

STS SIGNAL

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Volume 12, Number 2

Fall 1997

ISSN: 0888-6563

From the Chair, Allison Level

Hello to all new and returning STS members. I am looking forward to a productive and exciting year as your Chair. STS is fortunate to have a long-standing tradition of an active and strong membership. Currently we are the fourth largest section in ACRL, with 1878 members as of June 1997, and we support twelve committees and five discussion groups. The ACRL Board of Directors voted to approve the division budget, which became effective September 1. Our funding for this year includes a basic services increase to \$1000, and continued funding for mailing labels and the newsletter.

STS continues to support the ACRL Strategic Plan. All the committees and discussion groups play an important role in planning activities that advance the four goals (see the ACRL homepage for more strategic plan information).

As Midwinter approaches, please take time to look at the draft schedule included in this newsletter. Midwinter is a good time to attend meetings and introduce yourself to other science and technology librarians. The final STS schedule and detailed information about the discussion group topics will be posted on STS-L.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans in January. If you have any questions or concerns about the Section, please feel free to contact me or Billie Joy Reinhart. STS information is available throughout the year via the listserv STS-L, or from the STS homepage. The addresses for both can be found in this issue.

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Billie Reinhart

Welcome to a new year of STS activities. The Section "provides a forum through which librarians in scientific and technical fields can achieve and maintain an awareness of information with which they work". In addition, the Section promotes the mission of ACRL and its Goal 2000. The work of STS is done by the Executive Committee, the Council, and appointed committee and discussion group chairs.

The Executive Committee is charged with providing direction for the Section and conducting business between meetings. The Council, made up of members of the Executive Committee and Chairs of the Committees and Discussion Groups, acts as an advisory body to the Executive Committee. Council meetings are open to all members so please feel free to attend. Most committee meetings are open with a few exceptions. Look at the Midwinter schedule for details. Also, don't forget that Midwinter is an excellent time for attending our discussion groups where attendance is usually much higher than at Annual.

It is time to make committee appointments again. If you are interested in becoming active on a committee, please complete the Volunteer Form or e-mail me at the address below. Remember volunteering is a commitment to work and attendance at Midwinter and Annual.

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STS SIGNAL is a semi-annual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2517. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferable, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Edward F. Lener, User Services, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24062, Phone: (540) 231-9249, Fax: (540) 231-9263, E-mail: lener@vt.edu; Heather K. Moberly, E205 Pattee Library, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, Phone: (814) 865-3703, Fax: (814) 865-1015, E-mail: hkm@psulias.psu.edu.

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. It can also be found on the STS Web site at <http://aztec.lib.utk.edu/sts/>.

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The College Science Librarian's discussion group topic, "Ownership vs. Access" attracted record numbers.

Alexa Jaffurs, Science Librarian from Amherst College, talked about Amherst's experiences with full-text journals. Amherst does not mount any full-text journals locally although they participate in Project MUSE and will be signing with IDEAL in the near future. Decisions to own or access are based on availability and user demand. Amherst is a member of a five-college consortium that is moving from SilverPlatter to OVID. The consortium will mount databases locally to increase speed and access. All of Amherst's electronic resources are cataloged, and with the addition of access to links, use of electronic journals is expected to increase. At the present time, access to full-text journals is not cheaper than subscribing to the paper version. It would be more prudent to fund tables of contents services, although Elsevier and FAXON are worth investigating.

Raye-Lynn Thomas, Associate Librarian from Sonoma State University, discussed the consortium that exists for California State Universities. The University has a computer access requirement for its students and the library tries to promote as much remote access as possible to information resources. There is a state university consortium that meets quarterly. Electronic resources are brought in on one-month trials. Some of these resources are available to the community at large to test while others are previewed by a select group of users. Sonoma State is reviewing IDEAL and may subscribe next year. They currently offer an "electronic collection" that includes Dow Jones, LEXIS, Britannica, and U.S.A. Statistics. An electronic core collection of full-text journals is being evaluated, but is currently only in the embryonic stage. Sonoma State recently added the JSTOR journals to their collection. To promote full-text journals, they put up a display for all the full-text journals to which they subscribe.

Charles Meyers, acting Library Director from Franklin & Marshall College, stated that his library belongs to several different consortia that all seem to be doing similar things. He compared consortia to the stock market and noted that institutions have much more bargaining power in groups. EBSCO is one vendor that appears very negotiable. Mr. Meyers doesn't believe that electronic full-text journals are a panacea. What about the good paper collections that are already in place? Students do not discriminate among on-line sources. As long as it's electronic, they think it's great. Faculty aren't always as enthusiastic. Most of them are tired of change and prefer journals in paper format. Small schools should let big schools who have the funding make the mistakes. Mr. Meyers wonders which institution will drop project MUSE first?!

