FROM THE CHAIR, Ginny Baldwin

Chicago!!! This fabulous centrally located city will provide this year’s backdrop for our annual migration to sharpen our skills, discuss breakthroughs with our colleagues, and reach for heightened levels of expertise. Even in “these trying times” our sponsors are coming through for STS. Save your appetites! Thanks to skilled mastermind fundraiser, Mel DeSart, we have sponsors for our two catered breakfasts, during Saturday’s New Member and Sunday’s All Member sessions, and for the Friday evening reception. Saturday morning is an opportunity for those of you investigating support of STS through committee participation to sit in on the meeting of the committee(s) of your choice for insight into their functions. Be sure to read up on their important work elsewhere in this issue of Signal. STS programs fill the day on Sunday and the Monday morning program, “Big Science, Little Science, E-Science: the Science librarian’s Role in the Conversation” promises to enlighten and equip us for this important undertaking. Our Chicago experience will be punctuated with an STS Sunday dinner and a Tuesday morning trip to the Adler Planetarium.

A bit of a “State of the Section” speech seems appropriate here. Based on the extensive committee work reported at Midwinter and the ongoing support of our leaders, STS continues to be productive, creative, and healthy. Your leaders are remarkable. From committee co-chairs, to your elected officers, and including the first responder, Denise Bennet, who has grasped her role in the newly created Member-at-Large position and taken off with it. All of your leaders, including our past and future chairs, deserve a giant thank you for their competence and insightful contributions. Support from the membership is abundant, from committee work, to STS-L contributions, and through your participation in conference discussions. Two task forces are active. One is planning STS 50th anniversary celebrations for ALA Annual 2011. The other is tackling the important work of supporting science and technology related open access. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing service. What a thrill and a pleasure it has been to be a part of it all!

Midwinter Denver deserves an added note or two. Each council member briefly related a cowboy-type experience during introductions. Some required a bit of a stretch of the imagination, intriguing nonetheless. At Council II judge and past-chair Barbara MacAlpine announced first and second place winners of the Cowboy Hat Awards:

Continued on page 2
Most Western: George Porter, Jenna Ryan
Most Original: Peter Larsen, Rachel Borchardt
Most Colorful: Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, Maliaca Oxnam

One more note of appreciation is in order. Our thanks go to Institute of Physics Publishing for their very generous sponsorship of our STS dinner at Midwinter Denver. Fun reps, fun evening.

See you in Chicago!

Ginny Baldwin, STS Chair

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, DISCUSSION GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

Assessment Committee

Brian Lym and Beth Blanton-Kent continue to work with the Publications Committee on the recruiting video. Helen Smith and Amelia Brunskill are going to work with the Research Committee to get feedback on how to improve attendance and submissions. Allison Level and Melanie Vicedo meet regularly with the Information Literacy Committee to ensure that communication between the two groups continues to be strong. Norma Kobzina and Amelia Brunskill have high hopes for working with the Continuing Education Committee. Carolyn Hart, Melanie Vicedo and Rachel Borchardt are working on the assessment components for the two STS sponsored ACRL programs in Seattle. Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, Helen Smith and Rachel Borchardt provided feedback for the Liaison Committee and for the Publisher/Vendor Relations session. Helen Smith continues to work on our wiki. We’ll be working on publicizing it at a meeting soon. We also helped with the Hot Topic discussion about assessment. It wasn’t exactly what we planned, but the two speakers, Lisa Hinchcliffe and Debra Gilchrist, were wonderfully inspiring. And, they were masterfully introduced by Peter Larsen. Look for the notes from the Hot Topics group for more. We hope to meet virtually and in person at Annual in Chicago.

Annie Zeidman-Karpinski (Co-Chair)

Conference Program Planning Committee

The Conference Planning Committee is organizing an exciting program for ALA Annual this July in Chicago. The title of the program is “Big Science, Little Science, E-Science: the science librarian’s role in the conversation.”

The Committee has identified three outcomes for the program:
- Raising awareness of data projects of a size librarians can manage and be involved in
- Raising comfort level of subject librarians with issues related to e-science and data management
- Empowering science librarians to approach faculty members about the issues of data and its curation.

Speakers for this panel program include:

**Dr. Chris Greer**, National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure

**Dr. George Djorgovski**, Professor of Astronomy, Caltech

**John Saylor**, Cornell University Libraries

**Melissa Cragin**, Coordinator of the Data Curation Program, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Our metadata speaker, Laura Smart (CalTech) is unable to join us as planned. The committee is working with ALCTS to provide a substitute for Laura.

