

STS SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
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From the Chair / Alison Ricker

Arrangements for STS activities at the Annual Conference in New York are shaping up nicely, thanks to the work of all STS committees and discussion group chairs. What a great group! I want to mention specifically the 1996 Program and Local Arrangements committee. Richard Llewellyn and Liz Brown are great co-chairs, and I thank both of them heartily. Thanks also to all committee members, especially Gail Clement, Andrea Duda, George Porter, Susan Starr and Marilyn Von Seggern, for their hard work during Midwinter to finalize selection of speakers and other program details! Visit the program web page, created and maintained by Andrea, for more info:

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/sts/>

Leacy Pryor has been our point person in NYC, planning the STS reception with librarians at the reception site: the Linda Hall Library East/Engineering Societies Information Center. STS will help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Linda Hall Library (in its Missouri location) and explore the Engineering Societies Information Center on Sunday, July 7, 6:00-8:00 pm. Busses provided by Chemical Abstracts Service will take STS members to and from the reception. One bus will make a round trip between the convention center and the reception site, and a second bus will be available to take STS members to the reception from the STS general discussion group and research forum meeting on Sunday afternoon.

Chemical Abstracts will also sponsor a breakfast meeting on Sunday morning of Annual, to provide interested members with information on new products and publishing ventures as CAS. Look for more information from CAS as July approaches. Other publishers and vendors have been equally generous in sponsoring the STS reception, and are all listed on the program web page with links to their own web pages, if available. Pledges of support for the STS reception at the 1996 Annual conference have been received from:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
- Chemical Abstracts Service
- Elsevier Science

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
- Institute of Physics
- Institute for Scientific Information
- Majors Scientific Books
- Martinus Nijhoff
- Ovid Technologies
- SilverPlatter
- Yankee Book Peddler

Thank you to all sponsors! Look for representatives of these sponsors at the reception. Many will be on hand to speak informally with STS members about new products and services. I hope to see many of you at the reception, the conference program on July 8, and at other discussion groups and gatherings of STS members. Don't forget to vote for new section officers when your ballot arrives. We have a great slate of candidates, whatever the outcome STS will have good leaders next year.

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. It is also distributed through the STS-L listserv.

From the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect / Amy Paster

My thanks to all of the STS members who volunteered to serve on the various committees and discussions groups for 1997. I was able to appoint almost everyone who took the time to volunteer. If you were not appointed to a committee this year it is still possible to be an active member of the section. Make a point of attending the open committee meetings and be sure to participate in the various discussion groups.

The 1997 Program Planning Committee has started their work for the San Francisco conference and would like to hear your ideas. Contact either myself or Amy Shannon, chair of the 1997 Program Planning Committee.

Hope to see you all in New York.

*Amy Paster
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STS-L Listserv

STS-L is a moderated e-mail list sponsored by this section. The purpose of the list is to a): provide a forum for the discussion of issues primarily of interest to all science and technology librarians; b): provide a quick communication link between the STS section leadership and the members; and c): serve as a distribution point for STS publications. It is a public list, open to all interested persons. As of press time, over 800 persons have joined the list!

To join STS-L, send email to LISTSERV@UTKVM1.UTK.EDU with the following message:

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First-Name Last-Name

Information supplied by Marty Courtois

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

A small group of College Science Librarians met informally over dinner at Midwinter to discuss ideas for topics to discuss at the Annual meeting in New York. We tentatively decided on the topic "Future Vision—The College Science Library in Fifteen Years". Suppose you were asked to come up with a scenario of what your library will be fifteen years from now? (It could happen to you.) What will it look like, what formats will predominate, how will your collection policies change? We hope for some imaginative, futuristic thinking and 'hot' ideas to combine with some cold realities in a kinetic reaction of lively discussion. The preliminary meeting time is 9:30-11:00 a.m., Saturday July 6.

The CSLDG will also meet Saturday evening for its "traditional" (but informal) dinner. Please contact Victoria Mitchell, Reed College, Portland, OR 97202, mitchell@reed.edu or Penny Russman, Science Library, Wesleyan College, Middletown CT, 06059, prussman@wesleyan.edu for further information, or with suggestions, comments, etc.

