From the Chair, JoAnn DeVries

2002 is already an active and productive year. We are organizing interesting topics for the discussions and programs for the Annual meeting in Atlanta. Thank you to all who are active in making this a rewarding and dynamic year. I am realizing anew what all chairs recognize, that busy people contribute an extraordinary amount of time and energy to keep our section strong and vital. You are a great group to work for.

New initiatives proposed and developed from Midwinter are a task force on information literacy specific to the interests of science and technology, chaired by Virginia Baldwin. In addition, a task force on development (chaired by Julie Hurd) will recommend implementing STS awards or scholarships based on options compiled by Pat Kreitz. A subcommittee has been formed to propose an STS sponsored program on recruitment of new librarians into the profession, for the 2003 ACRL National Conference. This committee is chaired by Barton Lessin. If you wish to become involved in one of these projects, please contact the chair. Suggestions, comments and participation are welcome.

IOP, the Institute of Physics Publishing, sponsored a lovely reception especially for STS members at Midwinter. Thank you very much to IOP; it was a splendid "laissez les bons temps rouler" event. IOP plans to continue to sponsor a reception for STS at Annual. An RSVP invitation will be posted on the listserv. Be sure to look for it.

This year we have continued and sustaining donations for the STS program and New Member Orientation refreshments from the following publishers and vendors:

American Chemical Society
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
Elsevier Science, Inc.
Institute for Scientific Information
Springer-Verlag
Swets Blackwell, Inc.
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
YBP Library Services

JoAnn DeVries
University of Minnesota Libraries
j-devr@tc.umn.edu
Phone: 612-624-7446
Fax: 612-624-9245

From the Vice Chair / Chair Elect, Barton Lessin

The winter issue of the Signal presents me with a good opportunity to talk about committee appointments. I want to encourage those of you who are interested in serving on STS committees and task forces to contact me at lessin@wayne.edu. STS Chair JoAnn DeVries and I will be making appointments during the course of the year and the appointment process will be greatly enhanced if we know about you and your interests in STS committees, discussion groups, and task forces. Please make time to introduce yourself and let me know how you would like to serve the Science and Technology Section of ACRL. There is no better time to do this than right now.

I'll also use this issue of the Signal to encourage you to help build STS and make it stronger for the present and into the future. Whether you currently serve on one of the many STS committees or are simply a member in good standing you can have a substantive impact on the health and well being of our section and association by working to recruitment just one
new STS member this year. Our association and, in fact, our profession depends on our ability to attract new librarians to science and technology librarianship. Let’s make a real effort this year to tell our colleagues, those new to the profession and those with more experience, about the value of the STS programs, publications, its avenues for service, and the wonderful occasions that it provides all of us to meet and interact with colleagues from other institutions of higher education. Join me in making recruitment a goal for yourself and for STS. Do your best to add one new member this year. Thanks for your interest in STS and working to enhance our section and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Barton Lessin
Director
Science and Engineering Library
Wayne State University
lessin@wayne.edu

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### College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The topic for the College Science Librarians discussion Group will be “The Information Seeking Behavior of Science Students.” This session will examine how science students are looking for information with particular focus on how the digital information revolution has changed this process. New information-gathering behaviors and learning styles will be explored as well as whether there are differences among the various disciplines in how information is acquired. Strategies to assist students in getting the information that they need will also be discussed. There will be two facilitators to aid in examining this subject.

Information supplied by Terri Freedman & Rocco M. Piccinino

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### General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group (GDG) held an interesting panel discussion at the ALA Midwinter meeting. Attended by about 40 conference goers, the discussion addressed some aspects of public services in the electronic library, all varied and timely. The four panelists reported on and answered questions about articles they had published in the most recent issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Libraries* (Number 32, Fall 2001). <http://www.istl.org/01-fall/>. Joann Sears from Auburn University spoke first, discussing her experience with real-time chat service at the Reference Desk. The second speaker, Susan Ardis of the University of Texas at Austin, reported on an ambitious project launched by her reference department, which provided web-based tutorials for their engineering graduate students. Bryna Coonin of East Carolina University discussed her article on serving sci-tech library users with disabilities, and Kathy Fescemyer from Penn State gave an account of her article, “Six Wishes of a Public Services Librarian.” Each presentation was followed with provocative questions prompting some good discussion on several topics.