The biggest questions remaining unresolved were: who will provide the archival copies of journals and how much will they cost, and in the long run is electronic access going to cost us more than subscriptions to journals in paper format?

Anyone with comments about this year's program or topic suggestions for future meetings should contact Helena Warburg.

Information supplied by Helena Warburg

Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group

The Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group met at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, on Sunday, June 26, 1997. Twenty four persons attended the session which covered two major topics related to Electronic Publishing and Dissemination, and there were two invited facilitators. These notes attempt to capture the major points.

Julia Gammon, Head of Acquisitions, University of Akron, and also Marketing Manager for the University of Akron Press spoke about the role of license agreements for electronic products in libraries today. Different models exist to where the agreements are reviewed: campus legal departments or within the library. If legal counsel is used, the personal responsibility of all parties needs to be defined. Ann Okerson has coined license agreements as "cocaine offers" from publishers. The agreements are contracts that are negotiated between willing buyers and sellers. The library is the buyer and the publisher or information producer is the seller. Negotiations can include some or all of the following issues:

- full-text vs abstracts or citations only
- annotations
- complete vs abbreviated records
- web access or CD-ROM
- combinations with other products
- number of users
- rate of updates

Some hints in negotiating agreements were given related to the following considerations:

- be assertive and clearly define method of access
- clearly define authorized users
- clearly define sites -- Is it by building or other location? What about branch campuses or provisions for distance learning?
- anticipated volume of use should be indicated
- explore product uses such as archiving, ILL, Coursepacks, etc.

A description of the OhioLink experience of consortial vs independent campus buying of Elsevier's paper and electronic subscriptions with a three-year lockin was given.

The second facilitator was Chet Grycz, retired from the Office of the President, University of California, and currently a consultant in the publishing industry and library environments. His remarks were on several themes:

Regarding advanced searching algorithms, the assumption is that libraries know what they want.

He shared his impressions about Fair Use not working in a digital environment.

Lessons from the Red Sage Project (between Springer-Verlag and the University of California, San Francisco Library) and sometimes considered a failure as an experience. However, until this project, we did not learn how people read journal articles in an electronic environment.

He also offered a description of three different "publishing clients," each disguised and with unique issues -- the competition is not each other, but organizations new to publishing taking on the new issues in scholarly communication, and responding to what readers and publishers want. Some of the considerations include:

- critical mass
- independent of document format
- rights to clearance
- pricing models
- management information
- format

Libraries are likely to be a filtering environment and that the emerging models will be hybrid, containing different aspects that work.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion did not meet during this year's Annual Conference, but instead supported the Research Forum program.

Information supplied by Marcia King-Blandford

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The Publisher Vendor Relations Discussion Group held a joint program with the RUSA CODES Computer Based Methods Committee entitled: "Selection of Full-Text Online Resources: What You Need to Know." It was a panel discussion with Tim Jewell of

the Univ. of Washington Libraries in Seattle, WA, Meryll Penson of the Libraries of Columbus State Univ., Columbus, GA and Robert McGeachin of Texas A&M Univ. Libraries in College Station, TX.

Tim Jewell discussed the current state of e-journal publishing and some of the important issues: the relevance of content, importance of content, coverage, stability, costs and licensing, ownership/archiving, and consortia pricing. He also spoke about technical and "hidden cost" issues such as PC's, technical support and printing.

Next was Meryll Penson, who discussed the impact on reference and document collections. She offered a simple yet elegant formula: Function + User + Budget = Reference Collection. When evaluating full-text online resources, do they meet the established criteria for your reference collection in need and quality? She also spoke about the commitment to the electronic/digital/virtual library as weighed against the more traditional reference and instructional services.

Rob McGeachin addressed some of the reasons for providing access to online full-text collections, such as user convenience and satisfaction, access from remote locations and distance education. Rob also spoke on how we can best implement these services, via the Internet or on CD-ROM. Any commitment to a service on a LAN or institution-wide server requires user education and user support availability. With that, vendors of full text resources want to be assured of access security. Rob mentioned some of the problems people face when trying to deliver services to users: Internet and Intranet traffic delays, archiving rights, planning for long term access to these materials, and issues surrounding the cataloging of them.

