From the Chair, Pat Kreitz

I'd first like to recognize the hard work of those who volunteer for committee assignments, participate in discussion groups, support the section's publications, and volunteer their time and energy to do the section's work. Over sixty people volunteer in some capacity. I wish I had the space here to thank each by name!

Next, I'd like to solicit your input on an important issue -- whether to continue the annual STS members' reception in its traditional format, abandon it, or change it in some way. The Section Council has been troubled by increasing costs and decreasing attendance over the last three years. For Chicago, the Program Planning Committee will have a reception more closely coordinated in time with the program itself and you'll be hearing more about that from the Program chair.

Please think about the issues and questions below and get back to me with your ideas and opinions by the end of December. I'll summarize your input for Section Council's discussion at Midwinter.

+ Over the past three years, the STS reception costs have risen while funding and attendance have declined. In 1998 around 100 people attended at a cost of $46 per person. In 1999 there were roughly 90 attendees at a cost of $37 each (there was no alcohol in 1999).
+ ALA/ACRL does not give us any of your section membership dues to pay for this. Instead, each section chair asks vendors for donations to pay the site rental and catering costs which typically range from $3,500 to $6,000.
+ Vendors' checks are usually received in a 3-4 month window around the conference date. Months before receiving these checks, and often before knowing who will agree to donate and precisely what amount, the STS chair and Program Committee must set a budget, select the site and caterer, and place deposits.
+ At times, costs have exceeded what the vendors donated. Some past chairs have quietly paid the difference out of their own pockets.

The STS Council and I need to know what you think. Is the reception important? What is the value of holding it at a science-related site? Why is attendance declining? Does the time on Sunday night compete with too many (more lavish) vendor receptions? Would it be a better use of time and the section's energy to solicit donations for the program costs of bringing outside speakers, for a science librarianship scholarship, or for an award in science librarianship? Would members attend an event that helped them 'network' but that was ticketed or was radically less expensive? Please let me know what you think!

Pat Kreitz, Chief Librarian
SLAC Library, MS82
Stanford University
P.O. Box 4349
Stanford, CA 94309
Phone: (650) 926-4385
E-mail: pkreitz@slac.stanford.edu

From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Julie Hurd

Greetings to all new and returning STS members! I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. As science and technology librarians we are participants in an evolving system of scientific communication. We all deal with change as a constant, and the challenges we face in our profession offer opportunities for STS. Our programs, discussion groups, and other committee initiatives can inform us of new developments and provide a chance to exchange experiences with colleagues who share our concerns.
I plan to work with other STS officers through the STS Council, the Executive Committee, and our section committees to make our section responsive to your professional needs. If you have suggestions, please do send e-mail or phone. I also hope that all members will give thought to volunteering to serve on an STS committee. I will be making appointments soon and would be pleased to learn of your interest. Committee appointments come with the expectation that you will attend both mid-year and annual meetings; often there are also duties between meetings as well. You can find a volunteer form on the back of this newsletter or at the STS web page. If you have questions about any of the committees, please contact me.

In addition, I'll be participating in planning for the Year 2000 STS program to be held in Chicago. We will focus on changes in scientific communication and have identified several potential speakers. Watch for details to follow. Meanwhile, I wish all of you a productive year.

Julie M. Hurd
Coordinator of Digital Library Planning and Science Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago
P.O. Box 8198, M/C 234
Chicago, IL 60680-8198
Phone: (312) 413-3060
E-mail: jhurd@uic.edu

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The session "Selecting Full-Text Subscriptions" focused on the complicated process of selecting electronic subscriptions, many of which can be difficult to afford. Tim Klassen, Science Librarian, Wesleyan University (Conn.) and Jennie Devaery, Science Librarian, Kenyon College, shared their experiences in acquiring key electronic resources, either alone or working within consortia.

