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With every conference I attend, I realize how much I enjoy not only the opportunities to learn about what others are doing and be exposed to other perspectives, but how much I value deeply and genuinely – the relationships I have formed thanks to the STS. Working with science librarians from all different types of science libraries, including academic, government, and industry, has provided me with a sense of community that I never experienced before I entered this profession eight years ago. So I encourage those of you who have not joined us to climb on board, and those of you who are members – especially those contributing their time and energy to committees, discussion groups, and task forces – thank you for all that you bring to the section and to your colleagues across North America.

Linda Eells
University of Minnesota Libraries
612-624-4799

Although not yet fully recovered from the physiological speed bump incurred at ALA Midwinter – transitioning between San Diego and a severe Midwest winter - I am already getting excited about the upcoming ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans in June. This is going to be a truly special celebration for the STS because 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the section! While I realize this is a tough year with a number of other conferences drawing down travel funds and overlapping conference dates, I very much hope to see you all in New Orleans. We have new awards to celebrate, a great program, and a special dinner planned. Check out the updates below from Conference Program Planning Committee Co-Chair Maribeth Slebodnik for details about the STS program, Innovation in an Age of Limits, and the special celebratory 50th Anniversary dinner her group has arranged for us – thanks to extra special support from STS sponsors! You will find the entire STS program listed below.

Preliminary 2011 ALA Annual Conference
STS Schedule

Saturday, June 25
- 8:00-10:00 a.m.—New Member’s Breakfast & Orientation

Sunday, June 26
- 8:00-10:00 a.m.—All STS Member’s Breakfast
  Presenting the IEEE sponsored STS Innovation in Science & Technology Librarianship Award
- 10:30-12:00 p.m.—Hot Topics Discussion Group
  “Curation Microservices: Making Data Management Easy”
- 1:30-3:00 p.m.—College Science Librarians Discussion Group
  “Measuring the Value of Our Science Libraries/Collections”
- 4:00-5:00 p.m.—Research Forum
- 7:00-10:00 p.m.—STS Dinner on the Creole Queen!

Monday, June 27
- 8:00-11:30 a.m.—STS Conference Program
  “Innovation in an Age of Limits”
- 11:30-1:00 p.m.—Poster Session and Reception
Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

As I write this, I am preparing to launch into the process of assigning volunteers to various STS committee positions and task forces. Thanks to everyone who stepped forward to indicate their interest and volunteer their expertise and enthusiasm! Last year Linda Eells told me that STS members are eager to serve on committees, and I have found this to be very true. I appreciate the fact that many new people are interested in volunteering so that we have a lot of fresh viewpoints and perspectives, in addition to the expertise contributed by more experienced members. If you somehow missed the deadline, but are still interested in volunteering, please send me a message and together we will figure out a place for you to serve.

You will find a lot of information in this issue about the upcoming Annual Meeting in New Orleans. As Linda mentioned, this is the 50th anniversary of the founding of STS, and we have much to celebrate! Invitations will be sent out later this spring for the Sunday evening cruise on the Creole Queen – make sure to register promptly, as there will be a limited number of spots available. We hope to see you there!

You may have heard that some sections in ALA and ACRL have suffered a decline in numbers. STS is among them, though we have not been dangerously affected. Please be sure to encourage your science librarian colleagues to join us. Word of mouth is the best way to grow!

I love to fly Southwest Airlines, so I’m going to paraphrase their sign off message – We know you have lots of choices – thank you for being part of STS!

Maribeth Slebodnik
Purdue University Libraries
Phone: 765-494-2917
ALA 2011 Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 23-28th

STS News & Upcoming Events
STS 50th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner on the Creole Queen!

Plans are moving along nicely for our 50th anniversary celebration in New Orleans. On Sunday, June 26 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. we will be dining to the sounds of live jazz and cruising the Mississippi on the Creole Queen. The typical price per person for a group dinner on the Creole Queen is roughly $90. Thanks to our sponsors, and to creative and diligent fundraising by Mel DeSart, we anticipate that the cost will be closer to $40 per person. Invitations will go out to the STS membership later in the spring, so you have time to weigh your options. We have invited members of the Health Sciences Interest Group to join us so that we can network with them. We hope you decide to join us!

We have selected the Mardi Gras Mambo menu for the event (See below). Attempts are being made to get a vegetarian dish on the menu. Check out the website for more information about the Creole Queen!

Mardi Gras Mambo Menu

MARDI GRAS MAMBO
Classic Caesar Salad New Orleans Seafood Gumbo
Creole Jambalaya Chicken, and Sausage
Tilapia Filets in a Creole Sauce
Cajun Braised Beef Brisket with Bordeaux Sauce
Green Beans Almondine
Cajun Potatoes
Paddlewheeler Bread Pudding with Bourbon Whiskey sauce
French Bread with Butter
STS Conference Program
"Innovation in an Age of Limits"

The STS Conference Program will be addressing the theme *Innovation in an Age of Limits*. Our panel will include Stephen Abram (Gale Cengage), Jay Schafer (University of Massachusetts Amherst), and Mike Teets (OCLC). We hope that they will be able to help us to define the innovation-ready library universe and propose some approaches and solutions to the challenges that we are currently experiencing or anticipating, as well as those that we haven’t thought of yet! Each speaker has a reputation for innovation within his sphere, whether it be industry, academia or information infrastructure, so we anticipate a lot of interesting information and lively discussion. Our colleague Paul St. Pierre will moderate the panel and the following question and answer session. We are excited about being able to pick the brains of this distinguished panel!

The Monday program is also the venue for presentation of some of the Section’s awards, which will be moderated by STS Chair Linda Eells.