Susan Ardis ended the session by throwing a question out to the audience asking what they thought new science and technology librarians needed but weren’t taught in library school. A number of good suggestions were offered, including the need to assure prospective librarians that they need not be afraid to answer questions beyond their expertise, and explanations of the peer review process.

Attendees were encouraged to plan to join the GDG session at the ALA Annual meeting in Atlanta on Sunday, June 16, 2002 from 9:30 am - 11:00 am when the GDG will combine with the Discussion Group of RUSA’s Business Reference & Services Section (BRASS) to sponsor a session of mutual interest to business and sci-tech librarians.

Information supplied by Meg E. Spencer

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### Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group

At Council I it was reported that there would be no Heads of Science and Technology Discussion Group meeting at the Midwinter meeting, but the group would hold its usual social gathering at a restaurant on Sunday.

At Council II it was reported that about 10 people had a great time at Ralph and Cacoo’s. It was also noted that the co-chairs had not yet decided on a subject for the discussion group meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

Information supplied by Laura Lane

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### Publisher / Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The discussion was held on Sunday and was a great success. Approximately 88 people attended the discussion, which was led by Eric Van de Velde, chair of the NISO OpenURL Committee and Jenny Walker Director of Sales and Marketing at Ex Libris. Mr. Van de Velde described OpenURL as transportable metadata, which will allow libraries to provide localized and targeted services to our users. The OpenURL standard has the following advantages: 1) permanent links; 2) multiple links per object; and, 3) context-sensitive links

More information can be found at: http://library.caltech.edu/OpenURL

Ms. Walker described the Ex Libris application of the OpenURL standard called SFX. This application delivers linking services and allows libraries to customize their links to fully integrate their information resources. When asked how long SFX takes to implement, Ms. Walker provided the following schedule:

1. Two-day training session
2. Library Staff localizes SFX
3. Live operation in 2-3 months

After hearing these opening remarks the group discussed future implications for libraries.

Information supplied by Catherine Soehner
Sci / Tech Databases Discussion Group

The Sci/Tech Databases Discussion Group met to discuss natural resources databases. There were about 30 attendees, gathered in a circle of chairs in a small room, facilitating easy discussion. The discussion leaders distributed a short handout with the URLs of some databases useful for natural resources topics; plans are to mount this list on the STS website.

Donna Gagnier (Co-chair), Fred Stoss (UBuffalo), and Marilyn Christianson (ULA at Baton Rouge) led the discussion. Donna talked about the databases she found useful for biology students and her local Audubon Chapter members. Fred discussed efforts for the development of a national library of the environment that could equal the status of the National Library of Medicine. He talked about the groups and people interested in creating such a library and the need for its resources. He has been active as a consultant as well as a user of environmental sources for years and has a related book in preparation. He was very knowledgeable about the history of efforts to create and fund such an entity, often contributing ideas for sources to others, as the discussion continued around the room.

Marilyn Christian spoke of Louisiana state and local sources, including those produced by campus institutes, and government entities. She distributed a section of a recent issue of the Baton Rouge Advocate featuring one of the biology faculty with whom she works. She pointed out that since Baton Rouge was home to both LSU and the State government, the local newspaper generally covered issues of the environment and natural resources better than other papers in the state. She urged attendees to go to the newspaper’s website because its archives include graphics that are usually missing from the commercially available newspaper databases. She spoke of the lack of sophistication of several databases, but the great value they hold when mined well.

The discussion progressed around the circle, each member identifying him or herself by name, institution, and the subjects that caused them to seek natural resources information. Surprisingly there were few repeats, and many unique sources recommended by others in the room. All attendees were urged to email to any of the three discussion group leaders the URLs they had mentioned as well as those they might think of later. These will be added to the STS site. Email invitations to attendees to invite them to use the site and participate in the group’s next discussion (topic will probably be environmental health issues) are planned.

Information supplied by Donna Gagnier

Committee on Comparison of Sci / Tech Libraries

A draft of an article summarizing data collected during the 5th survey (1998) was distributed to the committee members, who made minor alterations and agreed to submit the article for publication. A mini-survey on database subscriptions will be conducted as a web-based survey in mid-April. Data on demographics of STS membership taken from a 2000 survey of Division members will be used with information from the 5th survey to develop an article on education and career characteristics of sci-tech librarians (to be submitted for publication by June 2003). The survey will be announced on STS-L and STS-C electronic discussion lists and a mailing list of ARL library contacts used for the first mini-survey (2001). The resulting data will be used to prepare an article for publication by June 2002. The committee website will be moved to ACRL headquarters website to maintain continuity of the data as committee membership changes.

