

# STS SIGNAL



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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## From the Chair, Julia Gelfand

I am grateful to the outgoing Executive Council for an easy transition as I begin my term as STS Chair. I very much look forward to this our 45th anniversary year, working with a talented Executive Council and the largest STS Council we have had in the past several years. I think after compiling the data for the ACRL Environmental Scan, that "Keeping STS Relevant" will be our motto this year. Rethinking what we do and reinventing ourselves to be a more nimble and relevant organization of choice for academic science librarians is what we aim to be. I have heard loud and clear what members want: opportunities for professional development that reinforce their primary responsibilities while giving them a little escape to scale up or down in other focus areas, a place to make friends and network, to gain leadership skills, to learn from one another and to share information widely.

We've begun this challenge and have lots of new ideas on the plate. We are trying new things with a different conference schedule, have proposed establishing a new committee to continue our work in Information Literacy in the Sciences, will develop a Liaison Program to other science, higher ed and science librarianship associations, and anticipate two interesting conferences, January in San Antonio and June in New Orleans, where the STS

Program will be "A Kaleidoscope of Scientific Literacy: Fusing New Connections." Many exciting speakers, and celebratory events with surprises you will only experience if you attend.

Thanks again for all your participation and I look forward to a special year of activities in STS. Keep your ideas coming.

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. Additionally, it is available on the STS Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>.

## From the Vice Chair/Chr-Elect, Catherine Soehner

I'm very excited to begin my year as Vice Chair of STS. During the year I have the task of making committee assignments for our 11 committees and 4 discussion groups. The STS Web page ([www.ala.org/acrl/sts](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts)) has more information about each of these. Please contact any of their chairs (see page 4) for more details about what is involved. Past issues of the section newsletter, the *STS Signal*, can also give you a better idea about the work of each committee. To volunteer you can either e-mail me directly or fill out and submit the form on the STS web page (under the Committees link).

Another valuable resource for new members is the Sci/Tech Library Mentors program that is sponsored by our Continuing Education Committee. Again more information about this is available on the STS web page, including convenient search options by geographic region, type of library, and area of expertise.

Many thanks to those of you who are involved in the work of STS. I was delighted to meet so many STS members in Chicago and look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

*Catherine Soehner*  
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### STS 2005 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The STS program entitled "The New Crossroads: Science Librarians in the 21st Century" was held on June 27th in Chicago and featured speakers discussing the role of science and technology librarians in the future. The program was followed by a reception and poster session.

Mary Case (University of Illinois at Chicago) provided an overview of issues and trends in scholarly communication and their impact on the future role of science librarians. Mel DeSart (University of Washington at Seattle) presented tips for helping users who do not visit the library, proving the relevance of science librarians, and attracting qualified people to the profession. Alison Ricker (Oberlin College) described popular and emerging technologies used by NetGens and methods for incorporating them into libraries. Michael Leach (Harvard University) explored the future role of science librarians as research, digital objects, and education librarians. The presentations are available on the STS web site.

The STS field trip to Fermilab was held on Tuesday,

June 28th. Fermilab is a national laboratory operated by the U.S. Department of Energy which conducts basic research into particle physics. In addition to a guided tour of the facility and laboratory, participants toured the library with Heath O'Connell, Manager of the Information Resources Department.

The program and field trip were made possible thanks to generous financial support from the following corporate sponsors: Elsevier Science, John Wiley & Sons, Swets Information Service, YBP Library Services, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, and Thomson Scientific.

*Information supplied by Jennifer Long*

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### **MORE NEWS FROM CHICAGO**

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#### **College Science Librarians Discussion Group**

The College Science Librarians Discussion Group in Chicago investigated the mysteries of recruiting and retaining valuable employees. The discussion took many turns including "growing your own" (recruiting users and staff into the profession), mentoring – especially in faculty status institutions, the need for criteria for evaluation and values of the institution to be well described when hiring, the need (or not) for subject specialists, what characteristics are most important, and how much of a role should current skill set play when hiring if the person is otherwise of high value.

