

STS SIGNAL

ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
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From the Chair, Amy Paster

San Francisco is only a few months away and I hope that everyone has made their travel plans. STS is going to have a wonderful program and reception thanks to the hard work of the Program Planning Committee headed up by Amy Shannon. At this time I would also like to thank the other members of the Committee, Laura Greene, Dency Kahn, Christina Peterson, Catherine Soehner, Mary Strife, Raye Lynn Thomas and Helena Warburg. Our program this year, "The Scientific Researcher: Hardwired for Retrieval or Wedded to Print" features three excellent speakers, Susan Starr from the University of California, San Diego; Julie Hurd from the University of Illinois, Chicago; and Marilyn Von Seggern from Washington State University. Watch STSL for an announcement of the program web page that will be released closer to June. Raye Lynn Thomas has been hard at work planning the reception which will be Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. The park is located across from Ghiradelli Square. The building, built in the late 1930s, is a marvel of artdeco style with classic terrazzo floors, murals and chrome detailing. The building was constructed in the art moderne style to resemble an oceanliner. The museum houses hundreds of artifacts, photographs and documents of West Coast seafaring history. There is a long, open air verandah with sweeping views of historic ships at Hyde Street Pier, the Bay and Alcatraz.

Pledges of support for the STS program and reception at the 1997 Annual conference have been received from:

American Chemical Society
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Thank you to all our sponsors!

I hope to see many of you at the reception, program, and discussion groups. Don't forget to vote for new section officers when your ballot arrives. There is a great slate of candidates thanks to the Nominating Committee. I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Council and the Council for what has been a very rewarding term as Chair. I am sure that Allison Level will do a fantastic job as Chair and I am looking forward to the 1998 Conference in Washington D.C.

Amy L. Paster
Acting Head, Life Sciences Library
Penn State University
E205 Pattee Library
University Park, PA 168021801
alp@psulias.psu.edu

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. It is also found on the STS Web site <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sts/>.

From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Alison Level

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to serve on a committee for 1997-98. Since STS is a section with many active committees and discussion groups, I was able to appoint almost everyone who expressed an interest in a committee.

As we look ahead to the 1997 conference in San Francisco, the Program Planning Committee for 1998 is already hard at work. Co-Chairs Lois Pausch and Linda Phillips, along with their committee members, are planning a program that will incorporate the ACRL President's theme, "Facing the Millennium: Values for the Electronic Information Age".

This is an exciting time to be active in STS as the section continues to promote and support the ACRL Strategic Plan. I hope that your participation in the section contributes to your professional development and I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

*Allison Level
Science & Technology Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 205404750
alev@loc.gov*

1997 STS Officer Candidates

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Gail Clements
Billie Reinhart
Secretary
Elizabeth Brown
Mike Haddock

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The discussion topic for the Annual Meeting will be "Full-text, To Own Or Access?" We will discuss the various electronic fulltext scientific journals to which science libraries are subscribing. Panel members will talk about pricing, owning vs. remote access, archival issues, cataloging, and teaching users how to access fulltext journals. Are library patrons more likely to use the online version of a journal? How are various libraries dealing with the printing costs incurred by users wanting paper copy of electronic journals? Will users stop coming to the "physical library" if journals can be accessed online from their offices or dorms? What will happen to the science library as we presently know it?

Information supplied by Helena F. Warburg

Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group

Forty librarians attended the Heads of Science and Technology Libraries Discussion Group on Sunday evening, February 16, 1997, to hear and talk about budget allocations for science and technology libraries. The theme was budget allocations and how academic librarians get them, maintain them, and advocate for them. Librarians perhaps more than many recognize change as the one aspect of the higher education environment that is assured. In this environment, academic librarians face challenges as budgets are proposed, refined, and efforts are made at maintaining budgets.

The discussion on this topic was facilitated by three librarians representing differing types of science and technology libraries. Penny Russman (Wesleyan University, CN) offered her perspective from a smaller institution, Carol Fleishauer (MIT, MA) shared her experiences with budgets in a medium-sized institution, and Bonnie MacEwan (Penn State University, PA) spoke to the issue from her perspective at a large academic institution.