Tim Klassen explained how he worked with faculty and his library director to obtain a subscription to SciFinder Scholar to improve access to chemical information. By canceling duplicate formats and under-utilized sources, enough funding was made available to purchase this new service. Since its introduction on campus, SciFinder Scholar has proved popular and an extra seat is needed to meet demand. He emphasized that timely usage reports are crucial in documenting such needs.

Tim also related his experiences in purchasing access to Inspec after the file was withdrawn from First Search. He began by working with the CTW (Connecticut College/Trinity College/Wesleyan University) Consortium, and then with the Oberlin Group, an affiliation of liberal arts colleges. He described his method of coordinating negotiations among the interested libraries and vendors. In the end, there were enough subscriber libraries to negotiate an acceptable price. He noted that the needs of small colleges are not always factored into vendor database pricing and licensing.

Jennie Duvernay explained how Kenyon College has used its membership in three different consortia to obtain licenses to various resources. She discussed OhioLINK's selection of Web of Science. She went on to describe Kenyon's acquisition of Institute of Physics journals through the Oberlin Group, and her efforts to license MathSciNet when it seemed that no consortial agreement was likely. This scheme of multiple consortia has worked well for Kenyon. Formal consortia provide support for member libraries, especially staff who specialize in negotiating licenses. On the other hand, members may have to compromise on the choice of products. Less formal arrangements sometimes allow for speedy agreement on a chosen resource, but someone must accept the burden of achieving group agreement and for negotiating the license.

A lively question and answer session, with wide-ranging discussion followed the presentations. Some of the issues touched upon include: the difficulty of finding funding when canceling other formats is not an option; the complications of license agreements; the fact that many vendors do not present viable pricing options for small liberal arts colleges; and strategies to obtain and maintain good rapport of colleagues in other areas given the high cost of science databases.

Information supplied by Rocco M. Piccinino

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group and the Heads of Science and Technology Libraries Discussion Group co-sponsored the meeting, "Practical Aspects of Licensing Electronic Products." The featured speaker was Trisha L. Davis, Ohio State University Libraries and Professor, Kent State Library & Information Studies. Ms. Davis' gave an overview aimed at librarians who must wrestle with licensing agreements in their institutions. Copies of her overheads may be obtained by sending an e-mail request to: Davis.115@osu.edu

The following are steps to help develop a solid local licensing policy:

a. Designate a license coordinator
b. Form a license review team
c. Determine who holds institutional authority for review and signature
d. Draft a license review checklist
e. Identify a single point-person in charge of speaking to vendors or consortia. This person should draft policies, get consensus on them and then communicate policies to all involved.
f. Build specific written guidelines for what your institution is willing to accept in the areas of ILL rights, archival access, and copyright.

Before licensing a resource, identify your institution in writing so that you have canned text to put into any license agreement or to give to vendors trying to determine your size, user community, etc. Ideally, this should be a single sheet which clearly defines your institutional name and location(s); any administrative units; all libraries; and all sites whether on campus or off. This should be stapled to each contract and kept available to distribute to vendors.

When considering a resource, be sure to clarify what is being licensed. Do not make assumptions about this! Identify in advance the users authorized for particular materials. Describe in writing what you'll do to ensure only authorized users have access to licensed materials. Include in the contract language the interlibrary lending rights you want, for example, "reserve full rights in digital or print formats in accordance with the ILL provision of Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act and the CONFU guidelines." Without this, copyright law no longer applies. Instead, the license falls under the Uniform

If you are licensing a source to be 'housed' elsewhere, i.e. not on servers under your own control, the contract should define acceptable availability via the Internet to the supplier's centralized resource. Define acceptable levels: server hours; scheduled system maintenance; backup server sites; and adequate capacity.

Vendors will reserve the right to make changes to a product. So that you are never left with payments for a product that no longer contains what you needed, write into the contract that substantial changes to the method of access or to the content must be reported to the licensee within 30 days prior to the change. Add that the Licensee has a right to cancel the contract with a prorated refund if the changes result in the product no longer being useful for the licensee's original needs.