STS Field Trip

After exhaustive and concerted information gathering, surveying, pondering, focus groups, product testing (just kidding), we thought we had settled on the best field trip venue that we could possibly uncover, and then we ran into an awful, unshakable truth – the Audubon venues (Zoo, Aquarium & Insectarium) are all closed on Mondays. We felt that it was too late to go back to our most attractive option, a Tuesday morning trip to the Barataria Reserve, especially since many of you indicated that it wasn’t feasible to stay for a field trip. Paul and Tony, our STS New Orleans representatives, are putting together a list of science-themed outings that can be done easily from the Convention Center as a self-serve option. We are also thinking about coordinating a VERY local trip to Mardi Gras World (free!) on Monday afternoon for those who are ready to kick loose a little after our Monday program and enjoy some of the unique aspects of New Orleans.
While the tendency in hard economic times is to be conservative and avoid risks, this environment creates the need, and opportunities, to innovate. STS began 50 years ago in an era of seemingly unlimited possibilities, with the Cold War driving investment in scientific research, big technology, and higher education. Now we face grand challenges in science, engineering and library services. Current economic conditions are limiting, but our only real limit is our ability to innovate.

Expanding on that theme, we believe that advances in information access have significantly impacted innovation in the library world and beyond, and that some of those innovations have in turn advanced information access. What do you see on the horizon in both of those directions in the future?

Below you will find the abstracts for 3 short papers and 8 posters that address this theme. The papers will be presented at the Research Forum on Sunday, June 26th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The posters may be viewed after the STS Conference Program with the same theme on Monday, June 27th from 11:30-1:00. A reception will accompany the poster session! Please come join us to hear about the innovative ideas being presented!

**Announcement:**
The Research Committee is still looking for a moderator for the short papers. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Diana Shonrock!

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**Short Paper**

**Exploring New Frontiers: Data Management Support on Campus**
Christie Peters & Robin Dasler, University of Houston

A team of science librarians at the University of Houston is working on a project to assess current data curation practices and grant-related data management plan preparedness on the part of University of Houston researchers. We believe that the lack of a centralized data management mechanism on the UH campus results in researchers who are unprepared for the new NSF data management mandate and are struggling to meet this and other grant-related data requirements. For this assessment, we will interview nine NSF and five NIH grant recipients who received awards during fiscal year 2010. These fourteen grants total over five million dollars during FY10, represent twelve different science departments, and are made up of both individuals and interdisciplinary groups. It is our hope that this study will help the science team determine how it can best help researchers to fulfill their data management needs, thereby creating a new niche for ourselves on campus. We do not expect to be the sole solution, but we hope this study will serve as a first step towards creating a centralized data management solution in conjunction with other campus units.
Rising to the Top: The Search Engine Optimization of Online Library Resources
Emily Jacobson & Anna Welch, Pratt Institute SILS

The expansion of the discovery environment beyond library walls challenges libraries’ status as information providers. Web search engines are now a primary discovery tool for researchers, who turn to Google as often as, or more often than, querying a reference librarian or online library resource. If libraries acknowledge that their potential users turn to search engines with information needs that digital library resources could meet, they have the responsibility to consider applying search engine optimization (SEO) to those resources. A literature review of SEO practices in libraries uncovered little effort and few resources towards building and describing digital resources in a search optimized way. As science libraries join other special libraries in digitizing collections and creating unique born-digital resources, the adoption of SEO practices becomes particularly relevant. Beyond an increase in the use of library pages and an increased diversity of external users, more visibility in search engines has the potential to increase collaboration within the scientific community. An important step in understanding the benefits of search optimization to libraries is measuring the gap between the current state of resources and SEO best practices. We will therefore audit several science-related online resources with a consistent set of metrics built from applicable best practices in the search field. With the results of this audit, we will draft a rubric for the optimization of library pages. Our results will begin to prove whether libraries’ investment in SEO is justified, or even imperative.

Social Networking for Library and Information Science Literature
John Meier, Penn State University

As a science librarian, I felt inundated by the sheer number of articles published in the library and information science field. While RSS made it easier for me to follow my favorite journals, there were still dozens of articles a month. I wanted to work more closely with my colleagues around the world to sift through this tidal wave. I obtained funding to create a website that gathers RSS article feeds from a core set of journals in the field and volunteer participants provide the user generated content of ranking, tags and comments (LISLIT 2010). I hypothesize that as users of this website librarians will save time, network with their peers, and improving their discovery of the latest research. I am measuring participation in the user community with a number of metrics. The system tracks each user’s frequency of posting, commenting, and voting on articles. Also web metrics have been used to measure the use of every page on the website as well as the effectiveness of marketing using Google Adwords and Facebook.

There have been reports on a number of recent studies involving “alternative metrics” for scholarly impact (Mandavilli 2011). I hope to demonstrate that these new ways of post-publication peer-review can be effectively used by librarians. I also hope to show with the multiple usage statistics which user-created groups are most active (right now it is Sci-Tech Librarians) and suggest future directions for the profession.
Help Wanted: Opportunity to Manage Research Data
Mary Linn Bergstrom, University of California San Diego

Einstein is quoted as saying “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” During a period of severe budget constraints, UCSD Libraries identified functions that could be centralized to realize cost savings. As a result, the Science & Engineering Library [S&E] experienced staff reductions and a sharply curtailed public service portfolio. During this timeframe, interest in a campus-wide approach to data curation was growing. UCSD Libraries were involved in generating the Blueprint for a Digital University, a report of the Research Cyberinfrastructure Design Team accepted by UCSD’s Chancellor, that recommends the cyberinfrastructure needed for UCSD to remain a leading 21st century research university. This report, combined with recent NSF requirements for data management plans in 2011 grant proposals, placed research data curation squarely in the bailiwick of S&E’s core clientele. Capitalizing on a history of collaboration, the UCSD Libraries and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) are teaming up to lead data curation efforts at UCSD. The work is coordinated by a Data Curation Working Group; establishing a role for the S&E Library in the Data Curation Working Group creates the opportunity for S&E librarians to learn new skills and develop new services. In a broader collaboration within the University of California (UC), the UCSD Libraries and SDSC are part of the University of California Curation Center (UC3) a system-wide initiative led by the California Digital Library (CDL). The poster shows how these collaborative efforts intersect and overlap, positioning S&E in the effective provision of data curation services to UCSD researchers.

