

From the Chair, Barbara MacAlpine

Thinking back to the Annual Conference in Washington D.C. this summer, I'm still delighted with how everything came together so nicely. The programs were substantial and thought provoking, people flocked in from all over the country and the weather really cooperated. Congratulations to STS Chair Catherine Soehner and her program planning committee for putting together such a timely presentation on digital repositories of non-textual information. The poster session following the program, coordinated by the Research Committee, was a beehive of activity as members munched delicious snacks and queried the poster presenters. Links to the program presentations and the posters are available from the STS Web site (<http://www.ala.org/sts>).

In Washington we were able to continue offering an all-members breakfast, a new "tradition" started at Annual 2006. Borrowing from a practice followed by the Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) of the American Society for Engineering Education, we enjoyed breakfast and conversation before breaking into a 10² Program. Up to 10 participants at each of 10 tables discussed a hot topic for science librarians and then reported on their major comments and conclusions. Many thanks to the Continuing Education Committees' members for identifying the topics and coordinating this event. Rumor has it that they felt as if they were herding cats, but participants were enthusiastic about the breakfast and the discussions. We plan to continue this Sunday morning tradition at next year's Annual Conference in Anaheim, so put it on your calendar early.

At the second Council meeting we voted to add a Liaisons Committee to STS, based on the recommendations of a task force that has worked for two years to procure funding from ACRL to support our members' attendance at meetings of other science and library organizations. STS has been very successful in its Action Plan proposals

for the liaison program, which we anticipate growing even bigger and better.

As you read this issue of Signal, you may encounter a program note or other information that piques your curiosity: what does it mean, or why am I not involved? As an organization STS thrives on participation and input from its members. We won't know what interests or bothers you if you don't speak up. Please feel free to ask questions or make suggestions to any of the STS officers or committee chairs.

Midwinter in Philadelphia will be a great time to take part in more discussions, see colleagues from near and far, do some serious eating and maybe even experience snowflakes (a big deal for us South Texans). I hope to see many of you there.

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From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin

Thank you for the opportunity to embark on the next three years as one of our organization's leaders. I enjoyed meeting many of you at Midwinter and look forward to working with you in the months ahead. My term as Chair begins on July 1, 2008 and I welcome your ideas and input. Feel free to email or phone me with any thoughts or ideas you have or questions about committee memberships.

Are you interested in contributing to making our organization vital and relevant to our membership and our impact on sci-tech librarianship dramatic and dynamic? Opportunities await! Go to www.ala.org/volunteer, select "forms" in the drop-down box, then "Section Volunteer Form" under "Committee Volunteer Forms," log in, complete the form and select the STS Committee(s) that most profoundly speak to your desire to serve and have an impact! Be sure to add a comment that is supportive of you in your desired role. I will be reviewing applications and appointing committee members in the coming months, typically for a two year commitment (2008-2010). Requirements for committee participation are as follows: (1) Be a member of ALA, ACRL and STS for the duration of the appointment, (2) Attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference during your term (some section committees do allow virtual membership), and (3) Submit the electronic appointment acceptance form from the Web site above.

Several committees have their own Web sites (information available at www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscommittees.cfm). Committee co-chairs can be emailed directly for more information. Be sure to review the STS 2006-07 Annual Report linked from this site to learn how committee work has directly supported the ACRL Strategic Plan.

Whether or not you choose committee participation, you can help to influence conference programming and discussion groups by responding to the 2007 STS Continuing Education member survey this fall. Let me hear from you as things arise. I look forward to (net)working together at Midwinter in Philadelphia.

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NEWS FROM Washington, D.C.

STS Breakfast and Discussion Program

Through the planning of STS Officers and the support of sponsoring vendors, the STS All Members Breakfast was appetizing both in food and discussion. There was ample time for morning refreshment and informal networking before the program commenced. Catherine Soehner, 2006-2007 STS Chair, introduced the incoming officers and sponsors and then allowed for more time for networking at each table. The program "Ten-Squared" was organized by the Continuing Education Committee and set up topics for each table at the breakfast. The summaries of all discussions were presented and will soon be posted on the STS Web site (www.ala.org/sts).