The program is co-sponsored by the ALA Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). The winner of the 2009 Oberly Award will also be introduced at the program.

Later this spring the Committee will solicit input from our colleagues in STS as well as ACS, ELD and SLA, to help us shape the questions for our panelists. Watch for the survey URL in the coming weeks.

**Bryna Coonin and George Porter, (Co-Chairs)**

Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education Committee met at the midwinter meeting in Denver to discuss current and ongoing projects. One of the most important items on the agenda was the discussion of plans for the All Member Breakfast and Discussion for ALA Annual in Chicago for July 2009.
According to the feedback received in Anaheim, June 2008, the participants wished to pick the topic for each table. The Committee decided to compile a list of five topics and offer each table either to select from the list, or pick their own topic. At the end each group of participants will be asked to complete an assessment survey.

The Continuing Education Committee will continue working with the Assessment Committee on the improvement of the current assessment survey for the All Member Breakfast and Discussion. The intention is to develop a more functional assessment instrument.

A new Continuing Education committee member, Kimberly Chapman offered help with the preparation of the list of new members. This list will be used by the Committee to contact new members regarding the mentor program.

Nora Hillyer will be rolling off as the co-chair. The suggestion was made to appoint Edith Scarletto as new co-chair.

Nora Hillyer (Co-Chair)

Government Information Committee


New members have joined our Facebook group, some of whom represent the interests of different government agencies. Visit us on Facebook and get to know more about their agencies and the range of resources and services they offer.

The committee remains open to suggestions for collaborative efforts with other entities such as: GODORT, the ALA-Committee on Legislation, and of course any other STS committees. Our current focus in legislative advocacy relates to issues in open access of federally funded research. We were fortunate to receive input from three government agencies during our committee meeting at ALA midwinter.

Some of the discussion points centered around the ‘change’ promised by the new administration in Washington, DC. We hope to be part of the momentum to help redirect the culture of government accountability to the public. One idea is action by higher level management within government agencies to mandate open archives of government-supported research activities. Science and technology librarians can help achieve this goal by increasing the visibility and usage of government information and by working to create a unified voice from the research and educational sector.

Damon Austin and Alison Ricker (Co-Chairs)

Information Literacy Committee

The committee’s discussion covered three topics: virtual meetings, advertising and monitoring the Science Information Literacy Wiki, and future committee projects. The committee has held monthly meetings via online chat since February 2008. We have successfully created a product while working mostly in a virtual environment. Because of this success and committee members’ declining travel budgets, we are firmly in favor of more virtual meetings. Next, we discussed the best way to monitor the wiki, and made assignments for advertising the wiki. The Science Information Literacy Wiki is up and we are actively soliciting contributions from science librarians. Please see the announcement in this issue of Signal for more information. Finally, we brainstormed possibilities for future committee directions and projects. We would like to pursue either a conference program or a preconference related to science information literacy.

Betsy Spackman Hopkins (Co-Chair)

Liaison Committee

Committee members joined by two of the ten currently serving STS Liaisons had a productive meeting at the Midwinter Conference in Denver. Funding for the support of the Liaison Program was requested during 2008 and approved by ALA at the same level of support through 2010. The committee discussed shifting the focus of the liaison program from travel support to funding collaborative activities or partnerships with targeted associations. Areas of collaboration suggested: Open Access issues, e-science, globalization of science information, and more. Liaison reports received prior to Midwinter have been posted to the
web site. The liaison program was suggested as a topic for discussion at the STS All Members Breakfast at Annual in Chicago. Current liaisons will be asked to share their conference experiences informally at the breakfast. An online survey is being developed to determine if funding should be used for professional activities (e.g., a poster session) by liaisons instead of travel support. The survey will also determine the variety of organizations members belong to, with the ultimate goal of determining avenues for collaborative funding for activities. The committee plans to survey the membership to find out if those attending non-library meetings are willing to serve as informal liaisons without travel support.

The Co-Chairs met with the Chair of the Council of Liaisons who recommended targeting two non-library associations (American Chemical Society, and American Society for Engineering Education). The committee will be applying to the Council group for funding for liaisons.