How the Librarian Put QR Codes in the Science Center
Kristen Yarney, University of Scranton

Thanks to easily accessible online databases and web-based reference sources, most science professors no longer have a reason to visit their university library – and neither do their students. However, using an easy and inexpensive implementation of quick response (QR) codes, an academic library can visit science faculty and students on their own turf. QR codes are a type of matrix barcode similar to traditional barcodes but capable of storing much more data, including text, contact information, and URLs. Readable by most smartphones, QR codes are an increasingly popular augmented reality technology and provide librarians a new avenue through which to re-engage both practitioners and students of science, rebuilding relationships that have been forgotten.

Upon its completion in Fall 2011, the University of Scranton’s new Unified Science Center will feature library-created QR codes throughout the building. The codes will refer visitors to library resources that relate to the research being conducted in the building’s laboratories, point students to databases and online references useful for coursework, and provide additional information on the building’s visual exhibits and displays. In this poster presentation, digital services librarian and science liaison Kristen Yarney will discuss the inspiration and collaborative processes behind this innovative partnership of scientists with librarians. The poster will feature examples of the QR codes used in the building, as well as some of the mobile websites developed for faculty offices, classrooms, and labs.
Socializing in the Stacks: Teaming with Faculty to Weed Science Materials
Rachel Borchardt, American University

Many academic institutions are facing a critical issue with limited stack growth. In the science disciplines, where books have a relatively short half-life, weeding seems to be a natural best practice to free up shelf space. In 2010, American University weeded over 1200 books in the natural sciences (call number range QE-QR). The books chosen as candidates for weeding were selected based on usage statistics as well as manual selection of outdated materials. Each book was tagged with a paper band and returned to the shelves. After tagging, faculty members were invited to a “weeding party” in the library and were encouraged to review and comment on the weeded materials. These comments were then taken into consideration when making final decisions. This outreach effort helped distribute the decision-making across many departments, while increasing advocacy and relationships between the science departments and the library. Methodology, statistics, examples of faculty input, best practices, and ideas for future directions will be presented.

I would also like to note that this process is based on one described by Mary Abdoney at Washington and Lee University, as presented as part of the January 2010 STS Assessment Discussion group, “Evaluating and Weeding Books in the Sciences”, but is not an identical process.

Empowering Libraries to Make Spatial Finding Aids on a Shoestring Budget
Roger Knouff, Arizona State University

During these times of limitations, there are low-cost opportunities to empower libraries to leverage today’s innovative technologies to provide intuitive finding aids for geospatial resources. KMLs (Keyhole Markup Language) are versatile, lightweight geospatial files which can vary in utility from denoting a point or area, to denoting a 3-D objects such as a building or bridge, to providing access to imagery or geospatial data on a remote server.

This poster will visually demonstrate the ease of making KMLs to denote the geographic extent of geospatial collections using freely available software such as Google Earth or ArcGIS Explorer. KMLs can easily be hosted via conventional web pages, or through widely adopted technologies such a Libguides –without IT assistance or programming. Anyone who can draw points or polygons using Google Earth tools, and has access to a website or Libguide, is already empowered to create finding aids that can efficiently depict the extent of a geospatial resources via a wide variety of publicly available interfaces such as Google Maps. Compared to text-based finding aids, visual demarcation of geospatial collections are more efficient and easier to comprehend for both the advanced and casual users of geospatial resources. Any metadata format can be used. KMLs can rapidly depict the extent of collections of aerial photographs, maps, shapefiles, digital elevation models, and specific census information of local interest. The poster would also briefly overview using KMLs for slightly more advanced applications such as to display maps, photography, and to access geodata stored on a server.
Poster #5

Using Calibrated Peer Review™ to Teach Information Skills in an Agricultural Course
Marianne Stowell Bracke, Purdue University Libraries

This poster describes a faculty-librarian partnership using a new technology to successfully incorporate information literacy, critical thinking, and writing skills into a mandatory course for all incoming freshman in the College of Agriculture. Large classroom settings challenge librarians to be innovative in designing effective and scalable assignments. Calibrated Peer Review ™ (CPR™) is an online system created at UCLA and supported by Purdue University within Blackboard, highlighting the pedagogical theory of using student peer review as a learning tool. This system requires the instructor to create detailed and descriptive assignments with clear learning objectives, and allows students to submit essays online within the system. Additionally, the system then assigns essays to other students for peer review. The librarian had been embedded in this course, Agriculture 101, for several semesters but was struggling to find a way to reach all students and to grade all the assignments generated. The new assignment asked students to compare two articles, one peer-reviewed and one not, on the same scientific topic, in an essay format. By utilizing CPR™, the librarian was able to have students complete a series of assignments that introduced them to an information literacy skill (evaluation of articles) and required them to think critically (description of evaluation of 2 articles and how they could apply this knowledge in the future) through written essays and peer-review. Grading was done by the system, through a scoring algorithm set up by the librarian based on completion and peer review scores.

