Inside this issue:

Letter from the Chair ............................................................. 2
Letter from the Vice-Chair .................................................... 3
STS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force ................. 5
STS Committee and Discussion Group News ..................... 7
ACRL News ........................................................................... 8
About The Signal ............................................................... 12

Join ACRL on Social Media!
Just click on one of the links below to connect:

Facebook  
Twitter

ALA has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Conference. Read more.
Letter from the Chair

Dear STS members,

As well as altering our workplaces, covid-19 is changing all of our lives in so many ways. And with the cancellation of Annual in Chicago, it will be changing how STS functions for the next year. We'll be doing a lot more virtual programming and we'll be spreading it over the next year. With no STS programming planned for Midwinter 2021, our next in person meeting will be in Chicago in June 2021.

Before I outline our planning, I'd like to briefly review recent STS activities.

Please join me in sending out congratulations to our incoming STS Leaders. Welcome to Hannah Gascho Rempel ((Vice-Chair, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021), Rebecca Hill Renirie ((Member-at-Large, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022), and Virginia Pannabecker (Publicity, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)). Thanks to all of the candidates who stepped up to run and to our membership for voting.

I'd also like to thank the members of the nominating committee, chaired by Past-chair Kara Whatley. I'd also like to thank departing members of the STS executive, Past-Chair John Meier, Publicity Officer Angela Davis, and Member at Large Sam Putnam for your hard and meaningful work for STS. The election results can be found in ACRL Insider.

At this year’s ALA Midwinter, held in Philadelphia, our most heavily attended event was our virtual pre-conference Hot Topics Discussion Research Metrics: Strengths, Limitations, and Library Strategies. Held January 14th, it attracted 170++ attendees and was followed up by an on-the-ground follow up discussion. Joining Hot Topics virtually was the Government Information Committee for a discussion with representatives from three federal agencies, speaking about their agency's article and data sharing policies and expectations. Our STS on-the-ground contingent at Philly was small this year, about 30 of us.

Expecting low numbers for Midwinter, for the first time we went virtual with both STS Councils and turned the all-committees meeting into an open discussion on planning for our new Midwinterless STS schedule.

It was great to be joined by 22 STS members and an interesting discussion ensued, for which notes can be found here. Our virtual Councils were held on February 3rd and 27th. Highlights of these councils included the decision to not plan an STS program for Midwinter 2021 and adopting the EDI Task Force Report. I'd also like to acknowledge our Midwinter sponsors IOP and SPIE who generously hosted an SPIE reception at Strangelove’s Beer Bar on Friday evening and the IOP Midwinter dinner on Saturday evening at Smokin' Betty's. Good times were had by all, and I know I join fellow STS members in expressing appreciation to our vendors who make all our STS social events possible!

STS Council and Executive have started the process of converting our planned on-the-ground program for 2020 Annual into a series of virtual events through the remainder of 2020. Our work is very preliminary as I write, but a few of the likely highlights of our planned programming are the Research Forum and STS Poster sessions, a panel presentation Taking on OER: Barriers and Limitations to OER Implementation in STEM as well as programs from both our Equity Diversity and Inclusion and Information Literacy Framework Task Forces. Our committees have done a great job on content, and I know I join the membership in...
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED

thanking everyone for their hard work and in looking forward to a year of stimulating STS virtual events! You can expect to see a lot more updates on the STS Listserv.

It’s been a real pleasure and privilege to serve as STS Chair for the past year. There have been some unexpected challenges, but, as they say, if you’re not uncomfortable, you’re not learning! STS and ALA were already entering a period of rapid change, both with SCOE and more immediately with the end of Midwinter. Changes that were already pushing our programming in a more virtual and year round direction. And now, covid-19 will accelerate those changes. STS is having the conversations to move us into this future and you can expect more communication as we work through the challenges. We have the people and their expertise to share with our membership, the challenge will be finding ways to make it work virtually. This will take time and experimentation, but I know we are up to the challenge.

Closely tied to more accessible virtual STS programming is diversifying our membership and making STS a more inclusive and welcoming organization. Thank you to the EDI Task Force, under the guidance of chairs Roxanne Bogucka and Bonnie Fong, for the great work they are doing on this front. Finally, I’d like to thank the STS Executive and Council for all your help and hard work this year, it’s been a pleasure working with you all. And a big thank you to past-chair John Meier and incoming chair Rachel Borchardt for your guidance.

Finally, I do encourage you all to seek out opportunities to work and grow within STS, it’s a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Tim Klassen
STS Chair
University of Alberta Libraries
780-492-7918
twklasse@ualberta.ca

LETTER FROM THE VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

Hello fine STS members!

