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Letter from the Vice Chair / Chair Elect

As we work our way toward what promises to be an exciting ALA Annual conference in Washington, D.C., I have been busy assigning new members to STS committees – a challenging but rewarding task. It has been truly gratifying, and exciting, to see how many new (and returning!) members have stepped up and volunteered to join committees over the past several months. While I will have completed most committee appointments for 2010-2011 by the time this issue of Signal is published, I encourage you to contact me if still interested in joining us this year. Opportunities for virtual participation have increased over the past few years and, while service as a committee chair still requires physical attendance, most STS committees have slots for at least some virtual members on their roster. If you are not ready to take the plunge, or just want to know more about what a particular committee does, I invite all interested folks to attend the All Committees meeting at ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. on Saturday morning from 10:30-12:00.

Another excellent avenue for finding out more about how the section works is to join the STS-L listserv, where members toss out bits of news, and share questions and advice. This is honestly my favorite listserv and has just the right amount of traffic – busy, but not overwhelming! To join us on STS-L go to http://lists.ala.org/wws/info/sts-l.

I look forward to seeing many of you in D.C. and welcome questions or comments anytime.

Linda Eells

Announcement from the Nominating Committee

There are three open offices in STS for terms beginning in 2011: Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Publicity Chair, and Member-at-Large. Duties are described in the STS Manual: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/sts/manual/officerduties.cfm

Please consider this opportunity to shape the direction of STS! Section officers are expected to attend Council and Executive Committee meetings at Midwinter and Annual Conferences. Please contact a committee member (if you have not already) to indicate your interest.

Ginny Baldwin, Nominating Committee Chair v.baldwin@gmail.com
Denise Bennett, Member dbennett@ufl.edu
**2010 Annual Conference Program**

The STS Program Planning Committee’s 2010 annual program “Federal friends: Creating greater access to and support for science and technology information” will be held on Monday June 28, 2010 from 8:30 – 11 am at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. This program will focus on how federal, academic and depository libraries work together in a time of fiscal crisis to maximize science and technology information resources for their patrons and the public. The speakers for this panel program will include:

Deborah K. Balsamo, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Library Network
Tim Bryne, Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), U.S. Department of Energy
Michelle Cadoree Bradley, Library of Congress
Cynthia Etkin, Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)
Doria Grimes, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Central Library (retired)

The program will be moderated by Karen Vargas, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, National Library of Medicine.

Please also join the STS on Tuesday June 29 at 10am for the 2010 Annual STS tour. This year’s tour takes place at the National Air and Space Museum. The NASM, located on the National Mall, is the nation’s repository for objects dealing with the history of aeronautics and astronautics. Highlights of this fantastic museum include the Wright Brother’s original 1903 Kitty Hawk plane, Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis, NASA space exploration vehicles and more. What’s more, all of this except for the flight simulator ($7-8) is free!

Edward Eckel, Committee Member

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**The American Library Association 2010 Annual Conference**

*June 24-29, 2010*

*Exhibits open Friday, June 25, 2010, 5:30 - 7:30 pm* new time

Washington Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20001
The STS Research Committee reviewed paper proposals for presentation at the Research Forum for Science & Technology Library Research, which will be held on Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 4-5:30 pm at ALA Annual in Washington, DC. Patricia Kreitz, Director of Technical Information Services at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory, will serve as the guest commentator and offer critiques of each of the following papers:

**Featured Paper (30 minutes):**

“Integrating the Medical Literature into Undergraduate Instruction” by Katherine O’Clair, Kennedy Library, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

**Short Papers (10 minutes each)**

“Science 2.0: A Nationwide Unobtrusive Study of Large University Physics and Biology Departmental Web Sites” by Diane Covington, Carnegie Mellon University, Matthew R. Marsteller, Carnegie Mellon University, and Bo Baker, University of Tennessee Chattanooga.


The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at Annual on Monday, June 28, 2010. Ten colleagues have been invited to present posters about their activities and research.

**Posters**

“Public Attitude Adjustment: 27 Year Trends about Science and Technology”, by Stephen Woods, John Meier, and Amy Paster; Penn State University.


“Datacite: An International Initiative to Facilitate Access to Research Data” by Michael C. Witt, Purdue University.

“Information for All: The Federal Agency-University Partnership for Research” by Will Hires and Stephanie Braunstein, Louisiana State University.


“Where is the Science in Congress? Walking the Line to Research Information from Bill to Law” by Jenette Prescod, Thura Mack, and Sandra Leach; University of Tennessee Libraries.

“Discover and Provide Feedback for the Wealth of Atmospheric, Climate, Geophysical, and Oceanographic Data at NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration” by Mary Lou Cumberpatch, NOAA Central Library.