The STS Program, *Issues and Trends in Digital Repositories of Non-textual Information: Support for Research and Teaching*, took place in front of a full audience. The Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences was presented for AgEcon Search to Louise Letnes, Patricia Rodkewich, and Julie Kelly. The first presenter, Thomas Dowling from OhioLINK, gave what he described as not "what we are doing well" but "what we hope to be doing well very soon". The large scale digital repository he discussed will cover multiple geographic locations and institutions as well as many types of information, including video and image collections. The second speaker, D. Scott Brandt from Purdue University, spoke from an administration perspective on encouraging communication between librarians and faculty, as well as building institutional repositories that can handle diverse content. The wide spectrum of research includes raw data, ontologies, gray literature and scholarly publications.

Submitted by John Meier

Publications Committee

At the meeting we discussed new committee assignments including Yelena Pancheshnikov (University of Saskatchewan), the new co-editor of Signal, and Alison Bobal (Oregon State), the new moderator of STS-L. John Meier (Penn State) will be the new STS Web Editor. The rest of the meeting was devoted to member reports. Caroline Gilson, Signal editor, reported that she successfully incorporated more graphics into the Spring Signal. She also noted that the On The Soapbox column and Member News continues to be good features. Andrea

Duda, editor of the ISTL, reported the ISTL mailing list currently has 4,324 members from around the world. The most popular articles are weblibliographies. Andrea and Yelena submitted talking points on a blog. The purpose of a blog in addition to STS-L is unclear, and recruiting fresh content is an issue. Paul St-Pierre, STS Web Editor, reported on the STS web site. Conference materials for Annual 07 and the STS Annual report 2006-07 are posted. The STS site is scheduled to migrate to Serena Collage. An Assessment Committee page is in progress, and the SBASM committee site was migrated to the STS site. Paul created web site documentation and added it to the STS Manual area. The STS site needs to be totally revamped and perhaps managed by a team. The STS Council will identify individuals to work on this effort with John Meier.

The committee worked on an ACRL Action Plan for a science librarian recruiting video. Representatives of the STS Assessment committee joined us and contributed valuable assessment suggestions for the project.

Submitted by Linda Eells

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The first topic of discussion at the Membership and Recruitment Committee meeting was the announcements from STS Council I. We also talked about the STS New Members Orientation, which went well, with about 40 attendees (9 of them new members). It was suggested that for next year, smaller tables be used to encourage easier mingling. Another suggestion was to implement some way to better identify new members. Finally, it was suggested that we send personalized invitations to new members.

Peter Larsen gave an STS Membership update. It was asked whether we could obtain data on how many STS members attended the Annual conference. Kimberly Chapman reported that the ACRL-STS brochures have arrived. She went on to report that she has spoken to STS liaisons and asked them to distribute the brochures to the various other organizations. Joe Murphy expressed a willingness to take over keeping track of the Science and Technology Reference courses offered by the different library science programs. The possibility of another project with the goal of providing STS contacts in the vicinity to those programs to serve as guest speakers was discussed.

After discussing the STS Strategic plan, Membership and Advocacy were identified as goal areas that the committee may contribute to. Ways of promoting diversity in

STS was another topic of discussion. Reaching out to Special Libraries and 'Information Schools' and making contacts with diversity roundtables within ALA, as well as NMRT were both ideas brought forward as means of pursuing our goals.

Submitted by John Larson

Information Literacy Committee

This committee has been examining the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education and the recently approved Information Literacy Standards for Science and Technology to identify particularly unique aspects of teaching information literacy in scientific and technical disciplines. The teaching methods subgroup is working to create an annotated bibliography of resources related to information literacy instruction in science and engineering. They are also collecting teaching methods for various outcomes in the standards. Both resources will be listed on the ACRL wiki by Midwinter 2008. The assessment subgroup of the Information Literacy Committee is working to identify and evaluate existing assessment tools related to science and engineering, including looking at the biology-related instrument associated with SAILS as well as other assessment efforts our members be familiar with. The group will be exploring outcomes that will be particularly useful for assessment. Committee members are also expecting to connect more closely with the STS Assessment committee to explore the possibility of pursuing collaborative projects.

Submitted by Jeanne Davidson and Betsy Hopkins

Assessment Committee

At the 2007 Annual Conference, the Assessment Committee discussed a number of follow-up items from the previous midwinter and annual meetings. In particular, we looked at strategies for identifying and contacting other groups in ALA or other library organizations who are likely involved in assessment-type activities. Examples of such groups include the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE); Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Section of the Special Libraries Association (FAN); and the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC).