Poster #6

One Search to Rule Them All: An Evaluation of Summon for Finding Natural Science Information
Barry N. Brown, The University of Montana

Information discovery has never been easier. It is, almost, all on the internet. There are many databases currently available for searching the literature of ecology, environmental science, forestry, geoscience, and wildlife biology (i.e. natural sciences). The popularity of comprehensive, multidisciplinary indexes such as Web of Science and Google Scholar appears to have greatly displaced the use of traditional discipline specific indexes by many natural science researchers. And academic libraries are increasingly implementing global discovery search services, such as Serials Solution's Summon, in an attempt to provide a Google-like search experience across library collections such as magazine, journal and newspaper articles, books, government documents, and digital content. This poster presentation will compare and rank natural science search results for journal articles from: Summon vs. Web of Science, and Google Scholar; and for books from: Summon vs. Google Books and WorldCat; and for grey literature from Summon vs. Google and WorldCat. Database content is benchmarked against coverage of the most important journals, freshness and completeness of indexing, and inclusion of citations from selected bibliographies. Conclusions will be of interest to librarians wishing to advise students and faculty on efficiently performing comprehensive literature searches on natural science topics.
Poster #7

Full STEAM Ahead: Infusing Art into STEM
Denise Beaubien Bennett, Margeaux Johnson, Michelle Leonard, Sara Russell Gonzalez
University of Florida

Combining art with science makes scientific research more accessible to general audiences. The University of Florida’s Marston Science Library highlights these creative efforts by curating exhibits that communicate a wide variety of science and technology topics through an artistic lens.

The Elegance of Science annual art contest began in the fall of 2008 to support the libraries’ overall mission to serve as places of contemplation and discovery. The exhibit also serves as a showcase for the research conducted at UF. Two-dimensional images are submitted each fall, and an awards ceremony with prize money is held each spring. The winning entries are displayed in the Marston Science Library and the Health Science Center Library.

The Gainesville Florida Reef, a satellite of the Worldwide Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef, is on display in 2011. The exhibit serves to: Foster scientific communication through the visual arts, raise awareness of the fragility of our coral reefs and the entire ecosystem, support learning by creating physical models of geometric principles, connect several areas on campus, including fine arts, mathematics and ecology and environmental sciences through collaboration and mutual interest, and encourage local community and alumni involvement through creating, observing and learning.

In the last year, we have brought in the “Places and Spaces: Mapping Science” exhibit and displayed a Menger sponge created by UF students. We have established a Marston Science Library Exhibits Fund to defray expenses and to generate support. These exhibits generate buzz, lure guests into the library, and encourage broader interest in the sciences.

Poster #8

Google Docs: The Cloud Computing Alternative to Paid Apps
Bernd Becker, San Jose State University

As librarians consider migrating towards open-source alternatives, and away from expensive productivity software, Google Docs has become a viable option for developing a streamlined workflow for managing data. To cut computing costs and unify the campus, San Jose State University recently adopted Gmail and Google Apps as its service provider. This session will demonstrate how one librarian accepted the personal challenge of relying solely on Google’s software suite as a means to administer and monitor a longitudinal assessment of students’ information literacy skills. To date, several hundred students enrolled in the Psychology 100W research and writing course, which is a course required for graduation, have taken the online pretest/post-test. Google Form, Spreadsheet, and Document applications were used to analyze and graphically represent the data. Questions regarding the benefits, limitations, and future direction of this approach will be addressed. Additionally, examples will be presented on how Google Docs was utilized as a digital learning object repository during multi-department collaborations which focused on training and instructing students in scholarly research. Information will be provided during the session that will allow attendees to apply specific features of Google Docs in a similar fashion at their own institutions.
DISCUSSION GROUPS

College Librarians

Measuring the Value of Our Science Libraries and Collections

Sunday, June 26
1:30pm-3:00pm

With the increasing need to respond to institutional demands to prove the value of academic libraries, how do we measure the value of science libraries and collections? What assessment metrics are we applying now or should be considering given these pressures?

Come share your perspectives at this discussion group!

- Don MacMillan & Brian Lim

Hot Topics

Curation Micro-Services: Making Data Management Easy

Sunday, June 26
10:30am-12:00pm

This year the Hot Topics Discussion Group will present a facilitated discussion on the use of micro-services as an approach to digital curation. These micro-services are a set of independent, but interoperable, services that embody curation values and strategies. Since each of the services is small and self-contained, they are collectively easier to develop, deploy, maintain, and enhance.

The California Digital Library (CDL) has a suite of micro-services which can be deployed as centrally managed services or in strategic combinations. With Data Management Planning becoming an increasingly important aspect of digital curation, the tools and approaches that support researchers in this activity take a greater role in research librarians’ portfolios. One of the challenges researchers face is consistently finding, citing, and getting credit for their research datasets. Persistent identifiers offer a solution to this problem, and CDL’s micro-service EZID makes creation and maintenance of long-term identifiers easy.

The Discussion Group session will begin with a presentation by Joan Starr, the EZID Service Manager and Manager of Strategic and Project Planning at CDL. Joan has worked extensively with CDL’s University of California Curation Center (UC3). Her presentation will include an overview of UC3 micro-services, and will provide special focus on ways that EZID can help to extend historic collection-building activities to datasets, allowing for the preservation of an institution’s research investments.

Following her presentation, Joan will answer questions and help lead an interactive discussion of this important topic that could potentially benefit us all in our effort to understand how academic libraries can be instrumental in managing data as an output of research.
ALA 2011 Midwinter Conference
San Diego, California
January 7-11, 2011

Committee Reports
Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee has appointed liaisons to STS committees that would like help with program or project assessment. These committees include Research, Publications and Information Literacy. We are currently investigating the idea of co-sponsoring a discussion group with the Information Literacy Committee at ALA Annual 2012 on evaluations that assess student learning and opportunities. Stay tuned as this exciting program develops! The Assessment Committee continues to meet virtually at Midwinter.