Information supplied by Victoria Mitchell

General Discussion Group

The STS General Discussion Group met in San Antonio on Sunday, January 21, 1996, to examine "The State of Science Journals: Facing Our Future Now." Approximately 60 people attended the STS General Discussion Group to hear Gail Clement, Science/Information Services Librarian at Florida International University, and, Jay Trolley, Head, Corporate Information, ISI, examine the current state of science journal publishing and preview the models of publishing that are being developed.

Gail Clement opened the discussion by giving an overview of the current form of print journal publishing as the predominant vehicle for scholarly papers, having university accessibility and clear authorship. She further elaborated on the raising costs, the static nature of printed articles, time lags in getting in print in relationship to user demands for seamless access and document delivery. And now, throw in Internet access and the result is a cross pollination between libraries, societies, and commercial publishers to present a new format for science journal publishing with the bottom line that how we do science and how we use scientific research is changing rapidly.

Jay Trolley of the ISI Electronic Library presented the commercial database producer's view of science journal publishing. The goal is desktop access to scholarly journals but the reality is that the vast majority of journal publishers do not have an electronic form of their journal. So right away there is a problem with users' expectations. Two key issues in electronic publishing of science journals is the protection of the authenticity of the information and copyright. Another major concern is ownership of the information. The ISI Electronic Library is available now and, by having it operational at 6 various types of libraries, ISI has been able to test the system and gather data on journal usage, system usage, the economics of this form of publishing and examine security issues.

Information supplied by Marcia King-Blandford

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The STS Executive Committee voted at the 1995 Annual Conference to change the status of the former Publisher/Vendor Relations Committee to a discussion group, reflecting its tradition of providing a forum for open discussion among

librarians, publishers and vendors. Ann Schaffner and Rob McGeachin are serving as co-chairs for 1995/96, and individuals appointed to the committee prior to the change will serve out the balance of their terms.

David Richard from EBSCO opened discussion with an overview of current trends in document delivery. More and more libraries are allocating a larger share of their budgets to providing access on demand via electronic modes of delivery. Yet librarians noted that journal subscriptions are being cancelled due to lack of funds; cancellations are failing to result in savings which could be reallocated to subsidize delivery on demand. E-journal subscriptions and article-on-demand royalties are not making up for publishers lost revenues from cancelled print subscriptions, and as a result publisher royalty fees are rising dramatically. Copyright and cost effectiveness issues of the "scan and store" method of delivery used by UnCover and others were also debated.

Library budget shortfalls have a negative impact on STM book publishing as well. Libraries report that interlibrary loan requests for monographs are rising dramatically, and publishers are seeing a substantial drop in standing orders.

The STM market is a finite one, and the decrease in library orders results in smaller print runs and higher unit costs. Rob McGeachin led a discussion on the proliferation of e-journal "teasers" or publicity put up by commercial publishers on the Net. These can take many forms the current issue only, a one-year back run of issues, or table of contents listings. Publishers view these "freebies" as a current awareness service. Libraries are reluctant to cancel print subscriptions for fear that electronic versions will not be adequately archived. The tenure system still does not view publishing in e-journals to be as prestigious as publishing in print. These factors serve to retard the growth of the e-journal market.

Ideas solicited from the audience for future meetings included: issues and current practices in the archiving of electronic texts; trends in document delivery pricing; the role vendors have to play in the electronic environment; examples of consortium site licensing; and the market for CD-ROM and other non-print formats.