*Information supplied by Beth Thomsett-Scott and Sue O'Dell*

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#### **General Discussion Group**

The General Discussion Group met to talk about science libraries, librarians, and blogs. Alesia McManus (Binghamton University) led off the discussion with an introduction to blogs and RSS feeds. Alesia contributes to the "Science Library Blog" at <http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/science/>. She felt it was essential to make blogs available via an RSS feed and mentioned that she almost never reads blogs that do not have an RSS feed. Alesia and her staff offer to go to faculty offices and help install RSS feeders. George Porter (California Institute of Technology) offered his perspective as a contributor to the "scitech library question" at <http://stlq.info/>. The scitech library question, stlq, is a collaborative blog with several contributors. Julia Kelly described UThink, a program of campus wide blogs, hosted by the University of Minnesota. The blogs have turned out to be very popular with writing classes. After

the short presentations, a discussion opened and many attendees took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions.

*Information supplied by Katie Clark and Julia Kelly*

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

The Issues in Sci-Tech Library Management Discussion Group program was co-sponsored with the Committee on Assessment and the EBSS Section. David Baca and Julie Miran gave a brief introduction about the proposal for a pre-conference on assessment at ALA 2006, and explained that this session was designed to find out what people are currently doing, and ideas that may be explored at the pre-conference. Potential speakers at the Pre-Conference are Fred Heath (LibQual), David Consiglio (Haverford College), Phil Davis (Cornell), and Adam Smith (Google.)

Various types of surveys are being used, including the Wisconsin-Ohio Library Survey, LibQual, and SAILS. There are some informal evaluations after class instruction (pop-up surveys, two-minute evaluations). There was discussion about how to implement suggestions that are found in surveys and focus groups. Another key issue that was discussed was the need for campus review boards that require prior approval before conducting a survey, because of the use of human subjects.

The culture of assessment, and the term “survey fatigue” also came up several times in the discussion. Other topics included collaboration, translating what we learn in the sciences to other disciplines, and following up with students and other survey respondents long after they graduate from their institution.

*Information supplied by David Baca and Norma Kobzina*

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### **Science & Technology Info. Discussion Group**

Angi Faiks, outgoing Co-Chair, met with Sarah Jeong and Kara Whatley, Co-Chairs for 2005-2006. Angi described the roles and responsibilities of the co-chairs, and they also discussed potential topics for the discussion group program at ALA Midwinter 2006.

*Information supplied by Sarah Jeong*

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### **Assessment Committee**

Members of the committee were updated on a preconference proposal for ALA Annual 2006 (see Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management DG report above).

[Note: that proposal was approved as of 7/5/05.] Evaluation forms and sign up sheets for STS programs at ALA were completed, pending approval by STS Council. Survey Monkey responsibilities of the committee were discussed. Other topics considered were the assessment of virtual meetings and assessment as tools for change, not just assessing programs.

*Information supplied by Julie Miran*

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### **Continuing Education Committee**

The Committee worked on its next Continuing Education Biennial Survey. Following successful collaboration on the 2004 Hot Topics Survey, both ASEE Engineering Libraries Division and SLA Science-Technology Division will continue their collaboration in the coming survey. The 2004 Survey was used by ASEE ELD at their new members meeting; the most important ELD issues as identified by the survey were used as the basis for their Get Acquainted Session roundtable discussion topics. Survey results were reported in each organization's publications. Marilyn Christianson led discussion on new questions for the 2006 survey. Changes to the initial plan worked up at Midwinter were suggested.

Hilary Leon reported on progress in the Sci/Tech Library Mentors project. An outline of new procedures has been written and forms for collecting information on new mentors and mentees have been revised. Web page content has been developed to describe the how's and why's of mentoring. Discussion topics to stimulate communication between mentors and mentees have been developed. A mentor/mentee relational database is being constructed to be linked from the Committee's web page. Form letters to welcome new participants, follow-up reminder letters, and other form letters have been written. A bookmark to advertise the program has been designed and will be printed with funding from the Section. The bookmarks will be distributed with STS brochures to new and prospective STS members. Remaining work includes implementing all the above steps and publicizing the program.

*Information supplied by Christina M. Desai*

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### **Government Information Committee**

Matthew Marstellar summarized the GODORT update and program committee meetings. He passed around statistics in the fall-off of PURL government documents records created, and the group speculated

on possible explanations.

The group briefly discussed the PubChem controversy and other movements to prevent federal publication of science information. Amy Prendergast suggested as an action item, drafting a letter to send to STS if this or another similar open-access controversy arises again. She agreed to create the letter so that the committee can be prepared.