This newsletter comes to us from a very different place than our previous newsletter in the fall, which now seems like practically ancient history. Our worlds have been upended, and yet, the professional work in which we are engaged continues. As we continue to move forward within STS, ACRL, and other professional bodies, it’s worthwhile to remember: while our work as librarians and information professionals is important and worthwhile, many of us will also be dealing with other life events more acutely in need of our attention than, say, a committee responsibility. It’s a good time to practice patience, for ourselves and our own lives, and with others. Our work will continue, but it will be different, and that is okay. One of the things that I love most about STS is the camaraderie of its members, and leaning on each other for support and assistance will be no more important than it is now.

To that end, I encourage our members to make use of the STS listserv in sharing COVID resources, ideas and approaches to helping our users. We librarians are uniquely able to deliver factual, understandable information about this pandemic, as well as share and make use of guides and other resources that other librarians have created. Our network of librarians can serve as a valuable way to efficiently tackle the information needs associated with COVID, and I encourage you all to make use of the listserv to ask for and share information to help us all help our users and better understand this new reality.

On a more practical STS note, our committee work still continues, though as Tim noted, all of our work until Annual 2021 is expected to be virtual. Committee
appointments for 2020-2021 have been sent to all that volunteered – If you volunteered and have not received an appointment, please email me at borchard@american.edu. Likewise, if you missed the volunteer window but would like to be appointed to a committee, there are still a few spots available on some STS committees. – Please email me to be appointed to a committee! For those of you already appointed, thank you for continuing or beginning your professional service at a time when there are likely many demands on your time and efforts - STS could not continue to operate without you!

As Tim detailed in his letter, our committees will be working to produce a variety of virtual content, as well as working on other responsibilities. Most notably, the EDI task force will begin implementing the short-term recommendations that were approved by STS Council, a large but vital undertaking that I hope will improve STS in many ways for its members. Additionally, the information literacy task force is expected to present a completed draft of the information literacy framework for the sciences this summer. I encourage you all to keep an eye on the listserv for opportunities to engage in the feedback process for this draft.

We're facing a time of virtually unprecedented uncertainty regarding the future operations of our section, between the cancellation of Annual 2020, the decision to move to virtual content in lieu of Midwinter 2021, and the future of ALA itself with the Steering Committee on Operational Effectiveness (SCOE) still drafting plans for future reorganization of ALA. However, I strongly believe that the strength of our STS members means we will be able to respond to any new challenge that comes our way, and we’re already off to a good start in our response thus far.

So, thank you for being a part of STS, and together, we can and will continue to help each other be the best science and technology librarians we can be.

Rachel Borchardt
STS Vice Chair
American University Library
borchard@american.edu
The STS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Task Force was charged with exploring ways in which STS can support and promote EDI within the section, culminating in a list of recommendations for concrete policy steps STS could take to improve in each of these areas. Specific tasks included summarizing relevant EDI work in other organizations; exploring synergistic relationships with other ACRL sections or interest groups; recommending updated EDI language for the section’s strategic plan and goals; hosting a forum for members to weigh in on EDI initiatives; and conducting a survey to learn more about diversity in the section and what EDI initiatives might most benefit STS members.

The Task Force performed an environmental scan of 170 libraries, universities, and scientific/professional organizations’ EDI initiatives. They found gaps in academic libraries’ equity and inclusion efforts in vision statements, and noted those libraries need more EDI advocates. By contrast, the scan revealed professional organizations and librarian, archival and information societies seem to address equity and diversity, but are lacking on inclusion issues or statements.

To create a forum for discussing EDI in STS, the task force hosted three focus groups for section members - in June 2019 at the ALA Annual Conference and virtually in July 2019 - with a total of 15 members participating. Participants expressed optimism that EDI efforts were being discussed in the section, suggesting that an EDI coordinator for the section would be helpful to accomplish EDI goals. They also expressed a desire to see more virtual meetings, webinars and other activities to address equity and inclusion issues.

An STS membership survey was deployed, primarily with questions based on the environmental scan and focus group findings. The survey was posted on the STS-L listserv in August 2019 and yielded 63 responses, with 46 percent of respondents stating they identified as a member of a marginalized or underrepresented group. Overall, a majority of respondents (at least 60 percent) felt that the EDI initiatives suggested for implementation in STS were important or very important. Task Force members card-sorted the suggested actions in an effort to develop a recommended timeline for implementation (i.e., immediately, in the short-term, and in the long-term).
STS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force Continued

For further details, please see the executive summary and full Task Force report here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1KNH_G_8BIFVQ00Wmz-CswenYACYxhx7_
STS members are encouraged to leave questions or comments about the report here: https://forms.gle/Acy8m1ELcEtGFU9s9.

In addition, the Task Force invites STS members to join them for virtual programming that will replace this year's ALA Annual Conference. Task Force members will be leading the session "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Science & Technology Section: Task Force Report and Implementation" as well as presenting a poster entitled, "STS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force findings and recommendations." Dates and times will be announced on the STS-L listserv once details are finalized.

In the meantime, the Task Force is transitioning into an implementation team and working towards meeting the recommendations provided in the report referenced above.

