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STS Signal: Looking for Your Feedback!
Do you have suggestions about what should be included in The Signal? Are there things that you like (or don’t like) about The Signal? We would love to hear from you!
Please fill out our anonymous survey at:
http://osuvalleylibrary.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2fuhPyutkne5rla

ALA Midwinter Conference Schedule for STS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council I</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>7:30—9:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Committee Meetings</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>10:30—Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Topics Discussion Group</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>1:30—3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Planning 2012</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>4-5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Planning 2013</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>4-5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Task Force Meetings</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Science Agency Update</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>4-5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Program
“The Role of Metadata Standards in Scientific Data Publishing: Part One” 1/22 10:30 a.m.—Noon

Note: Please check the conference program for location and any scheduling changes.
Can you believe that STS is 50?! We had fun in New Orleans celebrating that milestone and enjoying the delights of that wonderful city – we missed you if you couldn’t join us! And of course, we had a very successful conference with engaging speakers, enthusiastic audiences, and the usual amazing support from STS members and volunteers!

The celebration was kicked off by a fabulous 50th anniversary cruise on the Creole Queen steamboat. Special thanks to our sponsors for their extra generosity in support of this big event! Annual programs included Innovation in an Age of Limits with a distinguished panel of Stephen Abram, Jay Schafer and Mike Teets. Our new tradition of pizza lunch immediately following the All Committees meeting gave us more time to network and catch up with each other. The New Members Breakfast was a great opportunity to meet new colleagues and see them win cool prizes, and the All Member Breakfast was enhanced by the presentation of the new IEEE Innovation in Science & Technology Librarianship Award and some great continuing education!

Conference matters that the Executive Committee has been pondering are whether to combine the New Members’ Breakfast with the All Members’ Breakfast and add programming or continuing education to the event, and whether to make the Council II meeting virtual. We are going to try a virtual Council II meeting at ALA Midwinter 2012, and virtual Council II plus a combined Breakfast at ALA Annual in Anaheim. We will be soliciting your feedback to see if these changes should continue.

Some great programming is in the works for ALA Midwinter! The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group and STS Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee will co-sponsor "The Role of Metadata Standards in Scientific Data Publishing: Part One", with Part Two planned for ALA Annual, and the Government Information Committee will present a Federal Science Agency Update with contributions from five Federal science agencies.

STS Task forces hard at work include the Information Literacy Standards Review TF, which is in the process of re-forming to review the ACRL Information Literacy Standards for Engineering and Science/Technology; the Subject Librarians TF, which will finish its work at Midwinter; and the Virtual Participation TF, which has submitted their report and made recommendations for virtual participation. I am also forming a Publicity Officer task force to look at that important role in order to optimize our communication about STS’ great events and activities.

A last reminder – the STS discussion list (STS-L) is for the discussion of issues relating to science and technology libraries. We recently posted discussion list use guidelines and will repost them monthly to avoid any confusion about how to appropriately use the list. Thanks for reading and heeding them responsibly!

Thank you, everyone, for stepping up and volunteering your precious time for committees and task forces. Thanks to your hard work, this will be a great year for STS. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas and Anaheim!

Maribeth Slebodnik
STS Chair
Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

I want to thank STS members for electing me to serve as the STS Vice-Chair for 2011-2012. STS has always been my home in ALA, and I am honored to serve the Section in this capacity. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to work with all of you over the next three years, and to helping to continue to build the enthusiasm and innovation that makes STS great! Please feel free to email or phone me with suggestions and questions -- particularly about STS committees and membership opportunities as I prepare for the appointment process.

The requirements for serving on a committee or discussion group are:

- Be a member of ALA, ACRL and STS for the duration of the appointment;
- Attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting and ALA Annual Conference during the term of your appointment (some section committees, however, do allow virtual membership);
- Submit an electronic appointment acceptance form.

If you cannot serve on an STS committee at this time, you can still play an active role in STS. I welcome any ideas on STS programming, networking and educational opportunities, events, and potential interest groups or task forces as we strive to ensure that STS activities continue to be of value to you. I look forward to meeting and working with many of you this next year, and hope to see you all at the STS events and programs in Dallas and Anaheim!