Contracts need to address archiving. Determine if perpetual access will be supplied from the publisher, vendor, or aggregator or through local means. Also spell out local electronic copying rights for archived materials. If the material will be used for reserves, be sure to put language in the contract to cover course packs and electronic reserves. Ensure full rights from digital or print format for sale as course packs and/or for distribution as electronic reserves to authorized users in registered courses. You should also include protective language for the supplier assuring them that digital copies will be deleted at the end of the term and that you will not allow non-course related systematic reproduction rights or distribution to anyone other than authorized users. However, strike out any clause that assigns responsibility to you for end users and how they use the information.

Include specific language on data collection and reporting. Ensure privacy by including a statement that the anonymity of individual users and the confidentiality of searches will be protected. You also want to ensure that any data collected will be for the publisher's private internal use only.

In conclusion, Ms. Davis mentioned that a committee of library, publisher, and vendor representatives was crafting standardized licensee agreements for different library types. She hoped these would soon be available to help reduce the overhead of working out individual license agreements with a multitude of vendors. She also commented favorably on the license information available from some of the major subscription agents.

Because of the valuable amount of detail included by Ms. Davis, time was short at the end. Discussion included how to handle universities that have distributed campuses and distance learning programs and encourage vendors to think in terms of campus-wide access. Ms. Davis reminded the group that they need to fight for basic access rights in the contract but that they also must be reasonable. For example, she recommended never fighting warranty language. In response to a question about adjunct faculty and affiliated users, she suggested having them sign a document promising that their use of the product will be for their own personal educational purposes and that they won't use it for commercial purposes.

Information supplied by Patricia A. Kreitz

Editor's note: The model licenses recommended by Trisha Davis are now available at http://www.licensingmodels.com.
Committees

Comparison of Science and Technology Libraries

Judith R. J. Johnson, Chair 96/00
Reference Librarian
SciTech Library
Utah State University
Logan, UT  84322-3100
Phone: 435-797-3331
Fax: 435-797-7475
E-mail: judjoh@cc.usu.edu

Daryl Youngman, Co-Chair 98/00
Chair of Science Libraries
Kansas State University
128 Hale Library
Manhattan, KS  66506-1200
Phone: 785-532-7409
Fax: 785-532-7415
E-mail: dyou@ksu.edu

Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences

Jeannie P. Miller, Chair 99/00
Senior Science Reference Librarian
Sterling C. Evans Library
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX  77843-5000
Phone: 409-862-1043
Fax: 409-862-4575
E-mail: jmiller@tamu.edu

Government Information

Esther A. Crawford, Co-Chair 99/00
Fondren Library
Rice University, MS 44-G
6100 Main St.
Houston, TX  77005-1892
Phone: 713-285-6212
Fax: 713-285-5902
E-mail: crawford@rice.edu

Susan M. Norrissey, Co-Chair 99/01
Texas Tech Library
P.O. Box 40002
Lubbock, TX  79409-0002
Phone: 806-742-2236
Fax: 806-742-1964
E-mail: lismn@lib.ttu.edu

Membership and Recruitment

Nirmala S. Bangalore, Co-Chair 98/00
Assistant Catalog Librarian
University Library
University of Illinois-Chicago
M/C 234, Box 8198
Chicago, IL  60680-8198
Phone: 312-413-2571
Fax: 312-413-0424
E-mail: nbangalo@uic.edu

Helen F. Smith, Co-Chair 96/00
Agricultural Sciences Librarian
Life Sciences Library
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA  16802
Phone: 814-865-3706
Fax: 814-863-9684
E-mail: hfs@psulias.psu.edu

Nominating

Allison Level, Chair 99/00
Head of Reference
SW Missouri State University

901 S. National
Springfield, MO  65804
Phone: 417-836-4537
Fax: 417-336-4538
E-mail: allisonlevel@mail.smsu.edu

Heather K. Moberly, Co-Chair 99/01
Science & Engineering Division
Edmon Low Library