- Beth Blanton-Kent & Helen Smith

Awards Committee

The STS Awards Committee, formerly the STS Oberly Award Committee, has been very busy since ALA Annual last June. This Committee is responsible for soliciting and reviewing applicants for three awards. These include an STS nominee for the ALA Emerging Leader award, the STS Innovation in Science and Technology Librarianship Award, and the Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural and Natural Sciences. The Co-Chairs appreciate the time and effort that it takes for committee members to choose the best nominee for each of these awards, sometimes at very short notice.

The committee received an excellent pool of nominees for each of these awards and had a difficult time choosing only one person for each award. After much deliberation, the committee selected the following candidates:

The ALA/STS Emerging Leader Award goes to John Meier of Penn State University. Congratulations John!

The STS Innovation in Science and Technology Librarianship Award goes to coordinators Louise Letnes and Julia Kelly of the University of Minnesota for their work on AgEcon Search. AgEcon Search is the trusted national and international open access repository for the literature of agricultural economic research and is valued by researchers the world over. Since its inception in 1995, it has changed continuously as technology has evolved, finding innovative solutions to indexing, archiving, and delivering these materials. This new annual award, sponsored by IEEE, will be given out at the STS All Members breakfast at ALA Annual.

The biennial Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural and Natural Sciences was awarded to Bill Shurtleff for his work, History of Soybeans and Soyfoods in Africa (1857-2009): Extensively Annotated Bibliography and Sourcebook. This is a freely available electronic bibliography that was published simultaneously on the web and Google Books in September, 2009. This is a true piece of scholarship which will be useful to help governments, NGOs, nutritionists, soybean farmers, breeders, historians access a wide range of information on soybeans that can help them in their quest to stem malnutrition and expand soybean production in Africa. Bill will receive a cash prize and plaque during the STS Program at ALA Annual in New Orleans. Organic E-Prints was selected to receive an Honorable Mention.

- Marianne Bracke & Luti Shoor
Continuing Education

Have you seen the Video Tips that were filmed at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and posted to the Continuing Education Committee’s YouTube channel? We have received a lot of feedback about these tips and plan on incorporating suggestions for captions and transcripts into the new video tips that will be filmed at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. If you cannot attend the conference and would like to contribute a video tip, please send it to us via email and we will include it on our YouTube channel!

Stay tuned for an engaging, interactive “lightning rounds” session at the STS All Members Breakfast at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference. The All Members Breakfast is always a great place to meet colleagues, network, share your thoughts and learn new ideas. We will be sending out a call for presenters this Spring and are excited about planning this fun event for the breakfast.

The Committee is currently working on several projects, including the biennial continuing education surveys of science librarians. We are currently analyzing the 2009 survey results and preparing the next survey for Fall 2011 distribution. In addition, we are reviewing the Mentor Program and will be updating the continuing education presence on the STS website. Lastly, we are looking for opportunities for future programming or other activities that will support members’ continuing education needs. If you have an idea for us to consider, please let us know!

We hope to see you at the ALA Annual Conference – and feel free to contact us with questions and suggestions at any time!

- Kimberly Chapman & Edith Scarletto

Information Literacy

This report is based on two meetings. The first was held at Midwinter in San Diego as a blended meeting, but this was cut short due to a Meebo failure and subsequent lack of quorum. The second meeting was held online on 27 January via Meebo.

The Science Information Literacy Wiki has had 17,692 visits to date. In regard to 1st Wednesdays on FB, one visitor mentioned that Facebook is banned at her institution, but meetings are otherwise going well. The venue is not ideal, but at this time, we are aware of no better option.

Based on the hard work of the STS Virtual Meeting Task Force (and many thanks to them), the committee has selected a number of tools to replace the now-inoperable ALA Connect chat. We experimented with Gmail, Skype, TinyChat, and Meebo. Skype and Meebo received the most favorable responses and despite the Meebo problems at Midwinter, the make-up meeting was held on Meebo and went well. A February meeting will take place on Skype group chat, and the committee will decide which virtual meeting tool it prefers at that meeting.

- Peter Larsen & Roxanne Bogucka

Government

The Facebook page for the STS Government Information Committee has been updated from a “group” to a “page.” While a message has been sent to all the former “group” members, membership has been slow to move from the group to the new page. A link to the ACRL Wiki site has been added to the Facebook page.

The STS Assessment Committee created a survey for Science and Technology Government Information Sources, a resource that is located on the ACRL Wiki. This survey was distributed during the summer of 2010. The results were mostly positive, and feedback was helpful and constructive. The committee is discussing ideas for marketing the wiki, which include sending a monthly update of new additions to the STS listserv and linking to it from the Facebook page. Committee members will continue making updates to our states’ section on the wiki.

- Tim Byrne & Cheryl McCoy
Liaison Committee

Call for Mini-Grants

Do you or your STS committee need funds for projects that involve collaborations with other science librarian associations or groups? Do you have an idea on how to advance STS and academic science librarianship within professional science societies and associations? The STS Liaisons Committee is funding projects (up to $1500.00) in 2011 that are strategic opportunities for STS Committees and members that support collaborative activities with science and technology sections of library-related associations or that foster leadership within professional science scholarly on issues of importance to science & technology librarianship. Proposals by STS committees or STS members with other groups within ALA are welcomed.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include the following:

- Collaborative research projects between STS and another library association or group within ALA.
- Shared development of educational opportunities of high interest to STS members.
- Support for STS committees/members to highlight the work of STS to a non-librarian professional association meeting.
- Development of guidelines/best practices with other library associations.
- Shared programs for recruitment of scientists and science students into librarianship.