William Simpson and Marty Kesselman (Co-Chairs)

Membership and Recruitment Committee

STS Membership: ACRL membership increased since 1991, while STS’s decreased from 1800 in 1991 (17.5% of ACRL) to 1700 today (~12-13% of ACRL). Our highest membership was in 1993, and lowest was in 2004 with ~1500 members. Membership dropped 7.5% last year, but other sections lost comparable percentages; this is not a section-specific problem. STS is still the largest subject-specific section. We are uncertain why membership is declining. Peter proposed that the numerous venues for science librarians is perhaps a unique problem for us in ACRL.

Ongoing projects: Exit Surveys and Science Librarianship Courses. Carrie was gathering information about exit survey response rates for other groups, but has had few responses to her requests for information. Jenna and Kavita will try to contact the deans of library schools to inquire about science librarianship courses.

New business: Web Repository, New Members Welcome Wiki and New Members Breakfast at ALA Annual. Web Repository: membership reports sent to ACRL should be archived. We need permission from Adam Burling, and we should talk to John Meyer about an STS repository.

New members' welcome wiki: Possible items include "meeting survival tips," list of programs that teach sci-tech librarianship, and membership resources such as past projects. Volunteers for co-chair Robin volunteered. Action plans Jenna suggested possibly a recruitment tour, involving short distance travel to science programs at big-name schools. Kavita and Jenna will work on a proposal. Peter will do the planning for this year's New Member Breakfast. Committee members are asked to provide ideas.

Peter Larsen and Robin Dasler

Organization and Planning Committee

The Committee has been working on the new STS Governance documentation and on helping to implement the STS Strategic Plan. We also are trying to make the Strategic Plan more accessible to STS members. In 2008 ACRL members approved the adoption of governing procedures instead of bylaws for ACRL sections. To comply with the new operational practices, a draft version of the Governance Procedures was reviewed and approved with modification to clarify some text. The Committee also recommended to the STS Executive Committee that a copy of the Strategic Plan Implementation Reports be sent to the Committee for review. The Committee will generate an overall assessment report at the Annual Meeting. Committee members would be liaisons to other STS committees and would assist them in the process of implementing the Strategic Plan.

Nestor Osorio and Edward Lener (Co-Chairs)

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee held their Midwinter meeting virtually in December 2008 via Chat on the ALA Online Communities. Alison Bobal chaired, with six committee members and two guests from the Assessment Committee in attendance.

STS-L moderator Alison Bobal reported that the list now has 1,263 members, averaging about 70 new subscribers each year. Carol Robinson reports the STS-C list has 74 members. Andrea Duda reported that Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship (ISTL) now has 4,071 subscribers. A new column edited by Debbie Huerta, “Tips from the Experts” is designed to provide foundation-level information about topics such as surveys, wikis vs. blogs, patents, etc.
Submissions for the Summer 2009 “all topics” issue are due July 15. Webmaster John Meier submitted the report of the STS website taskforce, which recommends forming a new STS Web Committee, with a liaison to the Publications Committee.

Linda Eells initiated a discussion of the Science Librarian recruitment video project, submitting a recommendation to produce a series (3-5) of very short videos each focused on different types of science librarians, e.g. biomedical, engineering. A rough cut will be distributed to Publications, Assessment liaisons, and the STS Council at ALA Annual. John Meier is still working with the publication chair of ASEE-ELD to create an engineering version of the science librarian recruiting brochure. STS Signal co-editor Yelena Pancheshnikov reported the Signal is now published only in electronic format, in response to overwhelming support from STS members. Jennifer McKinnell edited her last Signal with the Fall 2008 issue – thank you, Jennifer, for all of your hard work!

*Linda Eells (Chair)*

Research Committee

The Research Committee reviewed paper proposals for presentation at the Research Forum for Science & Technology Library Research, which will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2009, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at ALA Annual in Chicago, IL. Julia Gelfand, editor of Science & Technology Libraries, will serve as the guest commentator and offer critiques of each of the following papers:


**Short Papers (10 minutes each):**


- "Rocket Science Can Be Understood: Librarians as STEM Faculty Outreach Partners," by Melanie Sellar, Instruction Librarian, Marymount College.


The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at Annual on Monday, July 13, 2009. The following eight posters were selected:


- "e-Science @ UMass," by Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Center for Hierarchical Manufacturing, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Maxine G. Schmidt, Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst.


- "E-Science Archiving at the University of Chicago Library," by Barbara Kern, Charles Blair, and Dean Armstrong, University of Chicago Library.

- "Web Harvesting in Support of Faculty Research and Environmental Science Digital Library Development," by Nathan Hall, University of North Texas Libraries.