Information supplied by Joe Galbraith

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1998 Midwinter Conference • New Orleans, LA

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, January 9		Sunday, January 11	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	8:30-11:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (Closed Meeting)
9:30-10:30pm	STS Executive Board	9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Continuing Education Committee Government Information Committee
Saturday, January 10		9:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
9:30-11:30am	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group	9:30-12:30	1998 Program Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)	8:30-12:30	1999 Program Planning Comm. (9:30-12:30)*
9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Discussion Group Leaders Membership and Recruitment Comm. Subject & Bibliographic Access Comm.	11:30-1:00	Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group (11:30-12:30)*
11:30-12:30	Publications Committee	6:00-8:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Dinner**
2:00-4:00pm	General Discussion Group	8:00-10:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group
2:00-4:00pm	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries Committee	Monday, January 12	
		9:30-12:00pm	STS Council II

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

** This meeting is not listed in the official program.

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- Interested in finding a mentor or in sharing your skills with others? If so, contact Kathleen Fleming by phone at (313) 577-6310 or e-mail at kflemin@cms.cc.wayne.edu for more information about the new STS Collegial Counsel Program.

Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group

Around sixty people crowded into the Medici Room of the Crown Plaza Parc Fifty-Five Hotel to participate in the Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group. The topic for the discussion was "Finding Scientific Jewels: The Use of Web Search Engines and Subject Directories." William Baer, Engineering Librarian at Brigham Young University, and Carole Leita, Web Manager and Consultant for the California State Library InfoPeople Project, set the mood for the discussion with brief presentations.

Baer gave three tips for improving the effectiveness of searching on the web: get to know the search engine(s) to be used, determine the needs to be filled, and use multiple search engines. He also discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses of popular search engines.

Leita's presentation focused on the "Librarians' Index to the Internet," a project in which several librarians have indexed and annotated over 3,000 sites that are of interest to reference librarians.

Topics discussed included teaching faculty to search the web, using multiple search engine searching tools, and the extra load of requiring subject specialists to maintain web pages. The discussion group had excellent participation.

Information supplied by William Baer

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

Annual discussion focussed on the format and content of the fifth survey, and a time line for its formulation and distribution. The date of distribution has been pushed back until after the first of the year (1998), to allow completion of the revisions and organization of the administration of the survey to ARL Science and Technology libraries. The size of the committee is being expanded to accommodate the additional work of processing the survey and resulting data. Expected due date for the returned surveys is tentatively set at April 1, 1998. Extraction of data will begin immediately. Non-identifying raw data will be available, via the committee web site, as quickly as possible thereafter.

Information supplied by Judith R. J. Johnson

1998 Conference Program Planning Committee

STS will be co-sponsoring the 1998 program with the University Libraries Section, to be held on Saturday, June 27, 1998 from 2-4 pm. The program is tentatively titled "Leadership & the New Science." The keynote speaker will be Myron Kellner-Rogers, in conjunction with two prominent librarians as respondents. Kellner-Rogers is co-author with Margaret J. Wheatley of "A Simpler Way" and a partner with Wheatley in the Berkana Institute which seeks to develop communities of support and inquiry focused on discovering the new ideas and new forms that represent the future of organizing. The Committee identified several potential respondents. ULS is seeking funding for Kellner-Rogers. Promotional information will appear on a web page and in a printed flier to be distributed during the Annual conference. The National Aquarium is the Committee's first choice of sites for the reception.

Information supplied by Linda Phillips

Continuing Education Committee

The STS Continuing Education Committee reviewed the first year of operation of its Mentor Program. This program connects new and even experienced sci/tech librarians seeking assistance on a question with a list of veteran sci/tech librarians. Initially this program has been well received, with a list of 42 volunteer mentors, and 12 inquiries for the list of mentors. A survey of all of these participants revealed a need for continuing and expanded publicity about the program. This will be undertaken, as well as establishing a formal liaison with the STS Membership Committee and including a direct link to information about the program from the STS web site. Special thanks to Virginia MacEwen for her excellent management of the program.

The committee will be pioneering a web page containing Science & Technology Librarianship Professional Education Opportunities to monitor upcoming conferences, courses, workshops, and ongoing vendor education events. Members will also be on the lookout for existing educational web sites to add to this site.

Work is beginning on the survey for STS continuing education interests and needs to be administered in Spring of 1998.

Information supplied by Kathy Whitley

Government Information Committee

At the first STS Council meeting the Legislation Committee was renamed the Government Information Committee. The committee's charge will remain substantially the same.

Members of the committee attended various meetings and information sessions conducted by GODORT and the ALA Washington Office. The committee gathered news about new products and changes in federal government information programs.

Major topics included:

Legislation will soon be introduced for rewriting Title 44 to revise the Federal Depository Program.

NTIS is involved in a project to deliver its products as electronic images over the Internet.

GPO and DOE are looking at making DOE technical reports (formerly distributed in microfiche format) available electronically.

Due to the Supreme Court's ruling the Communication Decency Act unconstitutional it is unlikely that there will be other legislation on this topic in the near future.

