From the Chair, Barton Lessin

Chestalene Pintozzi and the other 2003 STS Program Planning Committee members have worked hard to prepare a program of interest and value for this summer’s ALA Conference. Please plan to attend this year’s STS program Partners in Science: An Exploration of a Scientist-Librarian Relationship. Better yet, plan to attend along with a friend or co-worker who has an interest in science/technology libraries. STS has much to offer and potential members are most welcome to attend. Be sure to leave time in your schedule to attend the poster session and reception that follow the program. This will be a nice opportunity to meet with colleagues, have some snacks, and learn from the poster presentations selected for this year’s program. The STS program and reception are sponsored this year by five well-known science/technology publishers: Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Elsevier Science, Inc., YBP Library Services, Springer Verlag New York, and Swets Blackwell, Inc. Your willingness to drop by the conference display booths for these vendors and express your appreciation for their support may help to assure their interest in assisting STS again next year.

Thanks for taking the time to do this for our association.

STS offers a wide range of interesting discussions at every ALA conference. Be sure to check on the times and locations of STS programming so that you will not miss these opportunities to discuss current issues of importance in science/technology libraries with your colleagues from across the country.

I look forward to talking with you in Toronto.

Barton Lessin
Director, Science and Engineering Library
Wayne State University
lessin@wayne.edu
Phone: 313-577-4373

The Times They Are A-Changin’—starting with the ALA web site. As we go to press, ALA is preparing to unveil significant changes. The STS pages will have new and more extensive URLs. Rather than providing out of date or ridiculously long addresses in this issue of Signal, our best advice at present is to go to the STS web site and look for the appropriate link(s) there. To access the STS web site, go to http://www.ala.org/acrl and choose “About ACRL”, then “Sections”, and finally STS.

More changes may be in the offing. Signal editors would like to poll our members for feedback on this publication. Do you read it? Is it useful? What features would you like to see added? We hope to create a more lively newsletter and would appreciate your opinions. A short online survey is available as a link from the STS web page; it shouldn’t take long (5-10 minutes) to complete unless you turn it into a writing assignment.

STS SIGNAL is a biannual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2517. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferred, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Elizabeth Cooksey, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411, Phone: (912) 598-2474, Fax: (912) 598-2391, E-mail: liz@skio.peachnet.edu; Barbara MacAlpine, Trinity University Library, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200, Phone: (210) 999-7343, Fax: (210) 999-8182, E-mail: bmacalpi@trinity.edu

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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/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Divisions/ACRL/About_ACRL/Sections/Science_and_Technology/STS_Publications/STS_Signal.htm
From the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Jill Newby

Having attended STS discussion groups and council meetings during the ALA Midwinter conference in Philadelphia in January, I’m reminded of all the time and effort that goes into planning successful programs, publications, surveys, peer review of new research, organizational planning and all the other large and small details necessary to keep STS running smoothly. Thanks to all STS volunteers for your hard work and support of STS! If you would like to join in the fun and planning of STS activities, please send in a volunteer form available on the STS web site.

STS always welcomes new members. If you know librarians new to science and technology librarianship, please share the benefits of joining STS. Encourage them to visit the STS web site, and attend STS programs and discussion group meetings. The Membership and Recruitment Committee is planning another Saturday morning reception and orientation for new members at ALA Annual in Toronto. This is a great way to meet other STS members and become familiar with the work of the section. Watch for news of the new member reception on the STS list. (See also the back page of this issue of Signal.)

I look forward to seeing colleagues at the STS meetings in Toronto during the ALA Conference in June.

Jill Newby
Science-Engineering Library
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The STS General Discussion Group and the Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management Discussion Group joined forces to host an informal discussion with the title “Technostress, Burnout & the Sci/Tech Librarian.” Over 40 librarians attended the Saturday afternoon meeting, which resulted in a lively interchange of experiences and ideas. Librarians from large universities and small colleges alike shared many of the same frustrations and concerns about keeping up with email, electronic resources and the everyday activities that take place in a busy Sci/Tech Library. The discussion ended with some attempt to come up with solutions to help us deal with stress and burnout. Coordinating the learning of new software with an institution’s IT department was seen as a way to reduce the learning curve while fostering institutional collegiality. Taking a leave of absence was also discussed (although the consensus seemed to be that any good received from a semester away from the job quickly disappeared when one returned to the job). Other suggestions offered were: filtering email, subscribing to listserv digests, identifying tasks we no longer had to do, becoming a mentor, doing yoga and “mentally letting go”.