- "The Role of Academic Libraries in DataNetONE: Engaging in E-Science through Project Partnership," by Robert Sandusky, University of Illinois at Chicago, Patricia Cruse,
In addition, the Research Committee met with Helen Smith of the Assessment Committee to develop a plan for assessing the new format of the Research Forum and for increasing attendance.

Janice Jaguszewski and Mindy Thuna (Co-Chairs)

Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

The Committee conducted an extensive survey on electronic dissertations and theses in both the UK and the US. They have presented the work “Subject and Bibliographic Access to Electronic Theses and Dissertations in the Sciences and Technology: Perspectives of U.S. and U.K. Science Librarians” at the ETD 2008 conference, Spreading the light, 11th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, Aberdeen, Scotland, June 6, 2008, and the STS Research Forum at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA on June 29, 2008. Sophie Bogdanski, Anne Christie and other collaborators are continuing work on US data for possible publication.

The Committee is now working on compiling an annotated bibliography on data curation and e-science. Jin Ma and Kathy Wheeler distributed a preliminary bibliography. The Committee agreed that articles should not be technically involved, but touch on issues of interest to and impact on libraries and librarians. The Committee members are adding new findings to the preliminary bibliography and planning to complete the draft before the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The members are working on the project via the SBASM wiki at http://stssbasm.pbwiki.com/.

Jin Ma and Kathy Wheeler (Co-Chairs)

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

We met informally to discuss ideas for the 2009 college science librarian’s discussion group at ALA Annual. We decided to move forward with a discussion group about faculty outreach strategies employed by science librarians. Here is the tentative title of the session and the abstract:

What’s your Hook? Getting Attention of Faculty and Keeping It

Academic science librarians are creating innovative ways to do outreach to faculty. In this year's college science librarians discussion group we are offering you the opportunity to share your outreach strategy with STS community and benefit from the strategies that others share. Whether you are an embedded librarian, a blogger, or you are doing something totally new, come and share your experience with making known what the 21st Century science librarian has to offer.

Steven M Adams and Maxine Schmidt, (Co-Chairs)

Hot Topics Discussion Group

"Assessment Is Power" was the title of program held at ALA Midwinter. Debra Gilchrist (Pierce College) and Lisa Hinchliffe (UIUC) presented this program on learning through assessment. D. Gilchrist introduces the assessment cycle through five questions that can guide practice:

1. What do you want the student to be able to do? (Outcomes)
2. What does the student need to know to do this well? (Curriculum)
3. What activities are going to enhance the learning? (Pedagogy)
4. How will the student demonstrate the learning? (Assessment)
5. How will I know the student has done this well? (Criteria)

After the presentation, attendees formed groups and used the cycle with an example outcome. A discussion followed and several useful tips came up during that discussion. They included using Bloom's Taxonomy to make the outcomes concrete, action-oriented, measurable and judgeable, making the criteria explicit for students, and looking at assessment at a program level. Implementing assessment at the reference desk was also discussed. Two suggestions were adding information literacy outcomes to the reference statistics sheet and asking students questions such as "what is your next step?" or "how would you narrow this in the future?".

Kara Whatley (Co-Chair)
Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group met at the ALA Midwinter. The topic was “SCOAP3 and Beyond: What New Funding Models Might Hold for the Future of Science and Technology Publishing.” The panel of speakers included Wim van der Stelt, Executive Vice President for Business Development, Springer; Tony O'Rourke, Assistant Director, Journals, Head of Sales and Marketing, IOP Publishing; and Dr. Salvatore Mele, CERN - Open Access Section - Project Leader, SCOAP3 - Interim Project Manager.

45 people attended the meeting. Thirty-one attendees represented educational institutions, eleven - publishers or vendors, two - the government. Twenty-eight participants were STS members.

The STS Assessment Committee organized a post-discussion survey. The lead question asked whether attendees would return to their workplace committed to support the SCOAP3 effort. Eight respondents strongly agreed with the support for SCOAP3, five agreed with the support, nine answered "don't know" and one disagreed. A second question dealt with the general running of the meeting with fifteen people thinking the balance between speaker time and open discussion time being about right, five wished to see more open discussion, and one would have preferred more time for the speakers. A third question attempted to solicit ideas for future discussion topics.