“AgSpace, the National Agricultural Library’s Digital Repository” by Carol Ditzler, National Agriculture Library.

Mindy Thuna and Diana Shonrock, Committee Co-Chairs
Hot Topics Discussion Group, Midwinter 2010

STS Hot Topics Discussion Group hosted a discussion at Midwinter 2010, on Saturday, January 16 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm, with guest speaker William Mischo, Head of the Grainger Engineering Library at University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign (UIUC). The presentation and discussion centered on creating Personal Information Profiles (PIP) for faculty and researchers, based on a project currently underway at UIUC.

Discussion centered on the possible opportunities librarians could take in implementing a PIP service at their institution. One key issue was recognizing the desire among faculty to have customized research tools which could range from the large scale PIP to individualized faculty publication lists. Questions ensued about how to gain faculty support and interest for developing PIPs, as well as administrative support during this time of wide-spread budget cuts. The need to educate library administrators in understanding the changing face of science research and the possibility of partnering with campus departments such as IT might increase the capability of many libraries to undertake this kind of project. Building support with faculty members can begin by collaborating on knowledge creation. Additionally, exploring the possibilities of what fields of information to include in order to customize profiles - such as funding agencies for grants, peer reviews, grant reviews, and interdisciplinary/cross disciplinary collaboration - was suggested as a mechanism to elicit faculty support. The discussion also explored the possibility of allowing an individual to associate their PIP with a research group. The issue of open access with the PIP also arose, bringing the discussion to an end with a dialogue on having these profiles available on an institution only basis, or available to reach a regional or national level.

Wendy Girven, STS Hot Topics Discussion Group Member

Hot Topics Discussion Group, Annual 2010

The Hot Topics Discussion Group will be meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, following the STS All Member Meeting & Breakfast. The topic of discussion will be “The Economics of Open Access.”

Everyone would agree that Open Access is an important and scholastically significant principle that can benefit academia and improve the overall research process. Although economic considerations helped spur interest in alternatives to traditional publishing models, it is not at all clear that a viable open access model has meant a change in the way business is conducted. Some remaining considerations include costs associated with establishing and maintaining digital repositories, publishing and licensing costs, and the considerable expense of preserving data and information. The economics of open access is not just about its obvious costs; it includes establishing widespread accessibility to knowledge for everyone, ensuring that the requisite levels of quality and authority are maintained, and ensuring that the corpus of information is available to and free for future generations. The increasing sophistication of technology and networks has helped make open access more affordable and an educational imperative that should not be missed. The session will include a panel presentation delineating the issues and the challenges faced, followed by a Q & A, and an interactive discussion.

Lori Critz and Will Hires, Hot Topics Discussion Group Co-Chairs
2010 ALA Annual Field Trips

National Air and Space Museum Tour

Please join the STS on Tuesday June 29 at 10am for the 2010 Annual STS tour. This year’s tour takes place at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM). The NASM, located on the National Mall, is the nation’s repository for objects dealing with the history of aeronautics and astronautics. Highlights of this fantastic museum include the Wright Brother’s original 1903 Kitty Hawk plane, Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis, NASA space exploration vehicles and more. What’s more, all of this except for the flight simulator ($7-8) is free!

Please RSVP by May 15, 2010

Committee members:
Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, Beth Thomsett-Scott, Edward Eckel, Thomas Heverin, and Amanda Taylor.

National Library of Medicine Tour

STS members are invited to join the tour of the National Library of Medicine sponsored by the ACRL Health Science Interest Group on Monday, June 28th from 2:30-4:30. Because it will take some time to get to the NLM and go through security, we will meet around 1:30 and return around 5 or so. A meeting place is TBA, but will be at the Convention Center or a conference hotel and then we will travel by Metro (subway).

Please RSVP by May 30th

If you are interested in our group or the health sciences, please feel free to join us at our meeting also. Our meeting will be held Sunday, June 27 from 1:30-3:30 in a room to be determined. After input at Midwinter, we will be structuring our meeting so that at least half of the time will be used as a discussion group. We will announce further details soon. Please join our Listserv for further information.

Looking forward to seeing you at Annual.

Carissa Tomlinson
2011 Program Planning

Members of the 2011 Program Planning Committee (PPC) are gathering forces to start planning for our 50th anniversary as a section! Many thanks to the 50th Anniversary Task Force, chaired by Nan Butkovich, and including Kara Whatley, William Simpson, Katherine O’Clair, Paul St. Pierre and Maribeth Slebodnik. This group did a lot of preliminary information gathering and analysis that will be indispensable to the 2011 PPC as they move forward!