Information submitted by Jana Lonberger

Science & Technology Section Meetings ALA Annual 1996 • New York

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, July 5		11:30-12:30	Legislation Committee II
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	11:30-12:30	Nominating Committee (1997 elections)(closed meeting)
9:30-10:00pm	STS Executive Board	11:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
Saturday, July 6		11:30-12:30	Science & Bibliographic Access
8:30am -12:30pm	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries	2:00-5:30pm	GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP & RESEARCH FORUM
9:30-11:00	COLLEGE SCIENCE LIBRARIANS DISCUSSION GROUP	6:00-8:00pm	STS Reception (Linda Hall East Library)
9:30-11:00	PUBLISHER/VENDOR RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP	6:00pm	Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Dinner
9:30-12:30	1996 New York Program Planning Committee	8:00-10:00pm	HEADS OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP
11:30-12:30	Continuing Education Committee	Monday, July 8	
11:30-12:30	Membership & Recruitment Committee	8:30am-11:30pm	Conference Program: Leaders on the Web Trail (speakers' presentations)
11:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (closed meeting)	11:30-12:30	Conference Program: Leaders on the Web Trail (demonstrations)
11:30-12:30	Publications Committee	7:30-9:30pm	STS Council II (8:00-10:00pm)*
6:00pm	College Science Librarians Dinner	Tuesday, July 9	
8:00-10:00pm	Legislation Committee I	8:00-9:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research
Sunday, July 7			
8:30am-12:30pm	1997 San Francisco Program Planning Committee		
9:30-11:00	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DATABASES DISCUSSION GROUP		

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

Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group

Thirty-one librarians participated in a discussion titled "Are we sinking or swimming: public services staff development on the digital high seas." The session was kicked off by four commentators: Jeanne Boyle (Rutgers), Chestalene Pintero (Arizona), Ann Schaffner (Brandeis), and Susan Starr (UC-San Diego). It became clear that libraries are in the same dilemma on keeping staff up-to-speed with the ever-changing array of digital information resources. Or, as Jeanne Boyle asserted, "The harder we run, the behinder we get."

Numerous suggestions were noted. Some of these included: providing adequate equipment for staff; realizing that we can't be experts on everything; sharing expertise and experiences; using experts external to the library (such as computing professionals); planning informal sessions such as "brown bag" lunches or "journal clubs;" emphasizing effective teamwork; designing innovative staff positions to recruit needed experts; taking advantage of users' increasing computer literacy by allowing them to do more of the "figuring out;" setting realistic priorities; saying no to activities for which staff are not equipped or prepared; taking advantage of the role of librarians as teachers as teaching provides an impetus to stay on the leading edge; deciding realistically what we'll teach and what we will not teach; cooperating with other campus entities.

As our libraries evolve, so too are our strategies for dealing with rapid change. Our "lifeboats" may vary widely, but we seem to be staying afloat on the digital high seas.

*Information supplied by
David Flaxbart and Don Frank*

Science Databases Discussion Group

Over 60 librarians crowded into the La Condesa E room of the Hilton on

Saturday, January 20 for the Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group to hear Gerry McKiernan introduce "Cyberstacks(sm), A Demonstration Prototype Virtual Science and Technology Reference Collection". Kiernan is the Curator of Cyberstacks and the Coordinator of the Science and Technology Section of Reference and Instructional Services at Iowa State University.

Cyberstacks is as described, a reference collection of science and technology materials. Many of the items in the collection are familiar resources, but instead of being in one location, they are located all over the world and accessed through the World Wide Web. As we all know, accessing resources through the Web is often not as straightforward as we would like. What McKiernan and his team have done with Cyberstacks is search the Internet for likely resources, evaluate these resources for usefulness, assign subject headings and classification for the resources according to the Library of Congress system, and provide an easy front-end for people to use for access.

McKiernan developed Cyberstacks as an experiment. He wanted to see if using a conventional classification system would work as a way to organize Internet resources and he also wanted to develop a presentation format that would help people navigate through the collection. The prototype debuted in the Fall of 1995 and has been changing ever since as users made recommendations. For a look at Cyberstacks and a fuller description of the project, use the following URL:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~CYBERSTACKS/>

Join us in New York for the Annual conference. We should be in the 9:30-11 a.m. slot on Sunday, July 7. The title of the program has not been set but we will have Cambridge Scientific Abstracts and Engineering Information present to discuss their new Web products. We hope to broaden the discussion out to talking about the new collaborations among vendors in bringing together Web collections.