Matthew R. Marsteller

Anniversary Task Force

The STS 50th Anniversary Task Force met on Sunday, 25 Jan. 2009. We discussed field trip options including a follow-up on the levees field trip from the last New Orleans conference, visits to a NASA assembly plant or a NOAA weather station, something concerning river dynamics and hydrology, or a behind the scenes tour of the Zoo or the Aquarium. STS members will be polled this spring regarding their interests.

Possible social activities include a sponsored hospitality suite, an evening reception at a restaurant or museum (possibly combined with the previously mentioned “behind the scenes” tour.) It was also suggested that we could honor any 50-year members and past Oberly Award winners.

Some other activities include a fund raiser to establish an STS 50th anniversary scholarship endowment for students with science degrees to attend library school or for students interested in sci/tech librarianship to attend their first ALA conference. Other suggestions included volunteering to help with rebuilding, and conducting a fund raiser to donate to rebuilding efforts in New Orleans.

We also discussed funding challenges for the 50th anniversary. The current economy is a great concern, and 2011 is an ACRL conference year. We are considering several options.

Nan Batkovich (Co-Chair)

Open Access Task Force

The initial meeting of the newly appointed STS Open Access Task Force took place on Sunday, January 25, at ALA Midwinter 2009. Lori Critz and MaryLinn Bergstrom were selected as Co-Chairs. Other members are Virginia Baldwin (ex-officio); Maliaca Oxnam (ex-officio); George Porter; Kara Whatley; Tim Byrne; Mel DeSart; Rebecca Loughlin; Damon Austin; and Matthew Marsteller. The charge for the Task Force was reviewed and revised. The group developed a list of organizations and groups to review, both for informational purposes and for potential future partnerships. The Task Force also developed the initial plan for a full environmental scan which will include a scan of relevant publishers, institutional and subject repositories, funding mandates, institutional mandates, technical report literature, consortial digitization projects, legislative initiatives and issues, and government agencies. Work of the Task Force will continue before, during and after ALA Annual, and a report will be brought to Council at Midwinter 2010. Calls for additional volunteers, for subgroups focused on particular aspects of the charge, will be made via STS-L. The final report may include recommendations for establishing methods for monitoring and communication of open access issues, and methods for assisting STS members with open access issues at their home institutions.

Lori Critz (Co-Chair)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

STS FIELD TRIP at ALA Annual, Chicago, IL
Adler Planetarium, July 14, 2009 9:30 am
The tour will last about two hours. Further details will be forthcoming on STS-L. Please plan to join!

STS MEETING SCHEDULE
ALA Annual: Chicago, IL: July 10 - July 14, 2009

Friday July 10, 2009
11:30 am - 12:30 pm STS Executive Committee
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm ACRL Leader Development & Strategic Planning
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Communities of Practice Assembly
6:00 pm - 7:15 STS Welcoming Event - all members welcome!
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Council I

Saturday July 11, 2009
8:00 am - 10:00 am New Members' Orientation & Welcome
10:00 am - 11:00 am ACRL Conference Program Planning
10:30 am - 12:00 pm All Committees Meeting - (includes STS Conference): Program Planning Committee 2010, Continuing Education, Government Information, Information Literacy, Liaisons, Library Assessment, Membership & Recruitment, Organization & Planning, Publications, Subject & Bibliographic Access)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm STS Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm STS Nominations 2010 Committee (Closed Meeting)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm New & Continuing Chairs' Orientation (All continuing and new co-chairs to attend; coordinated by Vice-Chair).
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm STS Conference Program Planning Committee 2009
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm STS Dinner - TBA - RSVP REQUIRED

Sunday July 12, 2009
8:00 am - 10:00 am All STS Meeting & Breakfast
10:30 am - 12:00 pm Hot Topics Discussion Group
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm College Science Librarians Discussion Group
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm STS Open Access Task Force
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm STS Research Forum
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm STS Dinner - TBA - RSVP REQUIRED

Monday July 13, 2009
8:00 am - 12:00 pm STS Program: "Big Science, Little Science, E-Science, the Science Librarian's Role in the Conversation"
11:00 am - 12:30 pm STS Program Poster Session & Reception
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm ACRL President's Program: Advocacy in Today's Environment
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Council II

Tuesday July 14, 2009
9:30 am - 11:30 am STS Field Trip to the Adler Planetarium

The Information Literacy Committee invites you to contribute to its new Science Information Literacy wiki at http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Science_Information_Literacy. Comments may be directed to the committee co-chairs: Betsy Hopkins (betsy_hopkins@byu.edu) or Elizabeth Berman (elizabeth.hassemer@uvm.edu)

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