Members of the 2011 PPC include Margaret Mellinger and Maribeth Slebodnik, co-chairs, Tony Bremholm, Jeanne Davidson, Mel DeSart, Nathan Hall, Janice Haguszewski, Marianne Stowell Bracke, Paul St. Pierre and ALA liaison Megan Griffin. First we will select a program theme, which needs to be communicated to ALA by early May. If you have a burning idea, please share it with a committee member as soon as possible. We are also interested in ideas for speakers – if you’ve recently heard a speaker you think would make our heads spin (in a good way!), please let us know.

Maribeth Slebodnik, Committee Co-Chair

50th Anniversary Task Force

The 50th Anniversary Task Force met briefly with the 2011 Conference Planning Committee and turned over the results of the survey that we conducted regarding activities connected with the 50th anniversary of STS in 2011. The Task Force has officially concluded its activities, and we look forward to celebrating the STS golden anniversary in New Orleans.

Nan Butkovich, Task Force Chair

Liaison Committee

STS Liaison Committee Initiatives for 2011 were Funded by ACRL!

We are happy to report that The ACRL Board approved the STS Liaison Committee’s proposal for $1,500 to be used in 2011. 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? This year, there will be an open call for funds to support these kinds of relationships. Examples of projects eligible for funding include the following:

• Collaborative research projects, for example on e-science or scholarly communication, 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, such as a poster session, 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.

The STS Liaison Committee plans to take a proactive and timely approach. Proposals will be considered on a continual basis until the funding is depleted. 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.

The Liaison Committee will work closely with applicants and the STS Assessment Committee to develop project proposals. Contact the Co-Chairs of the Liaison Committee for further information.

Marty Kesselman and William Simpson, Committee Co-Chairs
The Continuing Education Committee conducted the biennial survey of the continuing education interests of science librarians during November 2009. The survey was advertised to STS-L, STS on ALA Connect, ACS CID, ASEE ELD, and SLA STD. Some interests mentioned in the responses include Emerging Technologies, Alternative Publishing Models, Copyright, and Faculty/Staff Collaboration. The committee is in the process of compiling the data which will be posted on the STS Web page. The committee discussed the facilitation of the Table Discussions for the All Members Breakfast. Consider your favorite science and technology tool or trick to share with your colleagues.

The STS Continuing Education Discussion Group at Midwinter was very well attended. This special presentation, “Helping Researchers Manage Data,” was made by Katherine McNeill, Anne Graham, and Amy Stout all of MIT Libraries. The session focused on the MIT Libraries’ ground-up approach to identifying researchers with data sets that needed curation, preservation, and distribution. Notes from the presentation will be listed on ALA Connect along with the PowerPoint presentation information.

The Committee looks forward to more interesting conversations at the STS All-Members Breakfast at Annual, and hopes to see many of you there.

Edith Scarletto and Linda Crook, Committee Co-Chairs

Information Literacy Committee

Committee members continue to monitor the Science Information Literacy Wiki (http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Science_Information_Literacy) for contributions, and contact 1st Wednesdays on Facebook discussants for permission to add their ideas and resources to the wiki. It was agreed that a subcommittee would pursue the following ongoing wiki-related tasks:

- compiling a list of topics for 1st Wednesdays Facebook discussions
- publicizing the wiki more widely
- developing a procedure for updating the wiki
- updating the wiki’s bibliography
- evaluating wiki use

A subcommittee is developing an e-science program proposal for ACRL 2011. These members will add a page on e-science resources to the SIL Wiki.

Roxanne Bogucka, Committee Co-Chair
The Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group organized a presentation at the 2010 ALA Midwinter meeting in Boston. The topic was “The Future of Science and Technology Indexing/Abstracting Sources: Are We Driving Them to Extinction?” Darla Kremer (American Mathematical Society), Karen Berryman (INSPEC), and Julia Gelfand (University of California-Irvine Libraries) were the presenters. Cancellation decisions may be influencing the development and continued existence of the standard bibliographic tool, the indexing/abstracting database. What are the societies and vendors of traditional indexing databases doing to survive this rough economic period? Kremer and Berryman spoke to the added value that their databases provided to the users including controlled and detailed indexing by subject specialists and extensive linking. Gelfand outlined the criteria librarians are using to evaluate the continued costs of these types of reference tools in the current economic climate. Over 50 people attended the session. The discussion group topic for the 2011 Midwinter meeting needs to be finalized by early September to allow for advance and accurate promotion.

Judith Emde and Matthew Marsteller
Discussion Group Co-Chairs
The Government Information Committee members continue to make revisions to the “Top Web Sites for SciTech Information” on the ACRL Wiki http://tinyurl.com/nktmla. All STS members are encouraged to update this listing! Is it useful to you? How can it be improved? The committee asks for your feedback.

