Inside this issue:

Letter from the Chair .............................................. 2
Letter from the Vice-Chair........................................... 4
STS Committee & Discussion Group News ............... 5
ACRL News ............................................................ 6
About the Signal ....................................................... 8

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Tentative STS Events at ALA Midwinter

Please note that this is a tentative Midwinter schedule and is based on time slots requested from ALA that have not yet been verified. In past years we have received these time slots, but there is not a 100% guarantee that we will get them again, but it does seem likely! Social event times in particular are approximate. Please see the Letter from the Chair on page 2 for more information/context about scheduling.

Friday January 24th
6:30 pm SPIE Reception - location, format and exact time TBD

Saturday January 25th
8:30 to 10:00 am - STS All Committees Meetings and open meeting
10:30 to 11:30 am - STS Executive Meeting
1:00 to 2:00 pm - Hot Topics Discussion Group - includes a virtual pre-conference component.
6:30 pm - IOP Dinner/Event - location, format and exact time TBD

Our virtual events are not yet scheduled, keep an eye for updates.

STS event information is subject to change. Please check the conference schedule at https://2020.alamidwinter.org/ for the most up to date information.
Hello fellow STS Members,

I want to start by welcoming all new and continuing members to the Science and Technology Section of ACRL. It’s a real privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your chair this year, a role I’ll be serving in through to the end of our 2020 Annual Conference in Chicago, when our incoming chair Rachel Borchardt will step in. Let’s begin with an overview of our recent activities and then to bring you up to date on our Midwinter plans as well as some changes we are seeing in ALA and finally what we can expect in the near term for STS.

A big thank you goes to past-chair John Meier for partnering with our committees and executive to organize solid and engaging STS programs for both ALA Midwinter in Seattle and Annual in Washington DC. Our Seattle program featured, along with our regular Council, Executive and All Committee Meeting, programs on Predatory Publishing, “Big Deal” cancellations, a federal Science Agencies update, and a viewing and discussion of the provocative film Paywall. Thanks to past-past-chair Kara Whatley for organizing our Friday night Happy Hour at Palace Kitchen. And finally, we capped our activities with a fabulous dinner at Pike Brewing Company sponsored by IOP Publishing. A big thanks to IOP for both this dinner and the many others they have sponsored over the years. Their sponsorship reduces the costs to STS members for our Midwinter activities and are very much appreciated! And of course, a big round of thanks to our fund-raiser Mel DeSart and our Members-at-Large Sara Gonzalez and Sam Putnam for their more than able work organizing the event!

Our June Annual Conference in Washington started off with another great Happy Hour, thanks again Kara, and included some fantastic programming. We had our regular Federal Science Update and a great Research Forum with several STS members presenting upon their engaging research. Hot Topics brought us “the Library as Publisher: The Challenge of Hosting Student & Faculty Journals” and Scholarly Communications presented “Subject Librarians and Academic Authors: Three Open Access Talking Points.” A big round of thanks goes to our Annual Conference Programming Committee for their superb work on our Main Program “STEM Librarians: Evolving and Redefining Roles in Support of a Changing Academia.” As always, one of the highlights of Annual was our joint Membership Breakfast and Poster Sessions organized by Membership and Recruitment and our Research Committee. Great conversation, good food, and some fascinating research, what more could one ask for! Our other social events included a wonderful and very substantive dinner at Carmine’s Italian Restaurant kindly sponsored by the American Chemical Society and a new and fun STS Saturday Night reception generously sponsored by Elsevier at Spin; much great conversation was had, as were more than a few ping pong games! Thanks to our Members-at-Large for their work with Mel and to our generous sponsors ACS and Elsevier in making these two events happen.