SUBMISSIONS: Each proposal must include a statement of purpose and project description that demonstrates alignment with the strategic goals of STS and ACRL. A detailed budget is required with justifications, timeline, and deliverables. Funding will not be provided for travel-related expenses. Also required is a plan for assessment and how the project measures success.

EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: July 1, 2011. We will be sending out an announcement shortly with details about the extension and how this will impact when the funds must be spent. Proposals will be considered on a continual basis until the funding ($1500.00) is depleted. The STS Liaisons Committee will select proposals for 2011 through a blind review process on the basis of timeliness, thoughtfulness, and relevance to sci/tech librarianship.

Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to William Simpson and Christie Peters, Co-Chairs of the STS Liaisons Committee. Be sure to include your name, institution, phone, fax, and e-mail address.

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New ACRL IFLA Representative

**Martin Kesselman**

New ALA representative to IFLA (Science and Technology Libraries Committee) 2011-2015

Martin Kesselman is the Science Reference Team Leader and Life Sciences Librarian at Rutgers University. He has been actively involved in ALA over the past two decades particularly in STS and IRRT and in international activities focused on IFLA and AgNIC. Recently as Co-Chair of the STS Liaisons Committee, he successfully obtained funding from the ACRL to enhance liaison activities between STS and other major library associations that focus on science librarianship. Marty will provide ongoing communication between the IFLA Science and Technology Section and ACRL ST via STS-L listserv postings and items in the STS newsletter, and will seek opportunities for further collaboration between the two organizations.

Congratulations, Marty!

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New ACRL AAAS Representative

**Alison Ricker**

New ALA representative to AAAS (Section on Information, Computing and Communication) 2011-2013

Alison has been science librarian at Oberlin College since 1983. She manages the science library, with responsibilities for collection development, reference, instruction, and staff supervision. Prior to working at Oberlin, she was the librarian at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Savannah, Georgia. She served as Chair of STS in 1995/96 and has been involved as a member or chair of a number of other STS committees and discussion groups. Alison attended her first AAAS meeting in 2010 and found it to be an excellent conference. She especially enjoyed the opportunity to discuss issues of policy and science literacy with scientists, administrators, and science journalists.

Congratulations, Alison!
**Membership & Recruitment**

The Membership and Recruitment Committee met virtually prior to Midwinter. Due to increasing interest in membership trends, the committee reviewed a report compiling all retained membership data from past years. This report was presented to Council at the Midwinter meeting. The committee also discussed other ongoing projects as follows:

1. Reworking the previous Science Majors Wanted brochure into a single-page PDF better suited for online distribution, so as to save postage costs;
2. Continuing with plans for a demographic survey of the current membership to aid in retention efforts; and
3. Compiling better new members’ information to be put on the STS website.

The committee will again be hosting the New Members’ Welcome and Orientation at ALA Annual. While new members are especially encouraged to attend, all members are welcome.

- Robin Dasler & Rachel Borchardt

**Nominating**

Voting in the 2011 ALA election opened on March 16th, 2011, and ballots closed at 11:59pm on April 22. Election results will be announced on April 29, 2011.

Candidate statements are available in the Fall 2010 STS Signal and were included with the ballot.

STS Candidates:

**Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:** Lori Critz & Kara Whatley

**Member-at-Large:** Peter Larsen & John Meier

**Secretary:** Marianne Bracke & Ed Lener

- Virginia Baldwin

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**Organization & Planning**

The Organization and Planning (OP) Committee will continue its role in the assessment of STS strategic plan implementation. Committee members serve as liaisons and work with other STS committees and discussion groups in evaluating their committee activities. All STS activities should be reported in relation to the ACRL “Charting our Future: ACRL Strategic Plan 2020” - Strategic Areas, Goals and Strategic Objectives section (see the ACRL website). Each committee will be contacted to submit their annual reports to their OP Committee liaison by March 18. In conjunction with the STS Chair, the Committee will draft the Strategic Plan Activity Report for submission to ACRL in late spring.

- Jill Dixon & Mary Linn Berstrom
Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials

The Committee has completed an annotated bibliography, “Essential Readings in e-Science,” which is in press with ISTL. Its purpose is to afford librarians with readings that provide a foundation about this new area; it aims to help librarians understand what their roles could be in e-Science. With the bibliography completed, the Committee has begun fleshing out our next project: working toward understanding and possibly promoting use of NISO standards related to technical reports, as well as an emerging standard for the citation of datasets.

Jack Maness & Kathy Szigeti
**Virtual Participation**

The Virtual Participation Task Force was convened in June 2010. Our charges:

1) examine the current virtual participation recommendations and practices throughout STS
2) to develop/update guidelines for the section to better guide section committees and members around virtual participation
3) to make particular recommendations to the STS Executive Committee on recommended actions to be brought to STS Council. (Expected Completion: Recommendations given before Midwinter 2011 conference.)

The task force first met virtually in June 2010, and held nearly monthly meetings from then until December 2010. The following sections describe the major initiatives the task force completed during this time.

- Background Scan
- STS Committee Involvement with Virtual Members
- Software Evaluation
- Survey
- Task Force Recommendations

You may view all of the documents produced by the Virtual Participation Task Force at [ALA Connect](http://www.alaplay.org).

- Rachel Borchardt

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**Subject Librarian**

The Subject Librarian Task Force has been charged to: (1) Examine the state of subject liaisons in science and technology libraries; (2) Determine if a set of formal guidelines should be recommended and approved by the section and ACRL or if informal support materials in this area would be beneficial to members and the section; and (3) Work to establish guidelines and/or support materials for this section.