2000 Conference Program Planning

Jill Newby, Chair 98/00
Science Bibliographer
Weber State University
2901 University Circle
Ogden, UT  84408-2901
Phone: 801-626-6231
Fax: 801-626-7045
E-mail: jnewby@weber.edu

2000 Conference Program Planning

Jill Newby, Chair 98/00
Science Bibliographer
Weber State University
2901 University Circle
Ogden, UT  84408-2901
Phone: 801-626-6231
Fax: 801-626-7045
E-mail: jnewby@weber.edu

Continuing Education

Nancy L. Hayes, Co-Chair 99/01
Science and Technology Library
University of Akron
Auburn Science & Engin. Center
Room 104H
Akron, OH  44325
Phone: 330-972-6925
Fax: 330-972-7033
E-mail: nlhayes@uakron.edu

Patricia T. Viele, Co-Chair 99/01
Physical Sciences Library
Clark Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY  14853-2501
Phone: 607-255-4016
Fax: 607-255-5288
E-mail: ptv1@cornell.edu

Nancy L. Hayes, Co-Chair 99/01
Science and Technology Library
University of Akron
Auburn Science & Engin. Center
Room 104H
Akron, OH  44325
Phone: 330-972-6925
Fax: 330-972-7033
E-mail: nlhayes@uakron.edu

Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

John DeVries, Co-Chair 98/00
Associate Librarian
St. Paul Campus Central Libraries
University of Minnesota
1984 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN  55108-1012
Phone: 612-624-7150
Fax: 612-624-9245
E-mail: j-devr@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

John DeVries, Co-Chair 98/00
Associate Librarian
St. Paul Campus Central Libraries
University of Minnesota
1984 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN  55108-1012
Phone: 612-624-7150
Fax: 612-624-9245
E-mail: j-devr@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Publications

Edward Lener, Co-Chair 99/01
University Libraries
Virginia Tech
P.O. Box 90001
Blacksburg, VA  24062
Phone: 540-231-9249
Fax: 540-231-9263
E-mail: lener@vt.edu

Heather K. Moberly, Co-Chair 99/01
Science & Engineering Division
Edmon Low Library
DISCUSSION GROUPS

**STS SIGNAL**, v. 14, no. 2

Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK  74078-0375  
Phone: 405-744-6309  
Fax: 405-744-7579  
E-mail: moberlh@okstate.edu

**Subject and Bibliographic Access**

**Marian Burright, Co-Chair 98/00**  
Fenwick Library  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA  22030-4444  
Phone: 703-993-3720  
Fax: 703-993-2494  
E-mail: mburright@fen1.gmu.edu

**College Science Librarians**

**Donna Gagnier, Co-Chair 99/00**  
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown  
Johnstown, PA  
Phone: 814-269-7298  
Fax: 814-269-7286  
E-mail: gagniert@pitt.edu

**Rocco Piccinino, Co-Chair 98/00**  
Young Science Library  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA  01063  
Phone: 413-585-2951  
Fax: 413-585-3786  
E-mail: rpiccini@library.smith.edu

**General**

**Kimberly A. Lyons, Co-Chair 99/01**  
3601 Pacific  
Stockton, CA  95211  
Phone: 209-946-3207  
Fax: 209-946-2041  
E-mail: klyons@uop.edu

**Julia Zimmerman, Co-Chair 99/01**  
Associate Director  
Georgia Tech Library  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
704 Cherry Street  
Atlanta, GA  30332-0900  
Phone: 404-894-4527  
Fax: 404-894-6084  
E-mail: julia.zimmerman@library.gatech.edu

**Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries**

**Laura Lane, Co-Chair 99/01**  
Paley Library 017-00  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA  19122  
Phone: 215-204-5643  
Fax: 215-204-5201  
E-mail: lane@astro.ocis.temple.edu