With an eye to the committee's possibly co-sponsoring a GODORT program on sci/tech documents, Matthew Marsteller reported on the GODORT Program Committee. It appears that they have a 2006 annual conference program well into the preparation stage. Tentatively the subject will be, "Using government information to illustrate information literacy concepts."

Matthew Marsteller suggested contacting the authors of the recently created STS information literacy standards to ask for names of good speakers or someone who is extremely knowledgeable for the GODORT program

panel in 2006. Matthew will contact Karen Hogenboom of GODORT with names or suggestions for contacts. GODORT may be interested in a government sci/tech information policy topic for 2007.

*Information supplied by Amy Prendergast*

### Research Committee

The Research Committee does not meet during the Annual Meeting, but it is responsible for implementing two programs. At the STS Research Forum in Chicago, two guest speakers and moderator Julie Hurd provided the program. The STS Annual Program Poster Session on June 27, 2005 had eight poster participants. Their abstracts and handouts are available on the STS website. Please contact Karen Grigg at grigg012@mc.duke.edu if you would like abstracts from the research forum.

*Information supplied by Karen Grigg*

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

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Beth Thomsett-Scott, Co-Chair /07  
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#### Publications Committee

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#### 2006 Conference Program Planning

Barbara DeFelice, Chair /06  
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## Membership and Recruitment Committee

The STS Membership and Recruitment Committee hosted a successful New Members Orientation / Reception at Annual on Saturday, June 25, 2005. The location of the reception in the conference center was helpful in getting a good turnout. In addition to several members of the committee, there were 24 guests in attendance. This number included both new STS members and several current and past officers of the section. Food was available and attendees were seated at small round tables to facilitate networking. Door prizes were also awarded to new members. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and established members spoke on the benefits of STS membership and their personal experiences in the STS Section.

The committee also continued its work on various recruitment activities, including outreach to library school students enrolled in sci/tech reference courses and contacts with non-STS attendees of STS conference programs. According to the most recent (May 2005) membership report from ACRL, personal membership in the section is up by 2.9% from the same period last year. Part of the increase may be attributed to the successful national ACRL conference earlier in the year. The pending dues increase for ACRL may have an adverse effect on overall membership, at least in the short term.

*Information supplied by Edward Lener*

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## Publications Committee

Andrea Duda provided some history on ISTL, which was formally launched in 1996 when the Publications Committee established an editorial board. It is located on a server at the U. of California—Santa Barbara. There are 3,976 subscribers. Indexing of ISTL was added to *CINAHL* in March, 2005. Andrea noted that the May 2005 issue of *College & Research Libraries* has an article about the information-seeking behavior of physical science librarians, and ISTL ranked #2 among the journals highly read by these librarians. Committee members discussed three candidates for the ISTL Editorial Board position and selected one, Deborah Huerta (Colgate University).

Jennie Duvernay reported that the STS Manual on our website has been greatly updated and corrected. Her long and excellent service as webmaster was noted with huge appreciation as she leaves the committee. STS-L is in the process of being moved to ALA servers. Its

subscribers now number 1,170. The dedicated work of Margaret Mellinger, co-moderator for the past four years, was acknowledged as she also leaves the committee. *Signal* was edited by Caroline Gilson for Spring 2005, and Barbara MacAlpine will be editing her final issue for Fall 2005. Contributions for Member News items have increased substantially. It was agreed that a virtual meeting will be held by the committee before (instead of at) Midwinter 2006 if ALA makes the software available as previously announced. Philip Herald's long and effective leadership as co-chair was noted as he too leaves the committee.

*Information supplied by Barbara MacAlpine*

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## Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The committee spent the bulk of the meeting in Chicago working on plans for an article on subject and bibliographic access to electronic theses in the sciences and technology via OPACs and digital institutional repositories. The committee is working with two librarians from Britain, Simon Bevan (Cranfield University) and Susan Copeland (Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland), which will allow us to present both British and American perspectives on this topic. Sophie Bogdanski will meet with Bevan and Copeland when she travels to Britain in November 2005. Bevan and Copeland have secured travel funding sufficient to join us at both ALA Midwinter 2006 and Annual 2006.

*Information supplied by Bryna Coonin*

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## 2006 Program Planning Committee

The 2006 STS Program Planning Committee met in Chicago and developed the following ideas. The program on June 26, 2006 will be titled "'Kaleidoscope of scientific literacy: fusing new connections.'" Leaders in a variety of science learning communities will share ideas about how librarians can be involved in enhancing scientific literacy. They will focus on opportunities for science librarians to make contributions across campus and within their communities. Possibilities for a field trip will also be explored.