We also invite you to join the STS Government Information group on Facebook. Tim Bryne will be transitioning the group to a Facebook Page, which will give us more possibilities for highlighting government resources and sharing information.

We are very interested in learning what STS members are doing in their libraries to celebrate the coming 40th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22), and will highlight relevant government efforts and information sources on Facebook and through STS-L. Please add information about events in your library on the Facebook group wall.

Alison Ricker, Committee Co-Chair

Organization & Planning Committee

The Committee has expanded its role in the assessment of STS strategic plan implementation. Committee members now 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.

Each committee will submit their annual reports to their OP Committee co-chairs (Ed Lener and Jill Dixon) by March 19. In conjunction with the STS Chair, the Committee will draft the Strategic Plan Activity Report for submission to ACRL in late spring.

Jill Dixon and Edward Lener, Committee Co-Chairs

Subject & Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

We would like to thank outgoing committee members for their valuable insights and work. Co-chair Jin Ma initiated, created, and maintained a wiki for our committee work. Anne Christie, Judith Emde, Nancy Sprague, and Marijo Wilson have also completed their terms with the committee. We thank them for their work on the electronic dissertation and theses survey and for their contributions to our bibliography on e-science. For the 2009/10 year, we welcomed new members Betty Landesman, Jack Maness, Margaret Mellinger, Kavita Mundle, and Anthony Oddo.

Committee members are currently compiling and annotating a bibliography about e-science that focuses on libraries and librarians, with an emphasis on providing an overview and basic information.

Kathy Wheeler and Kathy Szigeti, Committee Co-Chairs
ISTL Editorial Board Position Available!

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL) is an open access journal published by the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. We are recruiting a new member for our editorial board.

Each volunteer member is responsible for one or more of the following activities:

- Solicit and review articles and abstracts submitted for ISTL
- Edit one section/column for ISTL; this includes soliciting submissions, following up as needed, reviewing and editing submissions, and preparing them for publication
- Edit and proof the pre-release version of ISTL
- Publicize ISTL
- Attendance at editorial board meetings at the ALA Annual Conference preferred

The new editorial board member will be responsible for the "Tips from the Experts" column.

Appointments are three years in length and renewable. This term will begin July 2010. Membership in the STS is required.

About ISTL: ISTL publishes substantive material of interest to science and technology librarians. It serves as a vehicle for sci-tech librarians to share details of successful programs, materials for the delivery of information services, background information and opinions on topics of current interest, to publish research and bibliographies on issues in science and technology libraries, and to communicate in more depth than the STS-L mailing list.

Applications should include cover letter, vita, and publications bibliography. Research and writing samples are welcomed.

Submit applications by e-mail with appropriate attachments to: Andrea L. Duda, ISTL Editor.

Review of applications will begin May 1, 2010. Applicants will be informed of the results of their candidacies after the ALA Annual Meeting, June 2010.

Please contact Andrea Duda for more information.

Andrea Duda
Davidson Library
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
805-893-2647
ACRL sets 2010 Legislative Agenda

Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries.

The ACRL Board of Directors recently approved the 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda in time for Library Advocacy Day on June 29 in Washington, D.C.

The 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on eight priorities, including public access to federally-funded research, Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, network neutrality, government information, orphan works, fair use and ant circumvention, lead in books, and supporting school librarians.

Read the complete legislative agenda for more details.

ACRL 2011: A Declaration of Interdependence

In today’s fast paced and changing world, keeping current is more essential than ever. Access cutting-edge information, discover new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world at ACRL 2011. You can’t afford to miss it!

Program

ACRL 2011 will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed programs addressing hot topics such as assessment, digital initiatives, information literacy, scholarly communication, and emerging technologies.

Registration

Registration begins May 18, 2010, at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference. Register by February 4, 2011, to take advantage of discounted early-bird registration fees and save more than 20%! Group discounts are available for institutions that register ten or more employees. Save up to an additional 20% off conference registration fees.

Scholarships

ACRL is offering over 80 scholarships worth over $40,000 for librarians, support staff and students to participate in the ACRL 2011 conference. Apply by November 9, 2010.
As many of you are aware, the STS Signal is undergoing a facelift. This is an ongoing effort. If you have any comments, suggestions for additional changes, or ideas about content that we might add to subsequent issues, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Please take photos at ALA Annual!!! We received a lot of positive feedback when we suggested adding photos of conferences, committees and individuals to the newsletter, but not a single person submitted a photograph for inclusion in this issue. We cannot make this change without your help! Help us give the Signal a more personal feel by sending us your photographs. Photos of ALA field trips would be a great place to start! Take lots of pictures and share them with us! Show the people who do not attend ALA conferences what they are missing!