The following evening, the Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management Discussion Group organized an informal dinner in a Burmese restaurant near the Convention Center. Eleven people, including one non-STS member, showed up to chow down Burmese style spinach salad, stir fried noodles, basil tofu and an assortment of meats and poultry. We shared conversation on teaching techniques, liaison work with faculty and the impending journal cancellations that loom ahead for many of us. We decided that our meeting in June will be on the topic of training new science librarians.

Information supplied by Susan Case, Laura Lane, Victoria Mitchell, Meg Spencer

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

Guest speaker Heather Joseph, CEO and COO of BioOne (a web-based aggregation of 57 journals in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences) talked about recent changes in how researchers in the biological sciences share information. Data are now collected electronically in real time, often producing enormous data sets. Web publishing allows the scientists to share these data and present findings via video and more sophisticated forms of visual representation. Despite the benefits of this new mode of dialogue, some small publishers have been unable to find the resources to move into web publishing. BioOne has been an economical and successful collaboration among non-commercial publishers, the commercial publisher, Allen Press; and the library community, via SPARC, the Greater Western Library Alliance, and subscribing libraries. Joseph reported that contracts are under way to add ten journals by the end of 2003. BioOne is expanding cautiously to insure a stable revenue stream for the participating publishers, who receive half of BioOne’s revenue. BioOne is also working to establish links from bibliographic databases. “Link Resolver” software now links references in BioOne articles to online full text articles. Participants are assured that archival access to BioOne articles is guaranteed into perpetuity. After Joseph’s presentation, attendees from Allen Press, SPARC, and the library and publishing community asked questions and shared comments.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey
Science & Technology Information Discussion Group

The Science & Technology Information Discussion Group (formerly known as the Science & Technology Databases Discussion Group) hosted a discussion about <science.gov>, the “FirstGov for Science,” an exciting new resource. Launched in December 2002, <science.gov> provides a gateway to science & technology information from fourteen scientific and technical information organizations from ten major U.S. government science agencies. Users can find more than 1000 government information resources about science, including technical reports, journal citations, databases, federal web sites, and fact sheets.

We were delighted that several people from the science.gov team joined us to provide an overview of the site and to participate in our discussion about this resource, its application in libraries, and future directions. This discussion also offered insight into the process of bringing a multi-party project to fruition. Among our special guests were Eleanor G. Frierson, Deputy Director, National Agricultural Library (NAL) and co-chair, Science.gov Alliance, Walt Warnick, Department of Energy, Gail Hodge, Science.gov secretariat, Melanie Gardner, NAL and Yvette Alonso, NAL.

Over 60 people attended the session and we received very positive feedback. We thank all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our ALA Annual discussion where we will explore genomics information and the role of libraries in gathering, understanding and disseminating this emerging data.

Information supplied by Angi Faiks & Ann Robinson

Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee

The revised STS Strategic Plan emphasizes the need to look at assessment and states that some group in STS needs to “Consult with appropriate agencies regarding assessment techniques” as well as “Provide opportunities to learn about assessment.” In keeping with this, the STS Organization & Planning Committee has recommended that the STS Comparison of Science &Technology Libraries Committee reconsider its charge, focusing on assessment.

The Committee discussed the possibility of distributing a questionnaire to STS members on patterns and trends. Alternatively, a survey could be taken to determine what’s currently important to members. The Committee resolved to conduct a survey to provide data on how those who are assessing their libraries are doing so, inquiring about processes and techniques used. It was determined to focus on “the What, the How, and the Results.” A questionnaire will be compiled and distributed to STS members. Possible vehicles for the eventual dissemination of compiled information include STS-L, ISTL, the STS web site, or an article.

The Committee will determine if other committees or groups in ACRL or ALA are involved in assessment, and if so, find out what these groups are doing. The possibility of conducting a program or discussion group on assessment for STS members will be explored by the Committee. A bibliography of relevant articles on assessment will be compiled to provide information and perspective.

The Committee’s name should be revised to include the new mission of exploring “Assessment.” This will be discussed in Toronto.

Information supplied by Don Frank

Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education Committee began preparations for the biennial survey of STS members’ continuing education needs. The upcoming survey, which will be conducted in the fall, will be largely the same as the last one to allow for some longitudinal comparisons. Additional demographic information will be added along with questions regarding members’ interest in preconferences, teleconferences and/or web-based continuing education.

