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ALA Midwinter Conference Schedule for STS

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<td>Council I</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>All-Committees Meeting</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Topics Discussion Group</td>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>1:00—2:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Planning 2016</td>
<td>1/9</td>
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<td>Publisher/Vendor DG</td>
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<td>Federal Science Agencies Update  (GI)</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1:00—2:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Communications Panel</td>
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<td>4:30—5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>STS Dinner: Barlow’s Restaurant</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>6:00—9:00 p.m.</td>
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Hello all,

STS has had a productive year! In addition to the rich programming and collegial networking at the Midwinter and Annual meeting, many Committees and Task Forces pursued initiatives to the benefit of STS members and in support of the ACRL Plan for Excellence throughout the year.

The STS Liaisons Committee coordinated liaison assignments with 11 science and technology organizations, the highest number in recent years. By attending the professional meetings of these organizations, STS liaisons built relationships with faculty and researchers, increasing our visibility and further promoting the value of academic libraries. The Committee also organized an online forum attended by more than 50 and focused on scholarly communication and data issues in science and technology organizations. STS liaisons to the American Physical Society, the American Chemical Society, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences shared views on these issues.

The STS Continuing Education Committee [newly renamed the Professional Development Committee] explored strategies to deliver relevant professional education; supported a mentoring program to help newer librarians connect with established science librarians; maintained a guide to professional development resources; and administered a survey to gather information about STS members’ continuing education needs and interests. The committee used this information to update their web page, plan Midwinter and Annual meeting programming, and disseminate information to STS members.

The STS Science Resources: Discovery & Access Committee created a blog and delivered content through the STS e-mail list to share tips focused on discovery and effective use of scientific resources. These communications alerted us to new resources and features, and helped science librarians to better serve faculty and students.

The Membership and Recruitment Committee debuted a new series on STS-L featuring the co-chairs of each STS committee. These engaging interviews described the work of each committee and introduced the dedicated, energetic people who make STS hum. New and returning members were better informed in their choices to volunteer for the committee or committees that suited them best.

The STS Information Literacy Committee provided six innovative online chats on topics such as teaching Open Access, incorporating iPads in instruction, integrating information literacy in laboratory classes, flipped teaching, and systematic reviews. In addition, the Committee added resources to the STS-IL Information Literacy Resources LibGuide. The Committee added a Data Information Literacy section to the LibGuide and began to cultivate a list of resources to support this new model of information fluency.

STS wrapped up the year with a robust schedule of events at ALA Annual 2015, fittingly located in the vibrant city of San Francisco. Many 2015 Program details were provided in the STS Signal Spring 2015 issue and I won’t duplicate them here. Suffice it to say that STS Committees and Discussion Groups outdid themselves in providing insightful, relevant workshops and panel discussions.
The Assessment Committee developed a new method for assessing STS sponsored conference sessions based on an expanded question bank and customized Google Forms-based assessment forms. The system was tested at Annual 2015 and will be further refined.

In addition to the chance to meet new members and reconnect with colleagues, the General Membership Meeting and Breakfast featured the presentation of the 2015 Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences.

The always lively STS Dinner at the Thirsty Bear on Sunday evening was a chance to unwind, enjoy good Spanish-style food, local beer, and, for many, the chance to test their scientific bona fides by determining just which element Moriana Garcia had affixed to their back.

Many STS members responded enthusiastically to the invitation of Public Library of Science’s (PLOS) US office to a Monday afternoon tour of the PLOS workspace and discussion sessions tackling the topic of ‘Raising Awareness and Identifying the Missing Link in the New Data Paradigm.’ A ‘what’s next’ brainstorming session was followed by a generous taco bar.

The cycle of planning for pertinent programs and meetings at Midwinter 2016 in Boston and Annual 2016 in Orlando is already well underway, with engaging ideas taking shape. Upcoming conferences along with the innovative initiatives that so many Committees deliver virtually throughout the year, make it a great time to be an STS member! I hope all of you are finding your niche, contributing, collaborating, and getting good value from the Section.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to my STS colleagues that I step into the spot so ably occupied by Marianne Stowell Bracke. Marianne and her predecessor Matt Marsteller have been and continue to be mensches – unfailingly patient and willing to offer advice, share expertise, and explore ideas. Buoyed by their collective wisdom and the commitment, energy, and intelligence of the Vice Chair Andrew Stuart and other members of the current STS Executive Committee and Council, I know that STS will continue to thrive. I look forward to connecting with you online and to seeing many of you at Midwinter 2016 in Boston. Please don’t hesitate to share your ideas and suggestions.

