced the World Wide Web as their delivery mechanism in order to present a comprehensive collection of resources within a defined subject area.

Anthea Gotto from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts gave a brief overview of Cambridge's transition from Gopher to Web based product. They are providing access to their databases using a client's Web browser. By forming collaborations with other publishers and selecting related Web sites, they are able to offer to subscribers a comprehensive, rich array of information in the environmental sciences. With CSA itself becoming the provider instead of a third part online vendor, attractive pricing options are offered.

Bob Cowen from Engineering Information Inc. then demonstrated the Engineering Village, again a Web based product. The EI Village has undergone considerable changes based on subscriber feedback since its introduction about a year ago. The full service includes access to EI's engineering database—COMPENDEX, together with a spotlight feature which offers updates by discipline and industry, and a Tech Alert services which enables one to customize a search of the last two months of COMPENDEX along with AP and Reuters newswires. Also included are a standards database, document

delivery, reference service via Linda Hall Library, an Ask the Experts option and access to some 13,000 engineering-related Web sites, all annotated. Identifying and keeping up with changing URL's involves 7 staff at EI. Subscribers can choose from among these resources in order to reach a mix that is appropriate for their particular institution.

After these brief overviews we opened the floor for discussion amongst the 25 attendees. Comments were generally favorable from those present who subscribed to either or both of these services. A concern which many in the room talked about was the problem of providing access to licensed products such as these remotely. Most access authorization today is via tabled machine IP address. While campus authorization systems are being developed which will overcome this problem, it seems we are in a "work around" situation at this time.

The area of preprints was raised as a difficult area to track and both publishers agreed that at this time, without any available standards to work with, they have left these publications aside. Electronic journals, however, are beginning to be included in the databases.

Students today have come to expect these graphical user interfaces, like the Web, trained by their video game experience.

The future of information providers such as Knight Ridder and STN was questioned, now that more and more publishers are developing their own search interfaces for their databases. Both publishers representatives agreed that the high costs involved in getting these products up and running on the Internet have been risky, but both felt this was the only way to go to remain viable for the foreseeable future with the unprecedented explosion of the Web.

A question for both publisher representatives concerned network traffic. Both EI and CSA said that current traffic in the U.S. has not strained their current resources, although outside the U.S. this is not necessarily the case.

Information supplied by Ann Eagan & Dawn Talbot

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The third survey spreadsheet was discussed. There is not as much data in this edition of the survey and the collection was done differently. However, there are some areas of comparison with the fourth survey. Some analysis can be completed and the information placed on the web site. The committee Web site was discussed. Basic format, text and tables from a test site were reviewed. The committee decided to continue building the site with additional sets of data based on types of library (stand alone, subject branch, etc.). In addition, the committee agreed that specialized sets could be useful. These include CIC libraries and land grant institutions. To insure anonymity, composite data with ranges and means will be used rather than actual, reported data.

The format of the upcoming fifth survey was discussed. Individuals who attend the Heads of Science Libraries and General Discussion Groups will be asked to complete a short survey concerning information they think should be included on the next survey. The discussion of the fifth survey will continue after this input has been received.

Information supplied by Bonnie Osif

Continuing Education Committee

The committee discussed the results from the STS Continuing Education Survey conducted this spring. This survey was designed to learn more about the continuing education needs and priorities of STS membership. A summary of results will be submitted to STS-L after the Annual Conference. The committee also discussed progress with the resource person/mentor program. Kathy Whitley will investigate whether the list of volunteers can be mounted on the WNW with restricted access by passwording or other means. Discussion then turned to other activities. Several members volunteered to research established continuing education programs in the library community. They will share their findings at the next meeting and present ideas on how we might share this information with librarians.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey

Legislation Committee

Members of the committee attended several information update meetings to gather information. These sessions were provided by the Government Documents Round Table and the ALA Washington Office.

The major topic of discussion for government information providers is the rewriting of Title 44 of the U.S. Code. This concerns Congressional plans to have most government information distributed electronically in the future. The Government Printing Office has developed a plan for a transition to an electronics distribution system over a five year period. The Senate will be accepting testimony on the subject from the GPO, as well as ALA, GODORT, and other interested parties.

The committee discussed its distribution of information summaries from ALAWON (ALA Washington Office Newsletter) and the mailing list GOVDOC-L to STS-L. There has been enough positive feedback to keep up the program until the ALA Mid-Winter 1997 meeting.