The name of the STS mentoring program will be changed from its current “Collegial Counsel” to “Sci/Tech Library Mentors.” We recommended creating a link to the Sci/Tech Library Mentors web pages on the main STS page and we will be exploring possibilities with ACRL as well, e.g. with the New Members Round Table. We will be developing a reporting process for volunteer mentors to use to aid in tracking usage of the service.

Information supplied by Jeanne Davidson

Government Information Committee

In January, the committee uploaded a new version of its web-links page, now titled “Top 100 Science/Technology Government Information Links”. The committee appreciates STS members’ suggestions of “best of the best” government web pages and portal sites. Also, we are interested in receiving feedback on our “government information policy” sites. Please see the updated page linked from the STS web site.

Our committee members attended five government information-related meetings at ALA Midwinter. Predominant themes were concern regarding 1) the impact of the USA Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act upon the distribution of government documents, and 2) the need for improved archiving of documents posted online by federal agencies.
1. GODORT Update Meeting

   Judy Russell, recently appointed as U.S. Superintendent of Documents, is the first female Superintendent and the second librarian in the position. GPO is challenging librarians to provide feedback this year to assist the drafting of plans for a “21st Century” GPO and Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Comments on the appropriate functions and structure for GPO and the FDLP can be submitted via GPO’s Comments and Questions form: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/amail001.shtml?fdlp/lilibro.html.

   Patrice McDermott, Assistant Director, Office of Government Relations, ALA Washington Office, reported:

   - Nearly 200 public comments were apparently received regarding the decision to discontinue PubScience; only 7 favored discontinuing the service. The Department of Energy’s Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) has analyzed these comments, but has not been willing to release its report.

   - There is a trend to move toward a “need to know”, rather than a “right to know” basis for access to “federal” information. The E-gov Act signed in December 2002 requires that agencies “categorize” (catalog) documents, and post priorities and timetables for providing access. It is not clear whether this act will lead to improved access.

   - “Critical Infrastructure Protection” restrictions were created in the Homeland Security Act passed in Fall 2001; last fall, “Critical Energy Infrastructure” restrictions were proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

   - Regarding the development of a 21st century GPO, it’s not clear what this would look like, but the new Public Printer is publicly committed to enhancing access to government information. The proposed change to the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) may, however, allow for-profit publishers to benefit at the expense of government information users.

2. GODORT Federal Documents Task Force

   Presentations were made by representatives from the Census and GPO. In response to a comment about the potential value of linking software such as SFX, a GPS representative promised to give higher priority to a plan to add Perl coding to records, to allow open URL linking.

3. GODORT International Documents Task Force

   The GODORT Education committee has created three background issues kits, “Balancing Information Access Since 9-11.” These are Chronology, Brief Bibliography, and Web Resources. See these at: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/education/.

4. GODORT State and Local Task Force

   Michael Esman of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) mentioned that NAL is seeking catalog records of agriculture documents from every state, including land grant institutions’ holdings and agricultural experiment station publications. Patricia Finney of the Center for Research Libraries reported on the progress of the comprehensive collection of US state documents project dating from the 18th Century to 1950.

5. ALA Washington Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) Copyright Advisory Committee

   This committee heard both good news and bad about the fight for fair use. The good news: The Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act, “TEACH”, was signed into law on November 2, 2002. It updates copyright law to accommodate digital technologies that support distance learning. Another bill, focusing on consumer concerns and reaffirming fair use in the digital environment, the Digital Media Consumers’ Rights Act [DMCRA] H.R. 107, was introduced in October 2002. This law would make changes to three sections of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998.

   The bad news: Copyright Protection Rulemaking legislation to protect commercial databases has been promoted in Congress for several years. If passed, it will be detrimental to education, research and commerce. ALA is part of a broad coalition opposing or seeking exemptions in the law. Reed-Elsevier supports another version of this legislation.

   Information supplied by Randall Halverson and Julie Williamsen

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Membership and Recruitment Committee

   We discussed the following committee-related projects at our Midwinter meeting:

   The STS New Members Orientation/Reception will be held on Saturday June 21, 2003 from 8 - 9 a.m. in Toronto at a location to be determined. Planning for the event is under way. There is not a “sister” organization to STS in the CLA so co-sponsorship for the Reception seems unlikely. The Reception has been listed as a “program” rather than a “committee meeting” this year in the ALA program; should enhance attendance. If the STS Chair can secure vendor sponsorship, the event will include a continental breakfast. The Membership Committee is working on promotion/PR for the Reception, including postings to non-STS listserves within ALA, CLA, and other organizations, and contacts with area library schools as well as with area science & technology librarians. The format will be similar to last year’s, with introductions and informal remarks from STS members in attendance, followed by a question & answer period, and then informal “networking”.