*Information supplied by Barbara DeFelice*

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After the information literacy standards were approved by the Science & Technology Section of ACRL, steps were taken to seek adoption of the standards by the Standards and Accreditation Committee (SAC) of ACRL. Several Task Force members met at the ASEE Conference in Portland, Oregon in June of 2005 to address comments provided by two reviewers from the Information Literacy Advisory Committee (ILAC). The ILAC was established to coordinate information literacy initiatives throughout ACRL. Significant changes were made to the document to address the ILAC reviewer comments. At ALA Annual later in June, Task Force Chair, Virginia Baldwin, attended the meeting of the SAC to present the modified document for consideration by the Committee and to answer questions. SAC approved the document for submission to the ACRL Board for consideration for adoption. Baldwin also attended the ILAC meeting later in the day to answer questions. It was decided at the ILAC meeting to submit the revised document back to the ILAC reviewers for their comments and approval, to complete the cycle. Then submission to the ACRL Board can be done at a later time for an email vote for adoption. The ILAC is currently developing a recommended process for discipline-specific information literacy standards creation and adoption, and the Task Force's Information Literacy Standards have provided a valuable background for developing the process.

*Information supplied by Virginia Baldwin*

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### **Call for Paper Proposals:**

STS Research Forum/ALA Annual Conference  
Sunday, June 25, 2006, 4:00-6:00 pm.

The Research Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share recent research addressing issues in science and technology librarianship in its broadest sense. Two proposals will be selected through a blind review process.

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 given to papers that indicate research analyses, either quantitative or qualitative.

**DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS:** January 8, 2006.

Please email abstracts to Karen Grigg (grigg012@mc.duke.edu), STS Research Committee Co-Chair. Include your name, institution, phone, fax, and e-mail address.

### **"Recruiting Scientists Into Our Profession"**

Several years ago a former classmate and research partner from my "science" days had become a faculty member in the biology department of a moderate-sized midwestern university. It was his responsibility to assemble speakers for the departmental seminar series. He lamented the thought of more talks on "the microbial degradation of 'di-bubblimucktane' or enzymatic dynamics of an obscure metabolic pathway. He was looking for alternatives.

I offered to talk about something off the beaten path, and my presentation had a title like "Working Outside the Box: Alternate Career Paths for Biology Majors." I was pleasantly surprised to see a nice crowd gathered in the biology department's lecture hall. So were the biology faculty. Not because many of their students were interested in something about working "outside the box," but because there were chemistry, physics, geology, and math students attending also. I figure we hit a nerve. I don't know how successful I was in telling the audience about careers in librarianship and in fields related to scientific and technical communications. However, one student wrote me several months later, enthusiastically telling me of her acceptance into library school.

Our need for scientists as science librarians has grown in the past decade. From a biologist's perspective, the data and information aspects of the Human Genome Project have left many science librarians in the wake of the development of a new generation of genomic, bioinformatics, proteomics, and other molecular biology data and information tools.

We need new resources to share with undergraduate and graduate students to tell them about their career options as science librarians—from collections, and reference, to instruction, and cataloging. We need to establish bona fide recruitment strategies for bringing more biologists, chemists, physicists, mathematicians, and geologists into our profession.

Perhaps we can begin with some lively discussion groups at our Midwinter and Annual Meetings, and put together a cogent program and work with other library associations in recruiting a new generation of scientist librarians. We then need to take this message out to the places where students are found: in their colleges and universities. If there is interest in this topic, a part two of this article could appear with some ideas, and perhaps the summary of our first discussion group on getting science students into our profession.

*Submitted by Fred Stoss, University at Buffalo, SUNY*

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2006 Midwinter Meeting \* San Antonio, TX

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
<b>Friday, January 20</b> 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.*	Executive Council Lunch STS Council I	<b>Sunday, January 22</b> 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  6:00 p.m.	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group STS Dinner (offsite)
<b>Saturday, January 21</b> 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**  10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  1:30 - 3:30 p.m.  4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Discussion Group Chairs Meeting All STS Committee Meeting*** Hot Topics Discussion Group 2006 Program Planning Committee 2007 Program Planning Committee Oberly Award Committee (closed)	<b>Monday, January 23</b> 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  *8:00 - 10:00 p.m. per ALA Schedule **8:00 - 10:00 a.m. per ALA Schedule ***Most committees will meet in one large room, with separate rooms for Research and Nominating Committees.	STS Council II Executive Council Wrap-Up

**NOTE:** There are major changes in the schedule this year. Most committee meetings are happening simultaneously to allow members greater flexibility to attend other conference programs. Discussion Groups programs have been consolidated into two meetings per conference.