These three organizational views included both expected differences and some similarities. Selection at Wesleyan is done largely by the faculty with librarians choosing abstracts and indexes while at MIT and Penn State, librarians do most of the selection. This distribution has direct implications for the development of the budgets. Each of the libraries has been able to maintain control over serials growth and targets a ratio between serials and monographs which is appropriate to the discipline and/or the library. One of the challenges which was expressed was the budgeting for information resources for new faculty. Another was the budgeting for electronic resources. Similar to many libraries, these three used budget allocations which are based on historical precedent and have been tweaked over the years to reflect changes in required buying patterns. The sharing of the collections budgets differed among these three with PSU being the most aggressive in trying to make the budgets in all their detail available to those who have interest in collections spending.

The conclusion of the meeting was used to solicit ideas and requests for the discussion to be held during the Annual Meeting. STS members are encouraged to submit additional ideas for discussion topics via STS-L.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand and Barton Lessin

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group's Midwinter 1997 discussion focused on the topic of "Collection Development: Tough Choices and Unknown Opportunities". The speakers were Mel DeSart, Engineering Librarian, University of Kansas and Julia Gelfand, Applied Sciences Librarian, University of California, Irvine.

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1997 Annual Conference • San Francisco, CA

DAY/DATE/TIME

COMMITTEE

Friday, June 27

7:30-9:30pm

STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*

9:30-10:00pm

Executive Board

Saturday, June 28

8:30-11:00am

Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee

9:30-11:00

Publisher/Vendor Discussion Group with CODES

9:30-12:30

1997 Program Planning Committee

9:30-12:30

Continuing Education Committee

11:30-12:30

Membership Committee

11:30-12:30

Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)

11:30-12:30

Publications Committee

2:00-4:15pm

Organization & Planning Committee

2:00-4:15pm

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

Sunday, June 29

8:30-11:00am

Nominating Committee (Closed Meeting)

8:30-11:00

Legislation Committee

8:30-12:30

1998 Program Planning Committee

9:30-11:00

Sci/Tech Databases Discussion Group

2:00-4:00pm

Forum for Sci/Tech Research

6:00-8:00pm

RECEPTION Maritime Museum

8:00-10:00pm

Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group

Monday, June 30

8:30-11:00am

PROGRAM

2:00-4:00pm

Forum wrap-up meeting

7:30-9:30pm

Council II (8:00-10:00 pm)*

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

General Discussion Group, continued

Mel DeSarts's presentation, entitled "Uncovering the Ties Between Document Delivery and Collection Development", discussed a bold initiative by the KU Library to replace part of the serial collection with CARL's document delivery service. Both the process of cutting serials and replacing them with a document delivery service and the consequences for both the collection and the users were illustrated succinctly with excellent data that was gathered and analyzed by the project's managers. While the project's data and conclusions are of wide general interest, they also have a great deal of significance for sci/tech collection development. For example, two thirds of the articles ordered through CARL's service were from science and technology journals. Also, for roughly eighty percent of the sci/tech journals defined as high use (they had five or more articles requested from them), it was still more cost effective to supply them from CARL since it would have cost the KU Library almost four times as much to subscribe to those journal titles as it cost to pay the document delivery fees. In the near future, more detailed information about the presentation will be available from the STS home page. Anyone wishing to ask specific questions may contact Mel DeSart by phone: (913) 864-3854 or email:desart@ukanvm.cc.ukans.edu.

Julia Gelfand spoke about "Priorities and Trends in Sci/Tech Collection Development", discussing a wide range of crosscutting trends that are changing the nature and functions of collection development within the academic library. Two of the trends mentioned were the expanding role being played by document delivery services, book jobbers, and serial agents whose expertise and rapid service threaten the traditional roles of collection development and acquisitions; and the changing nature of academic research as effected in the declining size of doctoral dissertations whose over all length and number of footnotes have shrunk by forty percent in the past eight years. She engaged in a dialogue with the attendees which illuminated many of the consequences of the challenges she outlined. A fuller description of her discussion will also be available from the STS home page.