**Barton Lessin, Co-Chair 96/00**  
Director, Science and Engineering Library  
Wayne State University  
5048 Gullen Mall  
Detroit, MI  48202  
Phone: 313-577-4373  
Fax: 313-577-3613  
E-mail: b.lessin@wayne.edu

**Publisher and Vendor Relations**

**Richard Llewellyn, Co-Chair 99/00**  
Science Library  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA  30602-1641  
Phone: 706-542-0696  
Fax: 706-542-6523  
E-mail: rllew@arches.uga.edu

**Catherine Soehner, Co-Chair 99/01**  
Head, Science Library  
University of California  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA  95064  
Phone: 831-459-2554  
Fax: 831-459-8206  
E-mail: soehner@cats.ucsc.edu

**Science and Technology Databases**

**Suzanne Fedunok, Co-Chair 99/01**  
Bobst Library  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, NY  10012  
Phone: 212-998-2698  
Fax: 212-995-4070  
E-mail: suzanne.fedunok@nyu.edu

**Julia Gelfand, Co-Chair 98/00**  
Applied Sciences Librarian  
Science Library 228  
University of California - Irvine  
Irvine, CA  92632-9556  
Phone: 949-824-4971  
Fax: 949-824-3114  
E-mail: jgelfand@uci.edu

**Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group**

See report for the General Discussion Group.

**Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group**

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group sponsored a session on the role of aggregators in providing electronic journals to libraries. Speakers were: Kittie Henderson (EBSCO Online), Andrea Keyhani (OCLC FirstSearch Electronic Collection Online), and Carol McAdam (JSTOR). Each described how electronic journals are handled by their systems. Following their talks each speaker received questions from the audience. Issues included how the services select, index, distribute, and archive electronic journals from different publishers.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

**Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group**

The Databases Discussion Group met in New Orleans with the theme "Hidden Treasures of Reference: Exploring Free Reference Related Web Sites." Two facilitators led the discussion and were introduced by William Baer, co-chair.

John Hunter, Engineering Librarian at Rice University concentrated on sites that were relevant to the study of engineering and research in engineering and related disciplines. He introduced a number of access points to society publications, such as the American Society for Civil Engineers and some government databases.

The second discussion leader was Fred Stoss from SUNY Buffalo who focused on sites relevant to the environmental sciences in the spirit of celebrating the 30th anniversary of Earth Day in 2000. He shared a variety of different approaches to searching and finding relevant databases.

Julia Gelfand (jgelfand@uci.edu) and Suzanne Fedunok (suzanne.fedunok@nyu.edu) will serve as co-chairs for 1999-2000 and are interested in ideas for future discussion topics and leaders.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand
Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The committee decided to present the results of the 5th Survey of ARL Science & Technology Libraries in a single comprehensive article, to be written in sections by the committee members who processed each respective portion of the data. The Web site we will use to make non-identifiable survey data available should be up around September 1. Data from the previous survey (4th) will then be entered as well as the current data.

Suggestions regarding the survey and what recommendations could be made about future goals and methodology were discussed. Pros and cons of surveying only ARL libraries were considered, and the consensus was that all academic Science and Technology libraries should be polled. Individual sections of the survey instrument were discussed in terms of responses, problems, and usefulness. Future collaboration with other library organizations was proposed for investigation. The committee developed a two-pronged proposal for the future of the committee and the survey process, which will be refined and presented to Council.

Information supplied by Judith R. J. Johnson

2000 Conference Program Planning Committee

The Conference Program Planning Committee met and continued planning for the 2000 program in Chicago. The theme of the program will be “Transforming the Future: New Roles for Sci-Tech Librarians,” focusing on transformations in the scholarly communication systems and future roles for science librarians in this changing arena. Potential speakers include scientists and librarians involved in new and innovative projects. A poster session is being planned in conjunction with the program and a call for proposals will appear on the STS listserv. The committee may break with tradition and hold the reception after the program.