## MEMBER NEWS:

**Angela M. Gooden** (U. of Cincinnati) was promoted September 1<sup>st</sup> to Associate Librarian.

In August 2005, **Peter Spyers-Duran** was promoted to associate librarian at the University of Central Florida (UCF). During the same month, he graduated from UCF with the Master of Arts degree in Applied Economics.

**Deb Henry** (U. of South Florida) was recently promoted to full Librarian, the highest rank for library faculty in the USF system.

Katherine Clemens (Arizona State U.) married Tim O'Clair on May 14, 2005. She will be using her married name, **Katherine O'Clair** (email: [katherine.oclair@asu.edu](mailto:katherine.oclair@asu.edu)).

In June 2005, **Lynea Anderman** was appointed Director of the Library at the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology in Media, PA. Ms. Anderman was previously at Warren County Community College in Washington, NJ.

**Caroline Gilson** (DePauw U.) added a special edition to her family's collection this summer. Bros Gilson arrived on July 28<sup>th</sup> and was classified as CS 71 .G55 G557 2005.

**Jennie Duvernay** (Arizona State U.) was promoted to be the new Coordinator of Instruction, Outreach and Marketing for the ASU Libraries at the Tempe campus.

**Fred Stoss** (U. at Buffalo SUNY) presented a poster, "Recruiting Science Librarians in the Post-Genomics Era," to the Western New York/Ontario Chapter of ACRL. He also gave a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Chemical Society on "Green Chemistry and the Environmental Community: Building Bridges with ICE—Information, Communication, Education."

### *Triple news from the University of Waterloo:*

**Anne Fullerton** was promoted to Librarian VI, the senior librarian category at the Davis Library. She recently completed a study leave at the U. of New Hampshire, where she analyzed individual study spaces in New England College Libraries. With this information and student responses to 3 prototypes, a new carrel has been designed for the Davis Library.

When **Carol Stephenson** (Health Sciences and Optometry Librarian) and **Sasa Mrsa** (Library Assistant) reviewed how much the Davis Library paid for each sci/tech journal, they found that thousands of dollars could be saved by converting more subscriptions to electronic format only. Arts and Social Science library staff have asked them to run the same review on their titles.

**Jennifer Haas** is the new Department Head for Information Services and Resources in the Davis Library. She was previously at the U. of Texas at Austin in the Engineering Libraries Electronic Information Center.

## Call for STS Poster Proposals:

ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2006

Relate posters to the program theme,  
"Kaleidoscope of scientific literacy:  
Fusing new connections."

Describe examples of partnerships with faculty,  
students, scientists, publishers, the media, or museums.

Outline a research project or analytical study,  
describe a new service or collection mngt. initiative,  
illustrate a collaborative project such as a  
digital library collection or an exhibit.

Posters will be displayed from 11:30 am-12:30 pm  
during the STS Reception on Monday, June 27, '06,  
immediately following the STS Program.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** January 8, 2006.  
Please email a brief description (250 words) to William  
Simpson ([wsimpson@udel.edu](mailto:wsimpson@udel.edu)), STS Research  
Committee Co-Chair. Include your name, institution,  
phone, fax, e-mail address, and poster title.

Have you lost your STS-L connection? If you haven't  
received messages for a month or two, you may have  
been dropped from the list! It's easy to subscribe at  
<http://lists.ala.org/www/info/sts-l>. Questions?? Contact  
Peter Spyers-Duran ([pspyers@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:pspyers@mail.ucf.edu)).

## STS Electronic Communications Update

### STS-L Listserv

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

STS-L is running on the Sympa software on  
the American Library Association servers.  
You can subscribe by logging into the web  
interface: <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/sts-l>  
Moderators: Peter Spyers-Duran and  
Linda Eells

### Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/>  
Editor: Andrea Duda

### STS Web Page

<http://www.acrl.org/sts>  
Webmaster: Paul St-Pierre

### STS Signal on the Web

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

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