Information supplied by Pat Chris

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The discussion group had its largest attendance ever for a lively discussion of the pros and cons of moving to World Wide Web based publications, databases and products. As those in attendance consisted of both vendors and academic librarians this forum provided a means for librarians to present problems, success stories and make suggestions for ways to improve products to vendors and get their response and point of view. Some of the specific issues discussed at this session included:

1. There is often a lack of advanced warning of changes in electronic products for public service librarians which does not allow them to become familiar with the changes before having to help users with them. New product and change announcement literature often only is sent to the library acquisitions units that deal with subscriptions but does not reach those who need it most. It was suggested that E-mail lists should be developed by the vendors and publishers of public service librarians to receive change and new product feature announcements.

2. Internet product response times can slow down to unusable levels due to vendor server overload, regional or campus network traffic overload, or other traffic demand problems. One person called this the "World Wide Wait". As a solution some vendors offer the option to establish dedicated lines to their services. The use of Java based interfaces sending compressed pages was another solution offered.

3. Some library users and librarians are reporting frustration with free trial period services. Apparently many users miss the notification that they are using a time-limited trial service and then suddenly miss it when no longer available, especially very short or very long duration trial periods. One suggestion was to only allow librarians access to trials to evaluate products and only make them available to users as subscribed products that will not go away.

4. The issue of how long term archival access will be provided and when are Internet based electronic products reliable enough to cancel print copies was discussed. Many smaller academic libraries can not afford both print and electronic versions of materials so are still only getting print. The larger libraries and consortia that can afford both print and electronic versions are acquiring both for an average of 125% of the cost of print alone. Most libraries that are canceling print journals are replacing them with electronic document delivery services for articles requested by their users from the canceled titles. Some vendors replied they are guaranteeing access in perpetuity but can not specify the future electronic means as this will change with technology over time. Other vendors said they offer CDROMS or tape copies as archival backups for the library to own.

Information supplied by Rob McGeachin

Science Databases Discussion Group

Sixtyseven librarians crowded into the Hyatt's Burnham Room to participate in the program titled "Sharing the Load: The Pros and Cons of Consortial Database Use." Barbara Allen, the Director of the Center for Library Initiatives for the CIC, and Tom Klingler from Kent State University shared their views on consortial database use.

Both Allen and Klingler listed several advantages to consortial database use. A consortium has greater negotiating power with vendors which allows the consortium to acquire databases for a lower price. Resource sharing also lowers the price. By loading a database on one site the cost of maintaining the database on other sites is avoided. Sharing the costs often brings down the cost to each library. This savings can be reallocated to purchase other databases that would not have otherwise been available.

Some disadvantages were mentioned as well. It takes longer to make decisions in a consortium. The slowest member determines how fast a decision can be made. It is often difficult to work well together. Each library will have different needs and priorities. One library may find a database indispensable while another may find the same database undesirable. Concern was also expressed over the loss of local control.

CIC and OhioLink have made great strides and the pros seem to have outweighed the cons for these consortia. They did suggest things that need to happen to make a consortium work. The participants need to be clearly defined. Some important decisions include which formats will be available, how contracts will be renewed or terminated, and how the money is to be handled. It may be helpful to involve lawyers in the negotiation process. Learn exactly what is being purchased and how much it is costing, and don't sign anything based on what is being developed.

Information supplied by William Baer

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The committee reviewed the results of the presurvey distributed at the Heads of Science Libraries and General Discussions Groups last Annual, seeking input on what information they would like to see included on the next (5th) survey. No substantial changes in content were suggested. Midwinter discussion centered on the format and content of the fifth survey, and a time line for its' formulation and distribution. The questions are under review, to be finalized at the upcoming annual, with distribution of the survey to ARL Science and Technology libraries targeted for the beginning of the 1997-98 academic year. Means of accelerating distribution of survey results were considered, including electronic delivery. The trial Web site was discussed, and the consensus was that this was a viable way to deliver early, unprocessed data, as well as the analyzed data at a later time. The form and location of the Web site are under development. A member of the committee will be analyzing the raw data from the 3rd survey, so that it will become available for comparison to the other surveys.