Prior to Midwinter, a survey was distributed to STS-L and a number of other subject-specific science librarian listservs. The purpose of this survey was to obtain a comprehensive overview of the changing roles of academic science librarians. While response to the original survey was very respectable, the task force determined that a number of changes should be made to the survey. A revised survey has recently been resubmitted to the listservs. The survey will remain open until May 2, 2011. Because it is a revision, we would like for even those individuals who have already taken the survey to complete the new version. The results from the survey will be used to generate a report on the current state of science librarianship and a list of best practices.

**SURVEY:** [The Changing Roles of Academic Science Librarians](http://www.alaplay.org)

- Virginia Baldwin & Peter Larsen

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**STS Flow Chart for Virtual Meeting/Collaboration Software**

[Flowchart Image]
DISCUSSION GROUPS

Hot Topics

**NSF Data Management Plan: Implications for Librarians**

The STS Hot Topics Discussion Group met on Saturday January 8 at the San Diego Convention Center for the Midwinter 2011 Meeting. Andrew Sallans, Head of Strategic Data Initiatives at the University of Virginia Library presented an overview of the new NSF Data Management Plan requirement for recipients of NSF funding, and the steps UVA is taking to help researchers comply with the policy. You may find Andrew’s PPT presentation by following the link provided above.

The NSF Grant Proposal Guide, 2011, states that “all proposals must describe plans for data management and sharing of the products of research, or assert the absence of the need for such plans.” The data management plans must be in the form of a 2 page supplementary document (peer reviewed). The new policy is meant to be a first step toward a more comprehensive approach to data management, as the movement to open data and the drive to reuse and preserve research data escalates. Challenges for all institutions (and libraries), including training/retooling for librarians and institution staff, obtaining organizational buy-in, scalability and sustainability issues, and locating funding opportunities, were delineated during this presentation, along with the rationale for library involvement.

At UVA, the library is working to develop institutional partnerships as they look to consult with researchers and provide leadership for the campus in this arena. UVA’s SciDaC group (Scientific Data Consulting Group), under Andrew’s direction, initially considered a ‘boilerplate’ approach, but determined that customized plans and templates for research communities were a more effective response. Ease of use for researchers, supportability within the institutional infrastructure, and the ability to follow through with the submitted plans was stressed. Details of SciDaC’s current approach - including staffing and training models and plans to scale services as campus needs spiral - were also discussed. Andrew closed with suggestions for continuing the discussion and offered ongoing conference activity. These included the ARL Data Listserv, the JISC Dataman Listserv, and the UIUC Summer Institute on Data Curation.

Andrew’s full presentation, and notes from the Q & A are available on the STS website and on ALA Connect.

- Lori Critz

Publisher/Vendor Relations

**Current Trends in Patron Driven Acquisitions for Print & Electronic Books in Science & Technology**

The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group organized a panel presentation at ALA Midwinter 2011 on Sunday, January 9 from 10:30 – 12:00. The five panel members who led this discussion were Michael Levine-Clark (University of Denver), Diane Clark (University of Alberta), Mary Woodley (California State University – Northridge), Syed Hasan (Springer), and Matt Barnes (ebrary). The three librarians outlined trial projects at their institutions in loading MARC records from vendors such as EBL and MyiLibrary into their libraries’ catalogs. The percentage of STM records loaded into the catalogs was comparable to the actual percentage of STM books purchased at Denver & Northridge. Considering that the sample sizes are small, the subject areas showing the most purchases in STM were computer science, engineering, and health. Springer has experimented with a patron driven acquisitions model through a pilot with University of Utah. Ebrary piloted a PDA program with 20 library partners for one year, loading selected MARC records into catalogs. STM records accounted for 30% of what selectors added and STM accounted for 26% of purchased e-books during the pilot. Currently small percentages of collection development budgets are devoted to the patron driven model by participating libraries.

The PowerPoint files for all of the panel presentations may be found on ALA Connect.

- Judith Emde & Matt Marsteller
Roles for Librarians in Research Data Curation

Panel: Jake Carlson, Data Research Scientist, Purdue University; Dianne Dietrich, Physics & Astronomy Librarian, Cornell University; Susan Parham, Research Data Project Librarian, Georgia Institute of Technology; Marisa Ramirez, Digital Repository Librarian, California Polytechnic State University; Gail Steinhart, Research Data & Environmental Sciences Librarian, Cornell University

As the digital data output from sponsored research increases in size and complexity, many academic libraries are exploring possible roles and responsibilities in the management of this important, valuable resource. In this panel session, attendees heard from librarians at four different institutions who are actively engaged in different aspects of the curation of research data at their institutions.

Given that the nature of research data curation incorporates many of the traditional functions of a library, many in the library field have theorized that academic libraries may be positioned to play a role in these activities. Even so, there are some potential issues with library involvement in data curation that must be carefully considered. According to Sayeed Choudhury, Associate Dean for Library Digital Programs at John Hopkins University, the implications of data curation for libraries include: "Data as collections; data as services; librarians as data scientists; data centers as the new library stacks." This statement naturally leads to multiple questions. To what extent do libraries need to educate themselves about data management and curation practices in different disciplines? What can libraries do to develop a more robust understanding of the diversity, size, and complexity of current and future data sets on a local level? What library services should be developed to support the intake and reuse of data? What outreach and educational materials need to be created for researchers in regards to data curation?

This panel was composed of four librarians who have assumed roles and responsibilities in working with data and are directly addressing these and other questions as a core part of their positions. In this session, panel members discussed the potential roles and responsibilities of academic libraries in supporting the data-related needs of researchers throughout the data lifecycle that have been suggested in the literature. These roles for librarians include partnering with faculty on research, providing data management assistance, providing tools for the sharing and storage of data, and providing assistance with finding, accessing and preserving data resources in the context of specific research, disciplinary, and institutional cultures. The panel then discussed their real world roles and responsibilities as data librarians at their specific institutions, how they carry out these roles and responsibilities, and how they relate to the roles for librarians that have been put forth in the literature. Finally, panel members engaged the audience in a question and answer session on the challenges faced in taking on these roles and in how roles for librarians and library services for research data curation may unfold in the future.