The committee discussed its schedule of meetings for the mid-winter and annual conferences. Since the committee has not needed its second meeting time for several conferences it was decided to relinquish the second meeting time. The first time slot (usually 8 p.m. on Saturday night) will be kept because it fits in better with the work of the committee.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The committee welcomed its new Co-Chair, Helen Smith, and said good-bye to members who were going off the committee. We also thanked the committee members who made a special effort to get the STS brochure into the packets handed out at the NMRT orientation session. We spent the remainder of the meeting discussing recruitment strategies and ways to promote diversity in STS. We discussed the possibility of developing a survey instrument to determine why people are not members of ALA; perhaps we could send it to members of SLA. We also agreed to look at the program to identify which meetings might attract potential STS members so that we could distribute brochures at them. We will try to compare the STS membership list with the subscribers to STS-L to identify non-members so that we may invite them to join STS.

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Oberly Award Committee

The Oberly Committee members prepared for the 1997 award by sending announcements to about 150 societies, organizations, and publishers which were in addition to the list used by ACRL to publicize awards. Deadline for Oberly Award nominations is December 1, 1996. The award will be presented at the STS annual program in 1997.

Information submitted by JoAnn DeVries

Organization and Planning Committee

Members reviewed the guidelines for discussion groups document and agreed to send it forward, with minor revisions, for Executive Committee consideration and approval.

The charge of the Continuing Education Committee was discussed, at the request of the Executive Committee. After review of the current wording in the ALA Handbook of Organization, the committee decided to propose a new charge to the Executive Committee.

The future of the Forum on Science and Technology Library Research was the final agenda item. Committee members were unanimous in stressing that STS needs to keep this activity in order to promote research projects by members.

It was recommended that a call for possible Forum discussion projects be made often and early stressing that the project need not be completed and that discussion of methods, etc. will be encouraged. The Committee also decided that guidelines are needed for the Forum much like those for discussion groups. A continuing member of the Committee volunteered to complete a draft to be circulated for comments.

Information supplied by Lois M. Pausch

Publications Committee

The new board of *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* (ISTL) plans to set up a web site later on in the year. Announcements will be made through various channels, including STS-L.

The committee reviewed the current version of the section web page and made several suggestions to webmasters David Atkins and Janet Hughes. The page will be reviewed by STS Council and then announced to the membership. At Midwinter, the committee will draft guidelines for the submission of information to the section web and will determine responsibilities for the upkeep of the various subsections of the site.

The committee will also revisit the relationships among the section's print newsletter (*STS Signal*), the listserv (STS-L), the electronic journal (*Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship*), and web homepage.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker & Susan Starr

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

Science and technology librarians and information specialists—take advantage of this opportunity to present your preliminary original research results or ALA committee findings at the 1997 ALA meeting by submitting an abstract to the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research. The Forum Committee invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship in methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Proposals should be limited to one page and should contain an abstract of not more than 250 words, as well as the researcher's name, institution, phone number, fax number and e-mail address (when available).

The deadline for submission is January 31, 1997. Send abstracts to: Dana Boden, C.Y. Thompson Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0717, via e-mail to danab@unllib.unl.edu or via fax at 402-472-7005. For further information, call her at 402-472-4412.

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee continued its discussion on issues concerning electronic journals. Several access related concerns have been raised including the stability of the net, the archiving of electronic journals, and copyright issues. The committee will draft a proposal which addresses these issues from a librarian's point of view. The committee then plans to open a dialogue between professional organizations, publishers, and librarians to discuss electronic journal related issues. Some professional organizations and publishers have informally expressed interest in participating in such a dialogue.

Information supplied by William Baer

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"/> Planning & Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Science & Technology
Library Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject & Bibliographic
Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Recruitment | |

I am interested in chairing the following discussion groups:

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

Topics of interest for programs and discussion groups:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone Fax

E-mail

Mail to: Allison Level, Reference Librarian, Science & Technology Division,
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-4750.

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons, and 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@UTKVM1.UTK.EDU (do not include a period after EDU). The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow to leave this line blank, try typing only a period (.) on the SUBJECT line.

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name

If you have any questions or problems regarding STS-L, please contact one of the moderators:

Marty Courtois
Biological Sciences Reference Librarian
Hodges Library
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1000
Telephone: 615-974-6797
E-Mail: mpe@aztec.lib.utk.edu

Terry Wittig
Engineering and Science Library
Wean Hall
Carnegie Mellon University
Telephone: 412-268-7212
E-Mail: tw11@andrew.cmu.edu

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