For more information, contact Dawn Talbot at (619)822-0230, dtalbot@ucsd.edu or Ann Eagan at (520) 621-8132, aeagan@bird.library.arizona.edu.

*Information supplied by Ann Eagan
and Dawn Talbot*

ACRL/STS Conference 1996 Program Planning Committee—New York

The committee discussed final plans for the 1996 Annual Conference Program in New York. Speakers for the program will be Al Cage, Pat Kreitz, and Paul Jones. The moderator of the program will be Gail Clement. The basic theme of the program, "Leaders on the Web Trail: Redefining the Scholar's Workstation" supplements the basic leadership theme of all the ACRL programs in New York.

Further preparations for the program include publicity, a WWW page, choosing presenters at the poster session following the program, preparing evaluation forms of the program, and speaker contacts. Various committee members volunteered to do these jobs.

The reception at the conference will be held at the Linda Hall Library East. A number of vendors have pledged money to sponsor the reception. Some of the sponsors will give demonstrations at the reception. The Chemical Abstracts Service will provide buses.

*Information supplied by
Richard Llewelyn*

Continuing Education Committee

The committee finalized plans for a mentoring program. We would like to create a list of experienced science/technology librarians who will volunteer to serve as resource persons/mentors for less experienced librarians. Volunteers will indicate whether they are willing to communicate by either phone, e-mail, and/or in person. A notice requesting volunteers will be submitted to *STS-L* and *STS Signal* in the coming months.

The committee also discussed a draft of our membership survey. This survey is designed to assess membership interest in various program or discussion topics. We decided to send the survey to *STS-L* and *STS Signal* by March and report our findings at the Annual Conference in New York.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey

Legislation Committee

The committee heard reports from members who attended legislative and government relations meetings at ALA. Some of the key topics discussed in these meetings included: funding for libraries and technology, government information, copyright, and telecommunications policy.

Other discussion centered around support for the ACRL strategic direction, "Maintain at the national level a prominent role in planning and decision making for influencing information policy." The committee decided to rotate the monitoring of GOVDOC-L and the ALAWO. Members will summarize the issues and post them as a STS Legislative Update. The monitors of the month will also ask that STS members who respond to our call for action and submit letters to members of Congress, also send a copy of their letter or e-mail to the committee so we can track the response.

Information supplied by Allison Level and Richard Llewelyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

After admiring the new STS brochure, the committee spent the bulk of the meeting talking about ways to recruit new members. Efforts will be made to have the brochure included in the NMRT packet which is handed out at the orientation they sponsor. The committee will also check the annual program to see if there are sessions sponsored by other groups where the STS brochures may be left.

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Nominating Committee

Candidates for Vice-chair/Chair-elect and Secretary are being sought by the 1997 STS Nominating Committee. If you would like to nominate someone or be nominated for an office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee prior to the ALA Annual Conference in New York City.

Katie Clark, Chair
The Pennsylvania State University
814-865-5093 / kec@psu.edu

Carole Armstrong
Michigan State University
517-355-2341 / 2067csa@msu.edu

Eleanor Cook
Appalachian State University
704-262-2786 / cookei@appstate.edu

Jill Newby
Weber State University
801-626-6231 / jnewby@weber.edu

Information supplied by Katie Clark

Oberly Award Committee

The committee made decisions at midwinter which recognize the changing nature of publication and which we hope will anticipate the work of the committee in the next decade. Nominations submitted may be a monograph, a completed series viewed as a single body of work, or an ongoing publication in any format. The committee will, on occasion, at an appropriate anniversary, also highlight the lasting contribution to Agriculture of a major bibliographic serial. The next Oberly Award will be presented at the STS program at ALA Annual in 1997.

Information supplied by JoAnn DeVries

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee discussed the prototype STS Web page designed by David Atkins and Janet Hughes. Several options were reviewed and suggestions were made. Information from the new section brochure will be added along with names and addresses of STS committee chairs. The logistics

of submitting information for the section web needs further study. The page should be ready for the annual meeting.