Information supplied by: Judith R. J. Johnson

Continuing Education Committee

The mentoring program is well underway. We have a list of experienced librarians that is available to individuals seeking resource persons in science and technology librarianship. Individuals interested in becoming resource persons or contacting resource persons should E-mail Virginia MacEwen—vmacewen@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu. We have provided the list to a number of librarians and will be doing an informal evaluation of the contacts. We explored ways of publicizing the availability of this list to prospective mentorees. The committee will institute a web site to publicize the mentor list and to begin to provide notices of continuing education opportunities. We have also designated a committee member to serve as liaison to the ACRL Professional Development Committee.

Information supplied by Kathy Whitley

Legislation Committee

Committee members attended the meetings of a number of other ALA organizations to obtain information about new developments in government information. These included the ALA Washington Office and GODORT.

The major topic of interest is the plans of Congress's Joint Committee on Printing to rewrite Title 44. This will be an attempt to modernize document/information distribution in line with the major changes that computers have made on information creation and distribution. Also, there is a desire to further insure that all eligible government information is properly distributed. ALA is involved with a number of other library organizations such as the Special Libraries Association and American Association of Law Libraries in an inter-association task force to help promote library viewpoints on the revision process.

There are major efforts by various government organizations to privatize their information activities. Recently the Journal of the National Cancer Institute was turned over to a private publisher. The Government Printing Office and the Joint Committee on Printing are observing this trend with some concern.

Other topics of interest are in the area of copyright. There should be another effort this year to rewrite the 1976 Copyright Law (copyright of Internet and other electronic storage media and the extension of copyright to "life plus seventy years"). In December 1996 the World Intellectual Property Organization was going to consider a treaty that would have affected the copyright status of databases of various types. The proposed changes were so unpopular that they have been sent back for further development

The committee also discussed ideas for reorganizing. The committee is currently understaffed for its normal activities. It was felt that changing the name of the committee to better reflect its work and choosing a more convenient meeting time for its meeting would attract more members.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The committee reviewed using the Continuing Education Committee mentoring program as a way to retain members.

We discussed the idea of having a volunteer form for people who are already members of STS and therefore not as likely to pick up the STS brochure. We agreed that this was a good idea and talked it over with Alison Level, the incoming chair. It was decided that Carol Robinson would design a flyer and send it to Flora Shrode and Pam Zilius-Careaga as soon as possible so they can take it to the National Conference in Nashville.

We discussed Ed Gonzalez's work on the Communicating Science Exhibit. Carol agreed to get in touch with Ed to find out the current status and to ask him if he would be willing to coordinate the project. Pam Zilius-Careaga and Lisa Baer volunteered to work on a handout to go with the exhibit.

We agreed to target NMRT and ALCTS with our brochures. We reviewed the brochure and realized that for STSL we have the address to which messages are sent, not the address for subscribing. Flora Shrode will check on the correct address and let Helen Smith know. We also decided to add the Web address. Helen volunteered to update the brochure.

We decided to try to establish a buddy system for new conference attendees. We will put out a call on STSL and other relevant lists before the annual meeting. We would like to match new attendees with people in the section with similar interests. The STS member would try to help their buddy find the right programs and committee meetings. There would be no requirement for the individuals to meet.

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Nominating Committee

The 1997 Nominating Committee is charged with preparing the ballot for the 1998 election, and we must begin our work at the 1997 Annual conference so that the slate of candidates is finalized by September 15, 1997. We are seeking nominations for Section Vice-Chair and Secretary, with terms of office to begin at the end of the 1998 Annual Conference. The position of Vice-Chair is essentially a three-

year commitment as an elected officer: Vice Chair in 1998/99, Section Chair in 1999/00, and Past Chair in 2000/01. Here is the opportunity of a lifetime, to lead the section into the 21st century! The Past Chair then becomes chair of the Nominating Committee once the term of Past Chair is completed. The Secretary is a two-year position: Secretary in 1998/99 and Member-At-Large/Publicity Officer in 1999/00. Duties of these positions are outlined in the STS Section Manual, and I would be happy to fax copies to anyone interested in knowing details.