Information supplied by Jill Newby

Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education Committee discussed the success of the Collegial Counsel mentoring program. To make the Collegial Counsel list more usable, it was decided that it should be indexed in logical ways such as by subject and geographic area. It was also decided that the information needs to be verified annually to insure accuracy. Finally, there was discussion about continuing to publicize Collegial Counsel to recruit new resource people to participate.

The other major discussion topic involved making several suggested revisions to the Continuing Education web survey form. It was decided that the best way to get a good response to the survey would be by sending the URL via STS-L around the end of July. The results from the survey will be tabulated and reported to the committee at Mid-winter. The survey will also be publicized in the STS Signal.

Information supplied by Pat Viele and Nancy Hayes

Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

The Forum on Science & Technology Library Research was pleased to host a program of speakers presenting peer-reviewed research on timely issues for science and technology librarianship.

"Electronic Journals in the Academic Library: Indications of Increased Plagiarism," by Veronica Calderhead, Rutgers University offered a look at electronic chemistry journals and how they are used by undergraduates with a focus on potential and possible increased incidence of plagiarism. "A Selective Comparison of Current Contents and Uncover Reveal," by Diana M. Farmer and Beth C. Turtle, Kansas State University evaluated the coverage, currency, relevancy, and ease of use of Current Contents and Uncover Reveal. "Push Technology at Argonne National Laboratory," by Robert Noel, Argonne National Laboratory examined the large scale implementation of push technology for scientists and engineers. Users and librarians co-designed personal profiles to comb newly published scientific articles.

The Forum's Distinguished Guest, Dr. Beth M. Paskoff, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, commented on methodology and relevance of the research papers and also led an open discussion.

Information supplied by JoAnn DeVries

Government Information Committee

The committee will begin work on a web site that will report on news regarding government information. Members will continue to monitor various electronic discussion groups pertaining to government information and will send brief reports to STS-L.

Some other developments of interest are listed below:

1. Two separate database protection bills have been introduced in the U.S. House. The library community supports H.R. 1858, the Consumer Investor Access to Information Act of 1999 because this bill is more narrowly focused and thought to provide a more balanced approach.

2. H.R. 1790, the Chemical Safety Information and Site Security Act of 1999 proposes that federal depository libraries provide access to risk management plans of chemical manufacturing plant. The US EPA had planned to make those plans available online in June, however, some federal enforcement officials fear the potential risk of making that information available to terrorists.

3. The Copyright Office released its recommendations regarding use of copyrighted materials in support of distance education, see http://www.loc.gov/copyright/cpypub/de_rprt.pdf.

More information on these issues is available from the ALA Washington Office web site at http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon/index.html.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey
Membership and Recruitment Committee

The Committee decided that holding the “Welcome to ALA” reception for new and continuing STS members on Saturday morning worked out better than the previous Friday evening slot. The same day and time will be requested for the 2000 ALA Chicago conference.

A new brochure will be designed and printed. The Committee discussed ways of recruiting more members to the section. As of February 1999, STS is the fourth largest in ACRL, with 1,926 members, 144 new members, and 118 drops. 35 people responded to a brief survey of reasons for dropping STS as follows: 6 - New ALA “two-sections with paid division dues” rule, 11 - My duties have changed, 2 - My interests have changed, 15 - Other, 1 - Blank. The survey yielded no data to assist the Committee in retention of STS members. In fact, STS was one of the few ACRL sections to show any increase in membership.

Information supplied by Nirmala S. Bangalore

Oberly Award Committee

No report submitted.

Organization and Planning Committee

The STS Organization and Planning Committee discussed several matters including review of the bylaws and STS Manual sections regarding committee membership and service. The issue of conflicts in scheduling for discussion group and committee meetings was also raised. The increasing number of “no-conflict” times from ALA have exacerbated the problem. Recent concerns related to fundraising and sponsorship of the section reception were also considered and Pat Kreitz is seeking advice from section members. The 40th Anniversary celebration for the section will be in 2001. Julia has been asked to chair the 2001 Conference Program Planning Committee and they will work closely with Organization and Planning on this.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand

Publications Committee

It was agreed to officially open the new STS web site created by new STS web editor Kathy Whitley housed on ALA’s server. The committee will monitor the flexibility of using ALA as web host.