Members of the STS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force:
Isabel Altamirano
Roxanne Bogucka, Co-chair
Donna Braquet
Tod Colegrove
Chapel Cowden
Bonnie Fong, Co-chair
Heather James
Natasha Johnson
Stacy Johnson
Megan Lafferty
Laura Palumbo
Penelope Wood
STS Committee and Discussion Group News

Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee will be meeting in May or June. They have been working on putting together resources to support the new charge for the committee (To serve as a resource clearinghouse for survey, IRB, and data collection best practices and coordinate the Science and Technology Section data management plan) and they made excellent progress.

Submitted by J. Burton

Organization & Planning Committee

The Organization & Planning (O&P) Committee has updated the STS LibGuides about the committees and discussion groups. Members of the O&P Committee reached out to committee and discussion group (co-)chairs to determine which LibGuide pages required updating.

The committee is putting together the Section's ACRL Plan for Excellence Report. They sent the STS Council a link to a Google Form where they can input their committee/discussion group/task force activities that relate to the ACRL Plan for Excellence goals and objectives. The deadline for responses is early July.

Submitted by B. Fong

Professional Development Committee

STS Mentoring Program to Launch Soon

A subcommittee of the Professional Development committee has been working on updating materials for the STS Mentoring program. The program was established to match science and technology librarians with their colleagues. It is a way for sci/tech librarians to share their interests, develop professional networks, work through career changes, or solicit guidance and support. Participation is open to librarians at any stage in their career. The program will reopen this summer and information will be forthcoming about signing up to participate as either a mentor or mentee.

Submitted by Shannon Farrell

Publications Committee

The STS Publications Committee created a new Google shared drive to host all committee documents. They formed a small working group to review policies and procedures for managing the STS-L listserv. They also developed a list of ‘Best Practices’ for the creation, maintenance, and retention of LibGuides.

Submitted by E. Wallace
ACRL NEWS

New from ACRL!

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and exploring developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

• Library Partnerships in International Liberal Arts Education: Building Relationships Across Cultural and Institutional Lines
• The Critical Thinking About Sources Cookbook
• Learning Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students in Information Literacy through Co-Curricular Activities
• Leading Change in Academic Libraries
• Developing the Next Generation of Library Leaders (ACRL Publications in Librarianship No. 75)
• Becoming a Library Leader: Seven Stages of Leadership Development for Academic Librarians

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL’s Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information.
American Library Association Cancels 2020 Annual Conference due to COVID-19

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, The American Library Association’s Executive Board announced that the 2020 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition scheduled for June 25-30 in Chicago was canceled due to COVID-19.

ALA staff, in partnership with ALA member leaders, are developing plans to carry out the important business of the association and are coordinating for a virtual event. More information will be announced as it becomes available.

Pandemic Resources for Academic Libraries

ALA and ACRL are committed to supporting our members, staff, and all librarians and library workers during these uncertain times. Now more than ever, academic and research librarians and libraries are essential to a thriving global community of learners and scholars. A LibGuide was created by ACRL to support the academic and research library community during global public health crises. The guide features resources for distance education and engagement, free professional development resources, best practices, and up-to-date information from public health officials. It can be found here: https://acrl.libguides.com/pandemic.
ACRL NEWS Continued

ACRL 2021

Especially now, today’s higher education environment calls for innovative ways to support student, faculty, and institution success. Complete details about ACRL 2021 available on the conference website. ACRL 2021 will feature more than 500 conference programs carefully selected and presented by leaders in the profession, a variety of formal and networking opportunities, exhibits from more than 200 companies, and more.

ACRL eLearning

ACRL’s e-Learning program provides a unique opportunity to participate in professional development events that are focused on practical, tangible topics to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Visit the ACRL e-Learning website to stay up-to-date on current e-Learning offerings from ACRL!
ACRL NEWS Continued

RBMS Canceled

The ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) made the decision to cancel the RBMS 2020 Conference at Indiana University, Bloomington because of the serious health risks posed by COVID-19. We are truly grateful for all the interest and support for what would have been another terrific RBMS conference and will be working with conference registrants directly over the coming weeks.

RBMS will also be working on ways we can possibly re-arrange and refresh content in coming years and very much look forward to the days when our RBMS community can safely gather again.
About the Signal

© Copyright American Library Association 2020.

STS Signal is published twice annually in May and November. Editorial deadlines for each issue are March 1st and September 1st of each year.

Signal is made available to all section members at no charge on the STS Web site.

ISSN: 0888-6563

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship is also available to all section members on the ISTL Web Site.

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, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Ste. 1300, Chicago, IL 60601 800-545-2433 ext. 2523. 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 Co-Editor (Fall): Yen Tran, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192, Phone: (408) 808-2000 or to Co-Editor (Spring): Melissa Johnson, Augusta University, 2500 Walton Way, Reese Library, Augusta, GA 30904, Phone: (706) 667-4907.