Lori Ostapowicz Critz
Georgia Tech Library
Phone: 404.385.4392
Email: lori.critz@library.gatech.edu

I hope that many of you will consider serving on an STS committee or discussion group. Our committees and discussion groups keep STS vital, and are also instrumental to the Section’s ability to impact sci-tech librarianship. Information on the committees and discussion groups is available on the STS website at http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/committees/stscommittees.cfm. The chair and co-chair contact information is also available on the STS website, and they can also be emailed directly for information. Just let us know if you need additional details as you decide where you would like to contribute! I will be reviewing applications and making committee appointments in the coming months. Appointments are made in the spring and usually completed in April, but you can volunteer online at any time. Reminders will be sent after Midwinter. Most appointments are for a two year term, beginning directly after Annual 2012.

To begin the volunteering process, you just need to fill out the online volunteer form at www.acrl.org/volunteer (login is required).
Assessment Committee

The STS Assessment Committee continues to provide assistance in developing evaluative and measurement rubrics and processes for the myriad activities conducted by other STS committees. Ongoing work includes collecting and reporting on attendance at various STS-related programs and working with the Publications Committee on a survey document. The Committee is currently working on developing a program for the 2012 Annual meeting which will focus on assessment of STM bibliographic instruction and ways to use that information to improve teaching and learning outcomes. The Committee plans to meet virtually in lieu of the Midwinter 2012 meeting. Finally, the Committee welcomes new collaborative assessment projects at any time! Please don’t hesitate to contact the Assessment Committee with ideas and suggestions.

Beth Blanton, Co-Chair

STS 2012 Annual Conference Planning Committee

For those of you who will be attending the Annual Conference in Anaheim this summer, set aside the morning of Monday, June 25 for the STS Conference Program, Preparing Tomorrow's Science Professional.

The program seeks to establish a dialogue between Science & Technology Librarians, Faculty and Students, focusing on the issue of preparing today’s students to become tomorrow’s science professionals. Our panel of librarians and faculty members will explore the challenges professors face as they seek to educate emerging scientists, new outreach models for working with faculty on creating information and data literate researchers, and the ways librarians can work with science students to support their goals of becoming science professionals.

The panel event will be followed by poster presentations and lunch.

Hope to see you there!

Lindsay Johnston
Co-chair, STS 2012 Annual Conference Planning Committee
Continuing Education

Thanks to all of those who attended the STS All Members Breakfast at ALA Annual in New Orleans! We enjoyed a meet-and-greet icebreaker, and timely, topical discussions with colleagues in small groups.

The committee is adding Video Tips that were filmed at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference to the Continuing Education Committee's YouTube channel - we hope to make the newest videos available soon! (We're working on improvements to the audio quality.)

Later this Fall, the Committee will distribute the biennial continuing education surveys of science librarians. Also, we're reviewing Mentor Program and are updating the CE lists on the website.

Let us know about your CE needs and ideas! We hope to see you at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. Feel free to contact us with questions and suggestions at any time!

Kimberly Chapman & Diane Clark
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs

Membership & Recruitment

The Membership and Recruitment Section of STS organized another successful New Members' Breakfast at ALA Annual, with roughly 30 STS members in attendance, including about 7 new members. Our committee is currently working on several projects, including:

► updating the science librarianship brochure to a print-friendly version that can be sent to colleges and universities with strong science programs. The new version of the brochure will also be updated, since the original brochure is now slightly out of date.

► creating a "New Members Page" for new STS members to visit on the STS web site

► surveying STS members and/or non-members to focus on reasons why STS members stay and/or why non-STS members choose another organization.

► Conducting a survey of the field of science librarianship to see how the size of the field itself may be changing - are we growing, shrinking, or are numbers remaining constant? We hope this will provide more context to our membership statistics and trends.

Rachel Borchardt Co-Chair

Government

The STS Government Information Committee will be sponsoring a "Federal Science Agency Update" at Midwinter on Sunday. I requested 4:00-5:30 as a first choice and 10:30-12:00 as a backup time, but have not heard a final time yet.