Beyond our on-the-ground Annual and Midwinter events, STS Committees have been steadily moving to more virtual programming throughout the year. Events such as our Information literacy online chats and our upcoming virtual programming at Midwinter 2020 will become more the norm for STS, and a big thanks to all our Committees and their members who are thinking about how to create dynamic and accessible virtual programming for our STS Membership. I’d also like to acknowledge all the great communication that goes out over STS-L and through our website to keep STS membership up-to-date, in particular membership profiles and life of the committee reports.

Preparation is well underway for our 2020 conferences. Our Chicago planning Committee, under able co-chairs Rachel Borchardt and Ana Torres, has recently submitted a program proposal to ACRL and we expect a full and vibrant Annual STS Program for Chicago 2020. Our Midwinter programming, as you may be aware, has been more challenging...
as the upcoming sunsetting of Midwinter after 2021 has left us with big questions about what sort of attendance we can expect in 2020 and 2021. In order to responsibly address these uncertainties while providing good and accessible programming value for our members, we have moved to a more virtual program this year with as much of our on-the-ground programming as possible concentrated on Midwinter Saturday. Currently we will be going virtual with our Friday evening Council Meeting, scheduling TBD, though it is now looking likely, thanks to a kind offer from one of our sponsors, that there will be a Friday night social event. Saturday will include our traditional All-Committee meeting; please get in touch with your committee Co-Chairs to ascertain whether your committee is meeting. The All-Committees Meeting will also serve as an informal gathering for STS members to chat about how we restructure our annual STS programming in light of Midwinter going away. It’s also a great opportunity to talk with Executive Committee members and committee co-chairs about your own interests and what opportunities are to be found for your professional development through STS. I know we look forward to seeing and talking with those of you who can attend.

Hot Topics is also presenting an on-the-ground/virtual hybrid session on Scholarly Metrics, likely Saturday AM. The remainder of our Midwinter committee sponsored programming will be virtual including upcoming programs from Scholarly Communications and Government Information, dates and virtual venues to be announced. We are also working with IOP on our STS evening get-together for which we have IOP support to move to Saturday evening.

As we all know, we are in a period of great change and ongoing transition, and ALA is no exception to that. The Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE), appointed in 2018, was tasked with conducting:

“a comprehensive review and study of ALA’s governance, member participation, and legal structures and systems. SCOE was asked to explore ideas for the future of ALA’s governance groups such as the Executive Board and Council. ALA’s relationships with its divisions (including ACRL), round tables, and committees are also under review. As part of this review, SCOE is also charged with proposing new models that will revitalize ALA’s success, strength, and agility as a 21st-century association.”

SCOE’s work is definitely proceeding apace and you find out more about the current status of the work at this link. I particularly want to draw your attention to the current schedule:

“We expect that SCOE will present its final recommendations to ALA Council at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The way forward from there depends on the nature of the recommendations—some changes will require Council to vote twice, likely at the 2020 Annual Conference and 2021 Midwinter Meeting, followed by a vote of all ALA membership in Spring 2021. Other changes may be made on much shorter timelines, particularly if they don’t require a Council or membership vote.”

This work will certainly have many effects upon STS; how we elect our officers and how we conduct our business and programming. So I would encourage you all to get involved, find out more and let your thoughts be known!

We currently have two very important ongoing Task Forces. Our EDI Task Force, under the lead of co-chairs Roxanne Bogucka and Bonnie Fong, appointed in Fall 2018, is hard at work on developing recommendations for STS on how we can do the important work of supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), both in librarianship and in our work with the sciences and engineering. The STS Information Literacy Framework Taskforce was appointed in Spring 2018 to adapt the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education to the sciences and was recently renewed to continue their work through June 2020. Thanks to co-chairs Britt Foster and Carl DiNardo for their able work leading this task force.

STS will be using the remainder of our 2019 budget to sponsor an ACRL 2021 Conference Scholarship to be named after our STS Fundraiser Mel DeSart. John, Rachel and I were thrilled to have the opportunity to suggest honoring Mel in this way, and we know we join all of STS in appreciation for his tireless and important work with our sponsors to get the funding that makes our programs the best they can be. Mel has been doing this for many years, so thanks to Mel for your important contribution to STS!