Listserv manager, Teresa Berry reports that STS-L has moved to the new server at the host site, UT Knoxville. Now accessible from the web, STS-L is easier to use and search (http://www.cas.utk.edu/cgi-bin/wa). Currently over 900 individuals subscribe to the listserv. STSCNC-L, the Section’s council listserv, was also moved to the new server. Traffic is light-to-nonexistent. The committee will manage this list for another year to see if use justifies maintenance.

Norma Kobzina reported that use of Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship continues to grow. Over 13,600 readers from 67 counties have visited ISTL. The editorial board is exploring the creation of a refereed section. The following thematic issues were announced: Environment & Environmental Science, Using the WWW in Collection Development, and Managing Change. There will also be a general issue comprised of articles that do not fit in the current themes. The ISTL Editorial Board and the committee completed the job announcement for a new board member. The announcement was distributed to STS chairs and will be distributed via email to appropriate listservs. ISTL editor Andrea Duda will manage the recruitment. Review of applicants will begin in mid-September, with final selection at Midwinter.

STS successfully petitioned ACRL for an Initiative Fund request. Pat Kreitz and David Atkins will create a demonstration Web site organizing ACRL program information, including the use of audio streaming. Kathy Whitley will also participate in the project.

Ed Lener will continue as STS Signal co-editor for one year. Heather Moberly will continue for two more years.

Information supplied by David Atkins

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee reported on the project: "Electronic Publishing of Scholarly Journals: A Bibliographic Essay of Current Issues” published in the Spring 1999 of ISTL. Future projects were also discussed including serving as clearing house for information on access issues to electronic journals via committee web site and possible program or informal discussion topics for Annual 2000. In addition, a new co-chair was selected to begin appointment at Annual 2000.

Information supplied by Marian Burright

Collegial Counsel

Does your job ever require you to do something you didn’t learn in library school? Collegial Counsel can help. The STS Continuing Education Committee has gathered a list of individuals willing to help with all aspects of librarianship. The list includes volunteers’ areas of expertise and contact information; you choose someone to contact whose experience matches your needs or interests. To request the list, which is on a password protected WWW site, please send your name, position title, work address, email address, and phone number. If you are unable to connect to the Web, let us know. If you are an experienced Sci/Tech librarian who is willing to share expertise, we would be happy to hear from you.

To request the Collegial Counsel list, or for more information, please contact Nancy L. Hayes, Science & Technology Library, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325, NLHayes@uakron.edu, phone: 330-972-6192, fax: 330-972-7033.

Note - If you are already a Collegial Counsel volunteer, and if your contact information has recently changed, please send your new information to Laura Galvan-Estrada, University of California, San Diego, UCSD Libraries, 9500 Gilman Ave., La Jolla, CA 92093-0175, lgalvane@ucsd.edu.
Partnering with the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division

An ACRL Initiative Fund grant prepared by Billie Reinhart and Allison Level provided the STS with an opportunity to actively pursue collaborative activities with the Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). The grant provided financial resources to send a member of the STS Council to the 1999 ASEE Annual Conference and Exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina. It also supported the attendance at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans by one member of the ASEE ELD Executive Committee. Mel DeSart, Coordinator of Science and Engineering Resources and Services, Anschutz Library, University of Kansas (ASEE ELD) and Barton Lessin, Assistant Dean and Director, Science and Engineering Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI (STS) were chosen to represent their respective organizations.