Mary Linn Bergstrom
STS Chair 2015-2016
mlbergstrom@ucsd.edu
Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

It is a privilege and an honor to continue to serve you as STS Vice-Chair for 2015-2016. I appreciate your confidence and will do my best to build on my previous service as Section Secretary to guide the Science and Technology Section and continue its reputation for providing high quality programming and opportunities for science librarians to deal with the challenges that continue to develop in our profession.

One of my main duties as Vice-Chair is to find places for STS members to serve in the section, whether on one of our committees, as a task force member or as a committee chair. There are opportunities to plan programs, provide continuing education, mentor members and envision the future of the section. Your expertise and ideas are needed. There are places for every member in STS. Conference attendance is not a requirement for committee service, as many committees conduct their business virtually throughout the year. ACRL and STS are moving to make more effective use of our member’s time and energy, while continuing to get the work of section committees done.

The ACRL volunteer system will be available in December for 2016-18 committee nominations. I’ll be sending a call in December to remind you to volunteer to serve. You can also interact with your STS peers and be informed about Section activities. In addition to reading STS publications (Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, STS Signal) and connecting with your peers via the STS-L listserv, you can join the Section on ALA Connect: http://connect.ala.org/acrl_sts.
Letter from the Vice-Chair

Contact me at any time with your ideas, suggestions and concerns about how STS can continue to adapt and remain relevant to our members and the profession.

Andrew Stuart
STS Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Ohio University Library
740-593-2968
stuarta@ohio.edu

STS Dinner at ALA-Midwinter

The STS Dinner at Midwinter is sponsored through the generosity of IOP Publishing.

The Dinner will take place at Barlow’s (241 A Street, Boston, MA) on Sunday, January 10th, from 6 pm until 9 pm (with food served around 6:30 pm).

Registration will be announced in late October on the STS-I listserv.

For more information, please contact Moriana Garcia, or Beth Blanton-Kent.
2015 ACRL STS Oberly Award Presented

The 2014-2015 Awards Committee chose *Turfgrass History and Literature: Lawns, Sports, and Golf*, published by the Michigan State University Press, as the winner of the 2015 ACRL STS Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences. The authors, James B. Beard, Harriet J. Beard, and James C. Beard, were unable to attend the award ceremony at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, but the award, presented by Marianne Stowell-Bracke, the outgoing STS Chairperson, was accepted by Clifford Haka, Director of the Michigan State University Libraries.

At its heart, this award-winning book is an extensive annotated bibliography with international scope; however, it also includes much more. For those interested in the history of turfgrass research and science, there is an overview of the development of the discipline as well as many historical photographs. The bibliographies contain historical as well as current literature references. It also includes biographies for many of the authors of the publications included in the bibliographies.

Dr. James B. Beard has the rank of Professor Emeritus at Texas A&M University and has an extensive publication and professional record related to turfgrass research. He earned a Ph.D. from Purdue University in the area of Turfgrass Physiology. Dr. Beard is also a two-time Oberly Award winner. The co-authors of his current book, Harriet J. Beard and James C. Beard, are his wife and son respectively.

Nan Butkovich, 2014-2015 STS Awards Committee Co-Chair
STS Committee and Discussion Group News

**STS Continuing Education Committee**

The STS Continuing Education committee is changing its name to the Professional Development committee. The committee feels that the new name more accurately reflects our committee’s activities. Also, we think the new name sounds more inclusive and will appeal to both early-career science librarians as well as mid-career science librarians.

Margaret Bean and Melissa Gold, Co-Chairs

**STS Information Literacy Committee**

Over the years, many have turned to the ACRL-STS Science Information Literacy wiki for its comprehensive collection of tools, lesson plan ideas, and links to tutorials. In order to provide these resources in a more stable, user-friendly format, the STS Information Literacy Committee migrated the wiki’s content to the new STS Science Information Literacy Resources Guide, hosted on Indiana University East’s LibGuide platform: [http://iue.libguides.com/STS-informationliteracyresources](http://iue.libguides.com/STS-informationliteracyresources)

The new guide went live in June of 2015, and contains updated content such as information on data information literacy. Plans for the future include linking to resources about how to incorporate the new Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education into science and technology classrooms. The committee continues to work to update the guide, and would appreciate any feedback or suggestions for content from the larger STS community. If you know of resources that could be of use to the information literacy efforts of your science librarian colleagues, please submit them via email to kathleen.gregory@ub.tum.de or via the feedback channels on the guide itself.