I am also pleased to be able to share the news of the move our journal Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship
Letter from the Chair, Cont.

has recently moved to a new platform with the University of Alberta Library now hosting. Thanks to some very hard work on the part of the journal editorial team and the folks here at UAL, two new issues have been recently posted and I am told to expect another issue rather soon. Work on bringing the archives into the new system is ongoing. A big thank you to ISTL editor Andrea Duda and Michael Fosmire for all they have done to advance ISTL and provide a platform for the dissemination of our research.

It’s been an exciting year to be Chair of STS, with a few unexpected challenges! But I do believe, as we adapt to changes in Midwinter, and ALA in general, that we have the opportunity to build a more year-round STS program of dynamic and accessible professional development opportunities for our membership and I look forward to working with you and our incoming chair Rachel Borchardt to make this so! I look forward to seeing and meeting with you all, whether it be in person, via email, or at one of our upcoming virtual events.

Tim Klassen
STS Chair
Tim.Klassen@ualberta.ca

Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

It is a pleasure to be able to address everyone within the Science and Technology Section! As I write to you, Greta Thunberg is giving a speech to the UN’s Climate Action Summit – a sobering reminder that the days ahead will require dramatic changes. I think this applies not only to the growing environmental crisis that we face, but more locally, applies to our own Science and Technology Section as well. The changes we see happening within ALA have been building for a long time, and we are just now beginning to feel their impact. The way forward will be new, and different, but I think is a path worth taking.

Declining attendance at ALA Midwinter conferences has been a reality for many years, partly due to the financial demands associated with conference attendance and levels of support from our parent institutions. For those of us who have come to rely on STS programming and events at Midwinter, we will notice the impacts of Midwinter’s changing role, as STS consciously begins to move more programming online. However, for all STS members, including the many of us who have not been able to attend Midwinter, or have concerns about the value of attendance, this move to more virtual programming opens up exciting new possibilities for remaining current within our fields and job responsibilities – and not just in January/February! Moreover, the shift to virtual programming and participation also offers unprecedented opportunities for virtual engagement with the STS committees.

Virtually every STS committee has space available for STS members who can only participate in committee service work virtually. As your vice chair, it is my responsibility to assign volunteers to committees, and I am eager to fill as many committees as there are volunteers! From instruction to assessment to continuing education and more, there are a wide variety of ways to get involved in STS committee work. The STS LibGuide describes these committees, and I am more than happy to help anyone who has questions or wants to learn more about the structure, roles, and responsibilities of STS committee work – just email me! (I won’t resort to what I tell my students, which is “I literally get paid to help you!”, but I assure you that I am just as earnest in my desire to assist you.)

A couple of other STS activities are on the horizon that will help shape the future of STS – while the goals of each are different, they will each provide us with some new pathways forward as a group. One of these activities is the work of our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) task force. The EDI task force recently conducted a survey (which I hope you may have completed!) in order to better understand and prioritize the EDI needs of our section – their report will form the basis of many future actions and decisions that take place in STS. We are fully committed to actions will support ACRL’s core commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and will help make STS a place where everyone feels welcome, supported, at home, and treated equitably. Bonnie Fong and Roxanne Bogucka have done an amazing
Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Cont.

job of wrestling with a daunting scope of work, and we look forward to the recommendations that they and the other committee members bring forward.

Finally, the STS Information Literacy Framework task force, chaired by Carl DiNardo and Britt Foster, has been hard at work adapting the ACRL Framework to create a science-focused framework for use in scientific information literacy. Once a draft of this framework is completed, there will be opportunities to provide feedback on this document which will be so important in helping science librarians and instructors apply the threshold concepts introduced in the ACRL Framework within the appropriate scientific context. Be look out for these feedback opportunities, as your voice is needed to help make the framework as useful and complete as possible!