Applications for the *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship (ISTL)* editorial board were reviewed for experience and geographic region, and areas of expertise. Eight board members were selected: Liz Brown (Georgia Tech), Karen Croneis (Washington University, St. Louis), Elizabeth Choinski (University of Mississippi), Andrea Duda (University of California, Santa Barbara), Norma Kobzina (University of California, Berkeley), Nester Osorio (Northern Illinois University), Flora Shrode (University of Tennessee), and Daryl Youngman (Kansas State University). They will be working with Harry Llull to define the role of *ISTL* within the overall publications program. *ISTL* should resume publication this year.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker and Susan Starr

Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee focussed on developing a possible program for the 1997 ACRL Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. It was decided to pursue a program concerning the standardization of electronic resources. A panel of commercial and professional society publishers and librarians would be formed to address the issues. Possible issues for consideration include ownership and copyright, developing standards for e-journals, concerns about stability on the web, and maintaining the quality of professional literature on the web. We feel that this program would follow the ACRL Strategic Planning Initiative by influencing information policy on a national level, enhancing librarian's teaching, and encouraging collaboration between ACRL and other professional organizations. During the next few months the committee will develop the program proposal via e-mail and conference calls. Suggestions for the program may be sent to william_baer@byu.edu.

Information supplied by William Baer

Resource Persons/Mentors Needed!

The STS Continuing Education Committee is seeking experienced science/engineering/technology librarians who would be willing to serve as resource persons/mentors to new professional librarians.

Would you be willing to communicate via phone or e-mail with a new librarian? Or would you be willing to actually meet with a new librarian from your geographic region? Would you be willing to meet with a new librarian at a national conference?

Our goal is to create a resource list which will be sent to new professional librarians seeking advice or guidance. The list will include volunteers' names, information relevant to contacting them, and areas of experience and/or expertise.

We do not plan to post this list on STS-L or otherwise make it openly available; it will only be sent in response to individual queries from librarians. We anticipate that individuals seeking advice or mentoring will contact individuals on the resource list directly, and we do not plan to attempt to match mentors with mentees.

If you are interested in participating, please send us the following information:

Name: _____

Position title: _____

Work address: _____

Phone number: _____ FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Brief description of experience and/or expertise:

Would you be willing to communicate via phone?

Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing to communicate via e-mail?

Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing to meet with a new librarian from your geographic region?

Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing to meet with a new librarian at a national conference?

Yes ___ No ___

Please include any additional information that might prove helpful:

Send replies to: Virginia MacEwen, Physical Sciences, Gelman Library, George Washington University, 2130 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20052

Phone: 202-994-6049 • FAX: 202-994-2645 • E-mail: vmacewen@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu

STS Continuing Education Survey

The STS Continuing Education Committee wants your help in determining the needs and priorities you have for continuing education. Your input will be helpful for planning future programs.

Please indicate your level of interest in the following topics:

SUBJECT BASED

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Government policies and funding:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Current issues & developments in science and technology:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Subject training (Engineering, etc.):
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Subject reference training:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Communication with scientists and engineers:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

INTERNET WORLD/WIDE WEB

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Internet/WWW access/searching skills and user instruction:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

HTML/Authoring Web pages and user instruction:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

New developments on the Internet:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Copyright on the WWW:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Electronic journals:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Electronic document delivery:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Electronic databases:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Digital libraries and the future of print resources:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

RESOURCE SHARING

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Consortia:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Cooperative collection development:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

MANAGEMENT

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Science and technology collection management:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Budgeting and serials:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Marketing the library and services:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Statistics as a management tool:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Personnel and staffing issues:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

PROFESSIONAL

0=no interest; 1=some interest; 2=interest; 3=strong interest

Statistics as a research tool:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Preservation and archiving of science and technology materials:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Getting published:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Presentation skills:
0__ 1__ 2__ 3__

Thank you for your assistance!

Please mail to: Susan Norrisey, Texas Tech University Library, P.O. Box 40002, Lubbock, TX 79409-0002
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