Information supplied by Mitchell Brown

Continuing Education Committee

Results of the Continuing Education Survey conducted in the fall are available. The results have been given to discussion group chairs and program planning committee chairs. (A short summary is printed as a separate report in this STS Signal and a more detailed version will be published in Issues in Science & Technology Libraries). Initial preparations for the next survey will begin at ALA Annual in Atlanta.

The committee has decided to allow non-STS users (such as librarians associated with the Tribal Colleges and Universities) to access the Collegial Counsel site. Usage will be monitored more closely to ensure that volunteer counselors are not overwhelmed by requests for assistance. We will also be investigating possible liaison relationships with other mentoring programs within ALA, ACRL, and SLA.

The committee determined its need to further develop the STS Professional Continuing Education on the Web page using the results of our latest survey. Work will begin on this at ALA Annual in Atlanta.

Information supplied by Jeanne Davidson

Forum for Sci / Tech Library Research

Using a blinded review process, the Research Committee evaluated abstracts which had been submitted for presentation at the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research at ALA Annual 2002. On the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, and relevance to science and technology librarianship, the Committee selected the following proposals for presentation: Philip Davis (Cornell University), “E-Journal Use Statistics: Institutional and Consortial Analysis;” and Ibironke Lawal (Virginia Commonwealth University), “Scholarly Communication: The Use and Non-Use of E-Print Archives in the Dissemination of Scientific Information and Perception of the Academy on the Role E-Prints Play in Relation to the Tenure/Promotion Process.” The Committee has invited STS Past Chair and distinguished researcher and author, Julie Hurd (University of Illinois, Chicago) to participate in the Forum.
Government Information Committee

The Government Information Committee welcomed one new member, Randall Halverson, at the Midwinter meeting.

The committee discussed the Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism), passed by Congress on October 26, 2001 and signed by President Bush. The US Senate voted 98-1 for the bill, and the House voted 357-66 to pass it. This lengthy, far-reaching Act that has many implications for libraries. The focus of the committee in light of this act is access to government information dealing with science and technology.

OMB Watch provides a number of suggestions for obtaining information following the U. S. PATRIOT Act: 1) go to OMB Web site to see which government sites are current http://www.ombwatch.org/; 2) identify a blocked website and place a “need to know” request; 3) OMB attorneys say there are currently no grounds to sue if information is removed from a site; 4) track your own local and state government pages for removal of information; 5) contact members of Congress; and, 6) ALA’s website on U. S. PATRIOT Act http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/alertusapatriotact.html.

The committee would like to restructure its web page. This should be completed by the end of March or the beginning of April. Timely updates will be key. A committee member will monitor the GOVDOC-l listserv.

The committee would like to explore the possibility of presenting a program.

Information supplied by Jennifer Laherty

Oberly Award Committee

Because this is an even number year, the Oberly is not scheduled to be awarded. The committee has four new members who are learning the history and process of awarding the Oberly. The committee will be reviewing the information on the working pages and adding to it. We are also reviewing the address lists for distributing the nomination information during the summer.

Information supplied by Kathy Fescemyer

Organization and Planning Committee

Committee attendance was nearly 100% at the midwinter meeting, and we had a very good discussion on the current draft of the STS Strategic Planning document. The strategic plan is written to support both the ACRL plan and objectives, as well as the goals of STS. A final draft has been forwarded to the STS Council, with the committee’s recommendation for approval. The committee will be at work on devising specific action plans to achieve the plan’s objectives.

Information supplied by Alison Ricker

as our guest expert responder. We look forward to stimulating presentations and a lively discussion on the research and publication process at the Forum in Atlanta.

Using the same blinded review process, the Committee also considered proposals for posters to be displayed at the STS Reception following the section’s program in Atlanta. Poster proposals were selected by authors Kathy Fescemyer (Pennsylvania State University); Randall Halverson and Sally Neal (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis); and Paul G. Haschak (Southeastern Louisiana University). The Research Committee is working with the Program Committee to facilitate the poster session, which will focus on the program’s theme of intellectual property issues in the digital age.