The Federal Science Agency Update will have representatives from five federal agencies giving the latest info on their agencies scientific information programs and services. At this point we have speakers from the National Technical Information Service and Department of Energy Office of Scientific and Technical Information. Each speaker will have fifteen minutes to outline what's new with their agency's publication program, databases, search tools, websites, and other items of interest to science librarians.

Tim Byrne, Co-Chair

Introductions: (1) California Digital Library (CDL) – Serves 226,000 students, 134,000 faculty and staff, for the entire University of California system; (2) Curation and Preservation, partnership between the campuses, CDL and some peer institutions – data curation requires a new structure; (3) Curation – New roles for new times, digital curation for preservation “refers to the actions people take to maintain and add value to digital information over its lifecycle, including the processes of maintaining digital content”; (4) Digital preservation - focuses on the series of managed assets – ensuring access to digital materials for as long as necessary.

The Research Life Cycle: (1) Scholar has capacity for discovery because curators/libraries have collected; (2) Gathering because publication has happened, and vice versa – our activities enable the activities of the scholars. Protecting the intellectual investment of the institution and intellectual legacy; (3) Librarians can jump in at any time; (4) Build or acquire tools at any time of the lifecycle; (5) Enhance data sharing, collecting and gathering; (6) Facilitate data publication; (7) Partnerships to facilitate wide access.

Help researchers comply with new requirements: (1) Micro-services and Merritt; (2) DCXL; (3) WAS; (4) Data Paper model; (5) EZID; (6) Partnerships (network level): DataONE and DataCite; Data Management Plan Tool

Curation Micro Services: (1) Individual - Can build piece by piece; (2) Small and self contained; (3) Components: Custom combinations, Can solve complex problems

Building Blocks: (1) Building block list of critical components of complete curation solutions; (2) As an institution, you can add the pieces that you want

Merritt : Micro-services “Off the Shelf” [www.cdlib.org/services/uc3/merritt](http://www.cdlib.org/services/uc3/merritt): (1) Persistent identifiers (2) Merritt will soon be available to non-CA institutions to access

DCXL: Data Curation Excel: (1) Why Excel? Many researchers are storing their data in Excel, but not good for preservation; (2) Creating an open source plug-in to convert, researcher can install the plug-in: Permit standardized headers: Standard date formats, Auto archiving and persistent identifier, Discourage macros, (Q: Will it create a new format type? – A. not a new type, remains an excel spreadsheet, but has additional features)

WAS – Web Archiving Service: (1) Service started in 2007; (2) Capture ephemeral content from the web; (3) Anything on a website that can be reached by a click can be archived; (4) Example- archiving the gulf oil spill, captured 946 sites; (5) Powerful tool for curators; (6) Can capture the entire website or portions, individual resources, configurable; (7) If data is on a website, how does it capture? As a website and maintains format

Data Paper Model: (1) Data publication – particularly in the sciences, movement toward researchers getting “credit” for publication of data sets; (2) Provide citation support for the data set, some rich text; (3) Gives the researcher an additional way to track their data set; (4) Next steps would be to have a “data journal”, peer review, discipline grouping; (5) Institutional investment: Foray into library as publisher

Q: Difference between a data paper and a paper about data? Would a journal host the data or point to the data hosted elsewhere? A: Could work either way, using persistent identifiers so it wouldn’t matter where data was hosted. There are some data journals in the early stages.

EZID: (1) Problem- An article about data, but no data (paper provides information about data, but has no data sets); (2) When searching, you might eventually find data, but format is unsure (FTP site); (3) EZID provides a link between the data set and the scholarly publication; (4) Gives a persistent link to the data set within the tool, adds metadata; (5) Update object location and object metadata

Way to extend library services by meeting researchers needs: (1) Can be used early in the research life cycle – use EZID and create a citable link to the data set before the paper is published. Update the metadata later when published (target URL). (2) Can really aid a federated research team – stabilizes all references, citations, links, etc. (3) Enables a researcher to “take their data with them” – leaving institution, etc. (4) Meets funder requirements- having a data management plan (5) Meets library needs to enable a new kind of scholarly output and need to build collections (6) Meeting data center needs – new demands for storage, international standards

[http://n2t.net/ezid](http://n2t.net/ezid)

Q: Does EZID have a relationship to Orchid? A: At the present time, no. It could in the future.