   The Sci/Tech librarianship recruitment letter has been drafted by the Membership & Recruitment Committee and modeled after one crafted by Larry Hardesty for ALA, which was distributed by ACRL to all STS personal members (via the ACRL mailing list) in July 2002. The letter is an attempt to recruit student library workers into academic librarianship by encouraging STS members at ACRL libraries to promote the profession and encourage/mentor these students. The costs associated with this mailing came from the $1500 award ACRL granted to each section last
The Membership Committee is continuing to explore recruitment efforts. Several projects are in progress: contact with teachers of science & technology classes in library schools via a “formal” letter asking for help in reaching out to students; contact with non-STS attendees of STS programs and discussion groups/receptions, again via a “formal letter” promoting STS and sci/tech librarianship; and mounting of information (the STS brochure, the letters used to promote membership, links to articles on sci/tech librarianship) on the STS web site.

The Membership & Recruitment Committee provided 500 “STS Midwinter 2003” name tag stickers for the Midwinter Conference. The Committee Chairs distributed the “STS 2003” stickers at the Council I meeting so that committee/discussion group chairs could distribute them to members and attendees. For Annual, we will continue this practice and also have stickers available at the ACRL booth.

Revision of the STS brochure is under way. Requests are being sent to all committee and discussion group chairs for “content” contributions. Information returned to the Membership Committee will include an update/revision of the “charge” information for each particular committee or discussion group as well as any other suggestions on material to include in the brochure.

Information on the history of STS as well as a section on the benefits of joining our section will be added to the brochure. The Membership & Recruitment Committee will collect and collate the information, pare down and edit selected content. The Publications Committee will then develop the graphic layout/design. The Membership & Recruitment Chairs will bring the mock-up to Council I at Annual 2003 for feedback. Revisions will be made and a final draft will be presented to Council—possibly via email—for approval in July, as the deadline for submission to ACRL is August 2003. A December 2003 completion date is still anticipated.

Information supplied by Lori Critz

The Oberly Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the 2003 Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences.

Dr. David G. Frodin
Honorary Research Associate of Royal Botanic Garden, Kew in Great Britain, is the author of:

**Guide to standard floras of the world: an annotated, geographically arranged systematic bibliography of the principal floras, enumerations, checklists, and chorological atlases of different areas. Second edition.** The book was published in 2001 by Cambridge University Press.

This outstanding bibliography is the most important guide to floras of the world and is a valuable resource to librarians, botanists, horticulturists and anyone doing research on plant biodiversity.

Organization and Planning Committee

Four members of the Organization and Planning Committee met during the midwinter meeting. We reviewed the 2002 STS Strategic Plan (linked from the STS web site), which we have amended to indicate how each goal is currently being addressed. We also included in the amended plan specific suggestions and questions for standing committees regarding actions on the objectives. This annotated document was distributed to STS Council members via email, and was briefly discussed at the Council I meeting on January 24. The committee will continue to monitor progress on reaching the goals outlined in the plan. Our other primary focus is the STS Manual, which was last updated in 1999. The committee recommends that the Manual cease to exist as a discrete handbook for the section, and that its content be revised and moved to relevant sections of the STS web site (e.g., information related to scheduling committee meetings will move to the committee section on the web site). This will reduce duplicate content at the STS web site and, we hope, make updates to content easier. We encourage STS members to review both the plan and manual and offer your suggestions regarding either document.

Information supplied by Alison Ricker

### 2003 STS Officer Candidates

**Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:**

Susan B. Case
Jeanne R. Davidson

**Secretary/Publicity Officer-Elect**

Edward L. F. Gonzalez
Kathryn Kjaer

Information supplied by Alison Ricker
Research Committee

Using a blind review process, the Research Committee evaluated abstracts submitted for paper presentations at the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research at ALA Annual 2003. On the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, research methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship, the Committee selected the following proposals for presentation:

“Student Expectations for Library Web Site Organization,” Charity Hope and Shannon Staley, San Jose State University Library
“Creative Solutions through Collaboration: Information Literacy for a Large First Year Biology Class,” Pamela Jacobs and Wendy Rodgers, University of Guelph Library

A guest commentator will be invited to provide expert feedback for the authors at the Forum. We look forward to the presentations and a discussion with the authors, our guest commentator, and the audience about the research process at the annual conference in Toronto.