The exchanges were used for more than opportunities to attend an additional conference. The coordinating group for science and technology librarians in each organization held a brainstorming session to identify possible areas for partnering. The ASEE ELD held its meeting first and developed a thoughtful list of twenty-two potential projects for collaboration with the ACRL STS. Additionally, the ELD Extended Executive Committee identified a priority list of those projects that were of greatest interest to it. The ACRL STS Executive Council responded by holding its own session devoted to collaboration where it examined the earlier list and chose those projects where it thought collaboration was both possible and mutually beneficial. Fortunately, there was overlap among those projects deemed most important by both groups. The STS project priority list included these topics for focused attention and a suggested part of the STS organization that would be involved if a joint project is undertaken:

- Recruitment
- CRL project
- Comparative statistics
- Newsletter communication liaison
- Virtual committee members
- Information literacy.

The last item on the list of potential areas for collaboration represents the only one where there is no existing segment of the STS organization that is a match for the expected focus of this project. We understand that this situation is also the case for the ELD. The STS preferred project areas have been communicated to the new chair of the ELD, Sheila Curl at Purdue University. Further action is anticipated prior to Midwinter Conference.

Submitted by Barton Lessin

IATUL Conference Report

The annual meeting of IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) took place in Chania, Crete May 17-21. This was an absolutely beautiful site to attend a conference. The history, natural beauty, options for distractions made for a very special trip. Crete is very near the Balkans and the immediacy and concerns for the war being fought so nearby was very evident. That week was also the anniversary of German bombing during WWII.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Future of Libraries in Human Communication," and many sessions reflected ideas related to issues in library service and management. Several keynote papers were delivered on topics ranging from the "Changing Role of the Library: Missions and Ethics," which described changes in the new British Library by the Director-General, David Russon; Ann Wolpert, UL at MIT addressed "Commercial Brand Management." Alan Bundy from the University of South Australia delivered a most enlightening paper on "Challenging technolust: the educational responsibility of librarians."

About 30 papers were delivered. Specific papers of interest included, "Sharing metadata: enabling online information provision," which was about preparing bibliographic records for OPACs; the new concept of the "International library, information and analysis center (ILIAC) a new project at the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology," which was described as a worldwide venture to gain investment in resources for that library and to share and encourage cooperation between Russia and other countries; and several others on different new services, partnerships and activities introduced by creative librarians and information providers from around the globe. Registration included about 120 librarians from throughout Eastern and Western Europe, Australia, South Africa and from North America.

Field trips during the conference in Crete included visits to the archaeological sites at Knossos where we visited the famous Minoan Palace and also had a brief stop at the Heraklion Museum to see the relics from the restoration at that site; academic libraries at the University Crete; monasteries of Preveli and Gonia and a trip to the Samaria Gorge.

IATUL will next meet July 3-7, 2000 in Brisbane, Queensland, with the theme, "Virtual Libraries, Virtual Communities." Major subthemes are: 1) Information economy: the virtual campus; 2) Networked Learning; 3) Innovative Client Services; and 4) Information Literacy.

Submitted by Julia Gelfand
ACRL Science and Technology Section
Committee Volunteer Form

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

  _____ Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries
  _____ Conference Program Planning
  _____ Continuing Education
  _____ Forum for Science & Technology
    Library Research
  _____ Government Information
  _____ Membership & Recruitment

I am interested in chairing the following discussion groups:

  _____ College Science Librarians
  _____ General
  _____ Heads of Sci/Tech 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: Julie Hurd, Coordinator of Digital Library Planning, University of Illinois at
Chicago, Science Library M/C 234, P.O. Box 8198, Chicago, IL 60680

Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv
STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

To Join STS-L, send the following message to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU (do not include a period after EDU). 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

Moderators: Gayle Baker & Teresa Berry

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)

URL: http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/

Editor: Andrea Duda

STS Web Page

URL: http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts.html

Webmaster: Kathy Whitley

STS Signal on the Web
Recent issues are available in portable document format (pdf) on the STS web page.

Editors: Edward F. Lener & Heather K. Moberly

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