DataONE- partnership at the network level: (1) NSF data project, build a new culture of data access and data sharing; (2) Building on existing and new infrastructures, and creating new communities of practice; (3) Librarians are at the table


Story continues on page 7
(1) Collaborative effort; (2) Funder’s data management sharing policies; (3) Data sharing requirements of journals; (4) UC schools, Smithsonian, ICPSR, UVA, and the NSF plus other institutions: Goal is to have this tool available for wide use in the Fall of 2011. (5) Sharing of data increases citations and boosts discoveries: Cultivate quantity and efficiency, Better organization, easier preservation, Intention is to be available without a fee

Build your Own / Open Source Tools / Off the Shelf Options: (1) CurateCamp- Community “unconference” in August @ Stanford to connect practitioners and technologists interested in digital curation and data management

Discussion/Questions: (1) DOI’s in existence, compatible with EZID? Granted permission to bring in legacy DOIs into the system and will be able to maintain them going forward. (2) Question to post to STS discussion group. Where will it be hosted? Is it customizable?

What are the advantages of automatic assignment of DOIs (to documents, datasets, and objects)?

What do we do about versioning? Changing of the data sets and derived data?
DOIs are special, not automatic identifiers,
Data has to be intended to be taken care of on a perpetual basis and require care
If data is changed or a new version, a new DOI should be issued.

How can we get involved in the data management planning tool effort? Check the wiki and see how to sign up for development and evaluating of the Beta.

Submitted by **Wendy Girven, member, STS Hot Topics DG**

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### Publications

The Publications Committee held their Annual meeting in person in New Orleans. Peter Zuber chaired, with four committee members in attendance.

STS-L moderator Peter Zuber reported that the list now has 1,442 subscribers. We also discussed the unmoderated nature of the list, that the list is not to be used for ILL requests, and that periodic reminders may be necessary to remind subscribers of this fact.

Andrea Duda reported that *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* (ISTL) now has 4,206 subscribers. ISTL has begun using Google Analytics to measure views of ISTL beginning with this past spring’s issue. The Fall ISTL issue will be the 15th anniversary issue.

*Signal* co-editor Christie Peters reported on several new sections that have been added to the newsletter: a conference schedule, research forum poster and abstracts, discussion group notes, science-related highlights from ACRL, an STS member spotlight, and more pictures. A survey will go out this fall to all STS members to learn about how they use the STS Signal and how the Signal can better meet their needs.

The Publications committee will be taking an oversight role for the STS Wiki. Current STS Wiki pages will be reviewed for currency and to make sure the pages are spam free.

**Hannah Gascho Rempel** (co-chair)

### Organization & Planning

The 2010/2011 committee completed its work in soliciting strategic plan activity reports from STS committees and discussion groups through assigned O&P Committee liaisons. In conjunction with the STS Chair, they reviewed strategic planning activities within STS and drafted the annual Strategic Plan Activity Report to submit to ACRL.

The 2011/2012 committee will meet virtually this fall to introduce ourselves, review the committee charge, and confirm liaison assignments. The STS Strategic Plan Activity Report for 2011/2012 will be aligned with the newly revised ACRL strategic plan, the Plan for Excellence [effective July 1, 2011](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/whatisacrl/strategicplan/index.cfm)

**Mary Linn Bergstrom** (Co-Chair 2010-2012)
28 people attended the Discussion Group Meeting entitled “Measuring the Value of our Science Libraries and Collections” at the ALA Annual Conference on June 26, 2011. Four questions were used to frame the discussion and participant responses have been summarized below.