Information supplied by Kathryn Kjaer

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The meeting of the Membership and Recruitment Committee (co-chaired by Lori Jean Critz and Nancy Hayes centered on several tactical issues: the New Member Orientation to be held at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, the Sci/Tech librarianship recruitment letter, and the revision and reprinting of the STS brochure in 2003. Planning for the New Member Orientation is under way, and the Committee has requested that the event be scheduled for Saturday morning in order to provide maximum benefit to first-time conference attendees. Details under discussion included the format of the event, refreshments, “door prize” incentives, and publicity. The Committee finalized the Sci/Tech librarianship recruitment letter over the summer and we are waiting for ACRL headquarters to complete the distribution (via the mail) to STS members. The letter is in response to the continuing evidence of the decline in numbers of librarians in the science, engineering, and technology areas and is part of the effort to promote careers in librarianship to student workers. There was a preliminary discussion on the revision (in 2003) of the STS brochure. Our current supply should be sufficient for 2002. Prior to replenishing the supply, the Membership and Recruitment Committee will ask STS Council for input on needed changes in content and/or design and will then work with the Publications Committee to facilitate production of the new brochures.

Information supplied by Lori Jean Critz
Librarians do many different things as part of our jobs. In addition to reference work, our assignments may include collection building, evaluation of reference collections and services, stack organization and shifting, creating home pages, designing instructional flyers, or any one of a million other special projects. If your job has ever required you to do something you did not learn in library school, *Collegial Counsel* may help. The STS Continuing Education Committee has gathered a list of individuals willing to help less experienced librarians in all aspects of librarianship. The list includes the names of volunteers, areas of expertise, and contact information. You may choose to contact anyone on the list whose experience and expertise matches your needs or interests.

So the next time you are asked to write, shift, present, catalog, teach, organize, or administer something for your job and do not know where to start, start with STS’s *Collegial Counsel*. You may (or may not) be surprised to encounter colleagues who have successfully completed similar projects.

The usefulness of Collegial Counsel has been enhanced because it is now organized alphabetically, geographically, by subject specialty, and by type of library. The new organization should make it easier to find the individual who could assist you in your assignment(s). The list is available from the STS homepage at: 

http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/conted/counsel/counsel.htm

If you are an experienced sci/tech librarian and would like to share your expertise, we would be happy to hear from you!!

For more information contact:
Jeanne Davidson, The Valley Library, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-4501, Phone: (541) 737-7275, Fax: (541) 737-8224, E-mail: Jeanne.Davidson@orst.edu

Information provided by Christina M. Desai
Publications Committee

The Section email list, STS-L, currently has 1,040 subscribers. The committee discussed the need for an attachment policy for STS-L, and voted to ban attachments from the list. Chairs took this issue to STS Council II and received agreement. The committee also discussed the possible ways to have messages arriving from STS-L display in individual subscriber email in-boxes. The two best possibilities are either a standard “STS-L Moderator” label or the name of the individual sender with no indication that it is from STS-L. Chairs took this issue to STS Council II and their preference is to have “STS-L Moderator” appear as the email sender.

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL) has 2,902 names on the subscriber mailing list. Two new members, Jeanne Poland and Michael Fosmire, have joined the Editorial Board. The topic for the winter issue topic is assessment. The spring issue topic will be partnerships, and the summer issue will be the annual open-topic issue. The number of submissions for the refereed section has increased, and ISTL has been able to publish one refereed article per issue, and may soon be able to increase to two per issue.

The STS website continues to grow and gain visitors. ACRL has sent the STS webmaster, Jennifer Duvernay, a list of pages that need updating, the those changes will be made before the ALA Annual meeting. Members appreciated the Midwinter conference session information and map.

The committee will spend the time between Midwinter and Annual deciding on a new Co-Editor for STS Signal and a new Co-Chair. Both positions will begin after the Annual conference.

Information supplied by Heather Moberly & Philip Herold

Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

The STS Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee met at ALA Midwinter in New Orleans on Saturday, Jan. 19th. During its meeting, the remaining tasks for completing its research paper, “Perceived Successes and Failures of Science & Technology E-Journal Access: A Comparative Study,” were identified and split up among the members. In late February, the Committee submitted the paper to the online journal Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship.