Contact Alison Ricker if you want more information, or have good suggestions for future STS leaders! Self-nominations will be considered, please do not hesitate to volunteer.

Information supplied by Alison Ricker

Oberly Award Committee

The Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences is a biennial award given in oddnumbered years. This was a review year for the committee. We received 15 nominations and each was evaluated according to accuracy, scope, usefulness, format, and special features such as explanatory introductions, annotations, and indexing. The award will be presented during ALA annual meeting in San Francisco at the start of the STS program.

Information supplied by JoAnn DeVries

Organization and Planning Committee

The Organization and Planning Committee reviewed all requested organizational changes and guidelines. The proposed "Guidelines for the STS Forum on Science & Technology Library Research" and the revised "Charge for the Continuing Education Committee" were forwarded to STS Council for discussion and approval.

This year the committee will focus on completing an assessment of the section's organizational and planning needs, determining organizational counterparts throughout library organizations, and improving the organizational and planning information flow.

Information supplied by C. Ruth Nellis

Publications Committee

Liz Brown updated the committee on *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)*. An ISSN number has been assigned and a good cataloging record has been created. Articles have been lined up for the next issue. Efforts are being made to have it indexed by Wilson's *Library Lit*. The editorial board needs to determine terms for both themselves and the editor.

David Atkins and Janet Hughes reported on the STS Web Page. They will feature candidates for STS officers for the upcoming election in the next few months. The committee decided that *ISTL* should feature reviews rather than the STS Web Page. STS Committee Chairs will be asked to review their respective sections on the page. A call will go out to the membership via STS-L to suggest appropriate links (URL, descriptive information, etc.) to web pages of interest to the membership for the STS Web Page. David will make some style changes to the page for the committee to review at the Annual meeting.

Marty Courtois and Terry Wittig led a discussion on archiving messages on STS-L. They will poll the membership about this and the need for a USENET newsgroup and report on their findings at the Annual meeting.

Gayle Baker reported that ACRL is still supporting a print newsletter for all sections. Ed Lener and John Robson volunteered to be the new co-editors of the *STS Signal* beginning with the Fall 1997 issue.

The moderators, webmasters, and editors on the committee will draft job descriptions for review at the Annual meeting.

Information supplied by Gayle Baker

Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee continued its look at electronic publishing. The committee will approach the ACRL Task Force on Electronic Publishing and other groups about cosponsoring a program/forum for the 1998 annual ALA. Concerns to be addressed include copyright issues, where and how ejournals are indexed and archived, and the lack of stability of web resources. The forum would bring together librarians, professional societies, and publishers in hopes to resolve these issues.

The Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) was reviewed by John Mitchell from the Library of Congress. This program allows any librarian to submit proposals for subjects which currently have no assigned heading. A form for submitting subject headings and additional information about the PCC can be found at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/>. The committee is looking into ways to increase awareness of the PCC.

Information supplied by William M. Baer

STS Forum for Science and Technology Library Research

Members of the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research met in Washington, D.C. to review the abstract proposals for consideration for presentation at the Annual meeting. The following two were chosen:

Greg Youngen, Physics/Astronomy Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "Citation patterns of the physics preprint literature with special emphasis on the preprints available electronically."

William H. Walters, Bibliographer and Spatial-Numeric Data Specialist, Cornell University, "Collection development strategies for spatial and numeric data files."

The Forum is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 1997. Each presenter will have approximately thirty minutes for their presentation followed by ample time for questions and discussion. Discussion of science and technology library research in general will also be encouraged. Traditionally, the atmosphere has been informal, with lively and informative interaction. The chosen abstract proposals will be disseminated on STS-L.

Follow-up is being done to find a corporate sponsor for the Forum, so that future chosen presenters may have a portion of their ALA Annual attendance expenses paid.

Information supplied by Dana Boden

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

To join, send the following message to:

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(do not include a period after EDU). The SUBJECT line should be left blank. Enter:

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