The committee discussed ways to monitor government information news. Members of the committee will be watching various electronic information sources. Important news will be relayed to the STS membership by way of the STS-L listserv.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The committee discussed revisions to the brochure. We hope software may be purchased to make revising and maintaining the membership database and brochure easier.

Pat Jamieson brought an issue from the Continuing Education Committee. They talked about having an orientation similar to the one that LAMA has. They felt it was not in their area of responsibility, and sent Pat to turn the idea over to us. We felt it was a good idea, but that it should be an ACRL activity, not an STS one. Carol Robinson agreed to go to the ACRL Membership Committee meeting on Sunday to present the idea.

The volunteer form is on the Web. Carol agreed to do a paper version which can be distributed strategically at the Midwinter and Annual conferences.

Ed Gonzalez reported on the work he had done on the traveling exhibit. (Shortly after ALA Ed let Carol know that due to his new job he would no longer be able to work on this.)

Information supplied by Carol S. Robinson

Oberly Award Committee

Presentation of the 1997 Oberly Award plaque and cash award to the editor of the series, "The Literature of the Agricultural Sciences," opened the STS San Francisco Program. Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the award in memory of Eunice Rockwood Oberly. The committee's new chair is Amy Shannon. The agenda for the coming year will be to review and revise the criteria and the evaluation forms. The next Oberly Award will be presented in 1999.

Information supplied by JoAnn DeVries

Organization and Planning Committee

The ACRL STS Organization and Planning Committee met once at the summer conference. The incoming chair of STS, Allison Level, attended part of the meeting. The most important topics discussed included:

The Committee plans to work with the Publications Committee in appropriate ways to update the STS Section Manual, and endorsed the idea of getting the current Manual on the World Wide Web as soon as possible.

The Committee will make recommendations for projects STS can propose for ACRL Initiative Funds. Applications will be due in March 1998.

The Committee will make recommendations and/or outline options for STS to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2001. ALA will meet in San Francisco that year.

Information supplied by Keith Russell, Acting Chair

Publications Committee

Drafts of the statement of purpose of STS publications and an updated committee charge were approved with minor changes. They will be forwarded to the Organization and Planning Committee.

Andrea Duda, the editor of *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, asked everyone for recommendations for articles for future issues. The committee came up with several suggestions including longer reports of the STS Discussion Groups and the Research Forum and a special issue on sci/tech journals.

STS co-webmaster, David Atkins, reported that the URL is now <http://aztec.lib.utk.edu/sts/>. Work is continuing on the volunteer form and on stylistic changes. The Web site could serve as an archive for programs and as a part of a joint project with the Organization and Planning Committee for the new procedures manual. Problems of maintaining web links were discussed. Among the many suggestions were to use Internet sites characterized as "best of the web," those listed in *C & RL News*, and sites devoted to sci/tech library instruction.

Marty Courtois, co-moderator of STS-L, the section listserv, reported that it has 973 subscribers from 29 countries. After discussion, the committee concluded that a searchable archive of listserv messages was not needed.

At the Midwinter meeting, the terms and appointments of the co-chairs, co-moderators, co-webmasters, editors/co-editors, and the editorial board will be discussed. Everyone was asked to write a job description and disseminate it prior to the meeting.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee continued to discuss a number of important issues related to electronic journals. A list of access related concerns were developed with the intent that a dialog be raised with publishers and professional societies to address these issues. The Science Databases Discussion Group agreed to let the committee organize the discussion for the Midwinter conference in New Orleans. Representatives from publishers and professional societies are being invited to participate in the discussion. Members of the committee attended LITA's Electronic Publishing/Electronic Journals Interest Group to establish communication and to eliminate the duplication of effort.

In other business, the draft of the NISO standard on the title pages for conference proceedings was reviewed. SICI materials were also discussed. It was decided that the committee will move to a co-chair format.

Information supplied by William Baer

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

The ALA/ACRL Forum for Science and Technology Library Research Committee is planning its annual research presentations program for the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 1998.

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share with your colleagues recent research or works in progress that address significant issues to science and technology librarianship in its broadest sense. Proposals will be selected through a blind review process on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, and, relevance to science and technology librarianship.

ABSTRACT: An abstract not exceeding 250 words should convey the title and purpose of the project, its scope, methodology, conclusions and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Priority will be provided to papers that indicate research analyses, either quantitative or qualitative.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: November 21, 1997; Papers will be chosen at ALA Midwinter 1998.

PAPERS: Acceptance of proposals reflects a commitment of the authors to provide presentations of no longer than 30 minutes at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Presenters may choose to have their papers published electronically through ACRL/STS.

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