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to recognize all of the wonderful support that we have received from the funders that help make everything we do in STS possible. As STS continues to grow and change, our funding partners have continued their unwavering support, and we are so fortunate to maintain such positive and productive partnerships with them.

There are a lot of changes on the horizon, but I think are all positive changes that will help bring about a new way forward for STS that is responsive to the changing needs of our profession - as well as supportive of the environment! As Greta says, we can do better, and I think we are on our way to doing so.

Sincerely,

Rachel, your STS Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
borchard@american.edu

P.S. If you are attending Midwinter 2020, please note some options for minimizing your environmental impact, including carefully considering your mode of transportation, and opting to not receive a printed schedule!

STS Committee & Discussion Group News

Science Resources: Discovery & Access Committee

The Science Resources: Discovery and Access committee continues to highlight science and engineering resources for your use! Some of our recent Inside Science Resources (https://insidescienceresources.wordpress.com) blog posts include:

- TRAIL- the Technical Report Archive and Image Library
- NYPL Digital Collections: Classic Illustrated Zoologies and Related Works 1550-1900
- Protocols.io
- MatWeb: a free online resource for material properties

Continue the conversation about recent or past Inside Science Resources (https://insidescienceresources.wordpress.com) blog posts on our social media pages:

Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/insidescienceresources/)
Twitter (https://twitter.com/InsideSciRes)

We are now on Instagram! Follow us there @InsideSciRes.

If you have a resource you would like to see reviewed, please leave a comment at https://insidescienceresources.wordpress.com, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If you’re interested in learning more about the committee or the blog, please e-mail us.

Laura Palumbo and Nestor Osorio, Co-Chairs
STS Science Resources: Discovery & Access Committee
RBMS Conference, June 23-26, 2020, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Power, Resistance, and Leadership

This conference program seeks to critically examine the existing power structures that have shaped and continue to impact special collections and archives. The conference program will explore the power dynamics within our profession and the ways in which we experience, exert, and/or defy power. We are interested in stories of resistance, large and small, successful or not. We want to provide participants tools and strategies that will inspire and hopefully lead to transformative change. Proposals are due Nov. 3, 2019.

http://conference.rbms.info/2020/

ACRL Books

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- Improving Library Services in Support of International Students and English as a Second Language Learners
- The Grounded Instruction Librarian: Participating in The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Scholarship in the Sandbox: Academic Libraries as Laboratories, Forums, and Archives for Student Work
- Critical Approaches to Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Courses
- Motivating Students on a Time Budget: Pedagogical Frames and Lesson Plans for In-Person and Online Information Literacy Instruction

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL’s Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.
ACRL News, Cont.

ACRL Diversity Alliance – Join or Renew for 2020!

The ACRL Diversity Alliance program unites academic libraries committed to increasing the hiring pipeline of qualified and talented individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. By working together and thinking more broadly, ACRL Diversity Alliance institutions will help diversify and thereby enrich the profession. The commitment of each library leader to create one or more residency positions will expand the opportunities available to individuals from professionally underrepresented groups to gain knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to thrive in an academic context. Renewals will go out this fall for 2019 institutional members. If your institution is not a current member and you’re interested in joining the ACRL Diversity Alliance, please contact ACRL Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives Allison Payne at apayne@ala.org.

Call for Award Nominations

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
$3,000 and a plaque

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
$5,000 and a plaque

Generously sponsored by GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO

DEADLINE: December 6, 2019

More information about these and all other ACRL award opportunities can be found on the ACRL website: http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards.

Bring in-person training to your campus!

ACRL’s RoadShow workshops open the door to for academic and research libraries to bring high quality professional development directly to their campus, chapter, or consortium worldwide at an affordable cost. These day-long workshops engage participants to learn new skills and strengthen existing competencies to tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Current workshop topics include:

Assessment in Action
Engaging with the ACRL Framework
Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action
Research Data Management
Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement

For more information, visit http://www.ala.org/acrl/roadshows.
About the Signal

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

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