**Do we actually have to be more accountable to our stakeholders?**

Most participants indicated that we do have to be more accountable, as other Departments and Faculties have been asked to do the same in an era of decreasing budgets. The accountability metrics must resonate with our stakeholders and have to be more than just holdings and circulation counts of physical collections, especially as we lose physical space and as print collections and their use decreases. There must be measurements of student-centered learning and success, use of digital resources and impact on faculty productivity. If libraries are to be perceived as mostly study spaces, there needs to be metrics that demonstrate the use and benefits of such spaces—for collaborative learning, group and individual study. The overall challenge will be the need to develop appropriate and practical metrics.

*What institutionally relevant outcomes or best practices should we consider?*

We must connect our usage data to institutional strategic plans. The focus should be on student-centered learning outcomes, data on the use of textbooks/course reserve circulation, support for copyright clearance issues, and database use (vendor logs). The metrics must focus on aspects of service and collections that contribute to student learning as well as retention and graduation rates and faculty research productivity (e.g. are they using library resources for citation analysis, grant proposals and patent applications?). Library instruction and information literacy programs should be course-integrated, graded, and collaborative, with an emphasis on developing critical thinking skills. In addition to having student and faculty based metrics, libraries need to have access to any relevant data held by administrators for strategic planning purposes.

*What assessment metrics (Qualitative or Quantitative) should we utilize to demonstrate our value?*

For qualitative metrics, a record of anecdotal and selective laudatory comments from students and faculty which can be directed to administrators could be effective. For quantitative measures, consider user-driven acquisition data and reference statistics gathering tools such as the READ Scale (Reference Effort Assessment Data), Libstats, RefTracker and Gimlet. Qualitative survey tools such as LibQUAL are useful for measuring service quality but results need to be interpreted carefully especially if they are to be used by non-library decision makers. Return on Investment (ROI) and other financial models may be transferable to non-profit institutions but the data has to be meaningful and accurate; an example being the willingness-to-pay data for collection development.

*Are there other models that we can adopt? (Public or Special Libraries)*

No answer on this. Questions remain—where do we begin since our scope is so broad and we serve many diverse stakeholders than Public or Special Libraries.

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**Don MacMillan & Brian Lym, Co-Chairs**
Submit a proposal for ACRL 2013

The ACRL 2013 Conference committee invites you to submit a proposal for ACRL 2013: *Imagine, Innovate, Inspire*. The conference, to be held in Indianapolis, April 10-13, 2013, will feature the best and brightest ideas in academic librarianship. Imagine, innovate, and inspire your colleagues and others in the higher education community with proposals that explore the most dynamic and challenging issues and ideas facing academic and research librarians today.

Session formats
Proposals are sought for a variety of formats including contributed papers, cyber zed shed presentations, panel sessions, preconferences, virtual conference webcasts, workshops, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions. [Session format descriptions are online.](#)

How to submit
Proposals must be submitted via the Program Proposal Form, available online at [www.acrl.org/acrlconference](http://www.acrl.org/acrlconference) (click “Program”).

Deadlines
- **May 11, 2012** – Proposals due for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences
- **November 9, 2012** – Proposals due for cyber zed shed presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts

Complete details about the conference are online at [www.acrl.org/acrlconference](http://www.acrl.org/acrlconference). Questions about the Call for Participation or ACRL 2013 should be directed Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org).

ACRL invites applications for Immersion ’12 Program

Apply now for the ACRL Information Literacy Immersion ’12 Program. Immersion ’12 will be held July 22-27, 2012 at Champlain College in Burlington, VT. Complete program details and application materials are [online](#).

Applications are being accepted for the Immersion Teacher and Program tracks. During the program, five members of the nationally-recognized Immersion faculty will lead participants through four-and-a-half days of intensive information literacy training and education. The Teacher Track focuses on individual development for those who are interested in enhancing, refreshing or extending their individual instruction skills. Curriculum includes classroom techniques, learning theory, leadership and assessment framed in the context of information literacy. The Program Track focuses on developing, integrating and managing institutional and programmatic information literacy programs. Participants selected for the Program Track will develop individual case studies in advance of the Immersion program.

Acceptance to Immersion ’12 is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. The application deadline is Dec. 2, 2011, and notifications will be issued in February 2012. Questions about the Immersion ’12 program should be directed to [szarko@mit.edu](mailto:szarko@mit.edu) or [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org).
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