This summary is based upon the ACRL panel proposal for this session and has been approved by all of the panelists. References for the session may be found at the ACRL 2011 conference website.
**STS Information Literacy Committee**

**E-Science, the Next Step in Information Literacy:**
*The What and How of E-Science for Librarians*

What is e-science and what does this mean for libraries? **David Osterbur** (Countaway Library of Medicine at Harvard Medical School) and **Michael Fosmire** (Physical, Sciences, Engineering and Technology Division of the Purdue University Libraries) defined ‘the how and what of e-science.’

David opened this panel discussion by introducing three characteristics of e-science: collection, maintenance, and access of data sets; collaboration and decentralization of research, and issues concerning data literacy. These characteristics emerge from the area of where scientific research meets the acquisition and uses of data, and ways this is influenced by unrealistic expectations of students, academics and librarians of what can be done at this point. We know that Millennial students are not as knowledgeable about information and technology as they like to think. Academics erroneously believe everything is available through the Internet. Librarians then have unrealistic expectations in thinking researchers and academics know more about information resources than they actually do. E-science attempts to correct these expectations through its collaborative and networked nature. It also expands what libraries can offer to academics and students.

One definition of e-science, according to David, is networked, data-driven science. We may be practicing e-science without realizing it: how many of us provide databases in the sciences? That is one aspect. Library skills are also a part of this through its searching specialized information resources (such as databases) and by knowing and applying metadata. Librarians are exceptional at knowing how to find information in many sources, which is another component of e-science. However, librarians are required to have a level of expertise to do this; while the speaker wasn’t specific on this, I assume the level would depend on the types of projects and collaborations a librarian may with to do. Another aspect of e-science is with data and its acquisition, storage, and accessibility.

One main issue in e-science comes from the varying technologies used by academics. Data may be structures in one software that may not be easily transferred into other formats, so the research community needs to establish a common format for data acquisition and interpretation. A second issue is the ownership of data: who owns the information found, the student lab researcher, the professor who heads a lab, or the department? Who owns the data when original researchers change jobs? A third also has to with data found through articles. Licensing and ownership of this information is restrictive, asserted David, and the typical restrictions publishers make on its articles makes data-mining difficult. David said knowledge needs to be available for everyone to use and access; it is what allows ideas to flow and for knowledge to be generated at faster rates.

Current e-science projects at Countaway Library of Medicine is **Medvane**, a subset of papers in PubMed authored by Harvard researchers. This collection brings in data on authors, the MeSH terms assigned to their articles, and the names of journals where their articles were published. Medvane allowed data mining so that users could see which terms are being used in research, that is, which research is growing or declining. It also assists in collection development by showing the areas of research and suggesting content for purchase.

A second project is the Profiles, a database containing faculty curriculum vitae. This resource is tied with Medvane, which allows searchers to see collaborators in research and also provides possible lists of collaborators based on research interests.

Additional e-science projects include Eagle Eye, a database of research instruments available for collaborations. Librarians are entering metadata for storage so others can access it. The NIH backs this project because it allows them to augment the studies they sponsor. A big opportunity in this project and similar ones is libraries are “given a place at the table” in working with academics and provide possibilities for collaboration. Another project is VIVO, a knowledge management system that is similar to a social networking system. Faculty members can sign with the purpose of identifying collaborators, and others who may be able to provide peer review.

The preceding summary was obtained from the [ACRL 2011 Virtual Conference Website](http://example.com). A [Bibliography & Brief Guide](http://example.com) for this session was prepared by the STS Information Literacy Committee.
John Meier

Science Librarian

Physical & Mathematical Sciences Library

Penn State University Libraries

John Meier is liaison to the departments of Mathematics and Statistics at Penn State University Libraries and he is responsible for the USPTO Depository Collection. In addition, he is involved in instruction, collection development, and reference. His research interests include science librarian job analysis and innovative uses of technology in libraries.

John’s participation with STS includes membership on both the Assessment and Publications Committees. While on the later, he has served as both Assistant Web-Editor and Web-Editor. Currently, John serves in the elected position of STS Secretary.

It’s a Girl!!!

Eleanor Elizabeth Meier

Born: February 5th, 2011

Weight: 7 lb. 3 oz.

Congratulations, John!
RBMS Preconference Registration now open!

52nd Annual RBMS Preconference
In the Hurricane's Eye: Challenges of Collecting in the 21st Century

Tuesday, June 21 to Friday, June 24, 2011
Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The preconference will feature four plenary sessions exploring cultural stewardship, regional collecting, the value of special collections, and preservation and disaster recovery, as well as short papers, case studies, discussion sessions, and seminars on a variety of topics of interest to all of us who work with special collections. Three full-day workshops will also be offered on Tuesday, as well as our largest Booksellers’ Showcase ever, with 42 dealers, a Welcome Reception, and the traditional New Members Mixer. Please make sure you arrive in Baton early enough on Tuesday to take advantage of these exciting events!

ACRL @ ALA Annual 2011

Find updated program details and speaker information on the ACRL at Annual Conference Web page. Go to www.acrl.org, select “Conferences & Events,” and click on “ACRL @ ALA Annual Conference” for the latest!

Locations for programs and meetings will be available on the ALA Web site approximately one month prior to the beginning of Annual Conference; look for the “Event Planner” link on the ALA Annual Conference Web site at www.ala.org/annual. Fully registered attendees can create a personalized agenda and search for meeting, program, and event times and locations.

Looking for a job? Check out ALA JobLIST, the #1 source for jobs in Information Science & Technology.
About the Signal

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