The Committee also decided to prepare a proposal for a panel discussion at the ACRL National Conference in Charlotte, N.C. in April 2003. Our panel will address current issues of the bibliographic control of gray literature in the fields of science and technology. The Committee plans to submit its proposal by the May 31st deadline.

In response to a report given by Pat Kreitz at Council I, the Committee decided to discuss via email ideas for possible internship programs, scholarships, awards, etc., for technical services staff whose specialty is science and technology librarianship, and for library school students who plan a career in this specialty.

Committee member Sophie Bogdanski expressed an interest in becoming the STS’ liaison to the ASEE a year from now.

Information supplied by Steven Riel

2002 Conference Planning Committee

At the committee's Midwinter meeting, Richard Llewellyn reported on some announcements he had heard in the ACRL Programming Committee meeting. They included the timetable for speaker contracts (with provision for taping).

The committee discussed the time table for program speakers. The main speakers will be Dr. Alan Covich and Dr. Mary Severson. Each will speak for about 25 minutes on how intellectual property issues affect their scientific/academic work. The other speakers, Dr. Linda Dobbs and Carrie Russell, will each speak for 15 minutes on the librarian aspect of intellectual property issues. The program should last two hours. Caroline Handy will put together the evaluation form for the session.

The remainder of the program time block will be used for a Reception/Poster Session. JoAnn DeVries spoke about the arrangements for the refreshments. Julie Kelly and Taeock Kim will handle the poster session in coordination with the Research Committee.

Kristan Majors reported on the projected visit to the Carlos Museum and lunch plans. Monica Pereira outlined the plans for visiting the Atlanta Botanical Garden. After some discussion, the Committee decided to reverse the visit plans. As it now stands, the tour will begin with the Garden, proceed to Emory University for lunch, and then make the visit to the Carlos Museum (which is on Emory’s campus).

Julie Kelly and Susan Kimbal will handle advertising, including posting on the STS Webpage, STS Signal, STS-L, and printing a handout to distribute in Atlanta.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn
TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE
Association of College and Research Libraries
Science and Technology Section
Annual Conference 2002; Atlanta, GA

**DAY/DATE/TIME**                      **COMMITTEE**

Friday, June 14
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  STS Council I (*8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in program)
9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Executive Board

Saturday, June 15
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Oberly Award Committee (closed) (*8:00 a.m. in program)
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Comparison of Sci / Tech Libraries Committee
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 2003 Program Planning Committee
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Publisher / Vendor Relations Discussion Group
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 2002 Program Planning Committee
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Discussion Group Chairs Meeting
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ACRL no-conflict time
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Organization & Planning Committee
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ALA no-conflict time

Sunday, June 16
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. New Member Orientation
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Government Information Committee
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Continuing Education Committee
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. General Discussion Group
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Publications Committee
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Membership & Recruitment Committee
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. College Science Librarians Discussion Group
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (closed)
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Heads of Sci/tech Libraries Discussion Group

Monday, June 17
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. STS Program
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ACRL no-conflict time
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. STS Council II (*8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in program)

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

Attending Your First ALA Conference or New to STS?

Our 'Welcome to ALA' Get Together,

sponsored by the Membership & Recruitment, is for YOU!

Sunday, June 16 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
ACRL’S FIRST E-PUB: InPrint: Publishing Opportunities for College Librarians

If you’re looking for relevant information about what journals might be interested in an idea you have or you want to encourage your staff to publish more, the Research for College Librarianship Committee (RCLC) of the College Libraries Section of ACRL has just what you need: InPrint: Publishing Opportunities for College Librarians.

The benefit of InPrint is that it allows great flexibility in reviewing and selecting journals in which to publish. Not only do the descriptions of titles include e-mail links to editors, but a searcher can specify that s/he wants only titles that are refereed, that have an acceptance rate of better than 50 percent, that require fewer than 20 pages, and that have editors who will respond to writers in less than two months.

Launched in early January 2001, InPrint is available at for $35 ($25 for ACRL members). The cost includes access to data for two years and RCLC members will be reviewing and updating entries every six months. Titles included will interest all academic librarians and cover the fields of library and information science, higher education, computer technology, and college teaching in specific disciplines.

By publicizing editors who are willing to discuss ideas and in some cases to mentor writers and researchers and by targeting useful publications, RCLC members hope to make it easier for academic librarians to contribute to the literature.