The Committee also used a blind review process to review proposals for posters to be displayed at the reception following the STS program in Toronto. Seven groups of authors were invited to present posters:

Information supplied by Philip Herold

Subject and Bibliographic Assess Committee

As the proposal to present a panel discussion on grey literature at ACRL National did not go through, the committee is partnering with the General Discussion Group Committee to sponsor a session in Toronto on the same topic. The title of the session will be “Fading of the greyness in grey literature: Is grey literature still grey?” At Midwinter, the committee talked about issues that need to be worked out with our partners to have an eventful, successful and well-attended program.

The committee also spent considerable time discussing the draft version of its “Selected Annotated Bibliography on Grey Literature in Sciences.” This bibliography, now being prepared, would be adapted to produce a handout for the joint program in Toronto. The committee wants to work it up to publishing standards and explore that possibility. To this effect, it was decided to: 1) add an introductory paragraph to address issues such as audience, scope, coverage and selection criteria; 2) conduct an up-to-date search to include items in European languages other than English or French as well as publications from alternative presses. It was agreed that a chronological arrangement would be most useful.

In the little time left, the committee discussed its next project, investigating subject analysis practices among science and technology libraries that catalog electronic theses and dissertations (ETD). If the Library of Congress Subject Headings are not adequate for providing the subjects, what are the alternatives?

Information supplied by Ibironke Lawal
### SCHEDULE

**ACRL Science & Technology Section---2003 Annual Meeting---Toronto, CANADA**

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<th>Day/Date/Time</th>
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<td><strong>Friday, June 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</strong> STS Council I</td>
<td><strong>Sunday June 22</strong></td>
<td>Government Information Committee</td>
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<td>(*8:00 - 10:00 p.m. in program)</td>
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<td>Continuing Education Committee</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, June 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:00 - 9:00 a.m.</strong> New Member Orientation</td>
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<td>Science/Technology Information Discussion Group</td>
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<td><strong>8:00 - 11:00 a.m.</strong> Oberly Award Committee</td>
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<td>Membership and Recruitment Committee</td>
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<td>Organization and Planning Committee</td>
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<td><strong>8:30 - 11:00 a.m.</strong> Comparison of Sci/Tech</td>
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<td>Libraries Committee</td>
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<td><strong>8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</strong> 2003 Program Planning Committee</td>
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<td><strong>8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</strong> 2004 Program Planning Committee</td>
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|                     | **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Publications Committee  | **Monday, June 23** | STS Program: "Partners in Science: An Exploration of a Scientist-Librarian Relationship"
|                     | **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee |
|                     | **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group |
|                     | **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Discussion Group Chairs Meeting |
|                     | **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Research Committee (closed) |
|                     | **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** General Discussion Group |
| **Sunday June 22** | **8:30 - 11:00 a.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**                  |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |
| **Monday, June 23** | **8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**                  |                     |                                                  |
|                     | **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**                         |                     |                                                  |

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

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### 2004 Conference Program Planning Committee

The committee met for the first time at Midwinter in Philadelphia. We discussed the general process and logistics of putting on the program at the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. While our discussions are still in the earliest stages, the topic that emerged as a favorite involves collaborations with teaching faculty to promote information literacy in the sciences. This fits in with ACRL’s 2004 theme of partnerships and connections in the learning community. Members will brainstorm possible speakers this spring. If any readers would like to suggest possible outstanding speakers, or if you know of an exemplary faculty-librarian collaboration effort underway, please contact the committee co-chairs. The program will occupy the usual Monday 8:30--12 time slot and may be followed by a poster session and the STS reception.

*Information supplied by David Flaxbart*

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### Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology

Discussion by the Task Force centered on subject areas to cover and how to best format the Information Literacy in the Sciences final report. The inclusion of the following disciplines: chemistry, engineering (including computer science), geosciences, life sciences (including environmental sciences), and mathematics (including statistics) was agreed upon by those present. The Task Force will be reviewing regional accreditation standards and subject specific accreditation. Additionally, the members will look at the broad ACRL Information Literacy Standards and determine how applicable they are to the sciences. At the 2004 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego there will be a discussion group to go over a working draft for review by the STS membership. A web site will be created to post the STS IL document as it progresses, and a finalized report will be produced after January of 2004.

*Information supplied by Catherine Woodworth Wong and Virginia Baldwin*
Heading to your first ALA Conference?

A new recruit to Sci/Tech Librarianship?

Never been to Canada??

Join us for an informal reception and orientation for new STS members. Learn--network--have a ball!

Saturday, June 21, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the STS Membership and Recruitment Committee