The STS Information Literacy committee continues to host regular chats on topics relevant to information literacy in the sciences. Upcoming chats will be announced on the STS-L listserv. We are always looking for suggestions for topics and/or chat discussion leaders. If you have any suggestions or questions about the STS IL chats, please feel free to contact the sub-committee chair, Laksamee Putnam at lputnam@towson.edu.

In the past, discussion topics have been about integrating information literacy into the laboratory, iPads in the classroom, systematic reviews, and STEM labs. Additional information and archives of past chats can be found at [http://iue.libguides.com/sts-il-lwchat/stsilchat](http://iue.libguides.com/sts-il-lwchat/stsilchat).

Bonnie L. Fong and Kathleen M. Gregory, Co-Chairs

**STS Research Committee**


Elizabeth Berman and Hannah Rempel, Co-Chairs
STS Government Information Committee

The Federal Science Agencies Update was held at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.


Wayne Strickland (Manager, Program and Product Management, of the National Technical Information Service) also spoke briefly. He mentioned the subscription price was lowered for NTRL (National Technical Reports Library). Pricing info. is at: http://www.ntis.gov/products/ntrl/. At the top of the main NTIS page is information to consider checking for free access to full-text (before purchasing from NTIS).

An Update will also be held at 2016 ALA Midwinter, in Boston.

Patricia E. Kenly and Flora G. Shrode, Co-Chairs

STS Liaisons Committee

STS maintains a liaison program with different science and technology associations and STS liaisons regularly report on the meetings and activities of these professional groups, which enables us to have a better understanding of the current issues in science and technology fields and to identify opportunities to further improve library services.

STS Liaisons Committee hosted its annual online forum on June 11th, 2015, and three liaisons provided updates on their science and technology associations. Scholarly communication and data issues were this year’s focus, in addition to a brief overview of each association.

2015 STS Liaisons Online Forum presenters were:
• Rachel Besara, STS Liaison to American Physical Society (APS)
• Patti McCall, STS Liaison to American Chemical Society (ACS)
• Virginia Pannabecker, STS Liaison to American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)

Presentation slides and recording of forum are available online.

Virginia Pannabecker and Li Zhang, Co-Chairs
ACRL News

Call for Award Nominations

**Excellence in Academic Libraries Award**

$3,000 and a plaque  
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

**Academic/Research Librarian of the Year**

$5,000 and a plaque  
Sponsored by YBP Library Services  
Deadline: December 4, 2015

Information for many other award opportunities may be obtained on the ACRL Web site:  
[http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards](http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards)

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**ACRL Fall e-Learning**

ACRL is offering two webcasts in November to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. These interactive webcasts last 60-90 minutes and take place in an interactive online classroom; group discounts are available. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](http://www.ala.org/acrl).  

**The Neoliberal in Your Library: Resisting Corporate Solutions to Collection Development** (November 4, 2015)  
What is the 21st century library? Will it be a makerspace, a learning commons, or a sustainer of collections? Through an examination of collection development trends, explore the political currents converging in libraries and higher education that are obfuscating our community-oriented values in favor of privatization. This webcast will provide a frame to support librarians as they articulate the value of collection development, and sustainable collection management, that affirms our core values.

**Introduction to Critical Library Pedagogy** (November 10, 2015)  
Investigate critical pedagogical approaches for library instruction with the greater goal of improving our teaching, how students feel about using the library, and the image of the librarian. As we strive to make our teaching, our libraries, and our campuses as inclusive as we can, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Complete details and registration information for e-Learning webcasts are available on the [ACRL website](http://www.ala.org/acrl). Contact Margot Conahan at [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org) for more information.
ACRL News

ACRL Annual Survey Now Open

Since 1999 the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey has gathered statistics at the national level from all types of academic libraries in the United States and Canada. The survey is developed and overseen by the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Editorial Board. Earlier this year, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the editorial board that ACRL create and administer its own survey instrument to make it more relevant and responsive to the needs of academic libraries. Formerly, ACRL had been using the Association of Research Libraries survey instrument with permission. Following a ten-month development process involving scores of librarians and opportunities for review and feedback, the ACRL Annual Survey has been overhauled and will open on September 18, 2015, to collect data for the 2015 fiscal year. Fiscal year 2015 is defined as the most recent 12-month period that ends before October 1, 2015. Complete details on the new survey are available on the ACRL Insider blog. Surveys will close on April 30, 2016.

Did You Know?

ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters (http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections) by logging into the ACRL Web site.

At the Helm: Leading Transformation
March 22-25, 2017
Baltimore, Maryland

The ACRL 2017 Call for Participation will be available December 2016. Watch www.acrl.org for details!
About the Signal

STS SIGNAL

We’re on the Web!
www.ala.org/acrl/sts

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