Notes and scholarship essays from the successful STS pre-conference held at 2006 Annual have been posted to the STS web site. Our suggestion about conducting surveys using SurveyMonkey was accepted by the 2007

Hot Topics Annual Discussion Group. As a result, Assessment Committee members co-moderated and took notes. A summary of the Discussion Group and any additional items (e.g. bibliography) will be posted to the STS web site.

Under new business, a discussion ensued about possible ways to connect the ongoing projects of various STS Committees to the ACRL Strategic Plan. Specific examples mentioned included assessing interest in a new program session to replace the Research Forum and developing an evaluation component to science librarian recruitment. Different approaches and methodologies for accomplishing these were discussed.

Submitted by Daria Carle

Organization and Planning Committee

The Organization and Planning Committee plans to review the STS Manual for any other necessary changes to submit to the Executive Committee. We will also verify that the latest version of the manual is posted to the STS Web site. With the Strategic Plan being approved by Council, the committee discussed ways of implementing and assessing this Strategic Plan. Actions include learning from the implementation strategies of other organizations, discussing assessment options with the Assessment Committee and reviewing the literature. As an example, we began exploring ways to implement the Strategic Plan goal "Advise ACRL on science/technology issues", such as creating recommendations to make conferences more environmentally sustainable.

Submitted by David Romito

Research Committee

The STS Research Committee does not meet during the Annual Meeting. We are responsible for implementing two programs: The STS Research Forum and the STS Annual Program Poster Session. At this year's Research Forum, we had three guest speakers from the Life Sciences Library at Pennsylvania State University: Janet Hughes, Amy L. Paster and Helen Smith. David Stern, Director of the Kline Science Library at Yale University, was once again our commentator. Please contact Sarah Jeong at jeongsh@wfu.edu if you would like the abstract from the STS Research Forum. The Annual Program Poster Session included 10 participants. Abstracts and posters are available on the STS web site.

Submitted by Sarah Jeong

Continuing Education Committee

The 10² Members Breakfast and discussion at Midwinter in Washington, D.C. was a big success. Fifty-two completed surveys were received. All 52 respondents agreed that the event should be held again in 2008! Forty-eight of the 52 agreed that the discussion after breakfast was worthwhile. The Committee will be seeking your input on topic discussions for next year.

The Continuing Education Committee is working on identifying the final wording of questions for the 2007 biennial survey. The survey is being drafted in collaboration with the SLA Sci-Tech division, the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division and the ACS Chemical Information section. The survey will be distributed electronically in fall 2007 using Survey Monkey. Response to the survey has been declining, a trend the Committee hopes to reverse this year!

The Mentoring program now has 34 volunteers who are willing to serve as mentors. Participation by new Section members has fallen short. The Committee hopes that increasing awareness of the program will boost participation. If you know of a new member or if you are a new member who might be interested in a mentor contact any member of the Committee. The roster with e-mail addresses can be found on the STS home page.

Finally, updating the Continuing Education Web page is an ongoing project for the Committee. Suggestions and corrections can be sent to Fred or Jo Ann (fstoss@buffalo.edu or jc44@uakron.edu).

Submitted by Jo Ann Calzonetti and Fred Stoss

Government Information Committee

The STS Government Information Committee met as part of the All Committees meeting. We thanked our outgoing co-chair, Amy Prendergast, for her service and welcomed Damon Austin of the University of Maryland College Park as the incoming co-chair. The committee is looking into using the ALA online community software for virtual meetings. We have successfully signed up for an Online Communities account in order to open up opportunities for virtual committee membership. Damon Austin will be looking into the use of the Online Community. We appreciate the offered support from the Publications Committee who have been meeting virtual for some time now.

Our committee has an idea for a discussion group and the incoming co-chair, Damon Austin, will be contacting the co-chairs of the discussion groups. We would like a

Hot Topics Discussion Group



discussion on the use of government documents for first year programs as it could be a part of a larger discussion on the topic. The legislative advocacy efforts will be reorganized and a number of committee members will be sending notes to one person, Alison Ricker. Alison will try to be selective in what gets passed along to STS-L.

Submitted by Matt Marsteller

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The topic for discussion was "Replacing Subscriptions: Article Access via Paper Per View". The joint session sponsored by the College Science Librarians Discussion Group and the ALCTS Serials Section Journal Costs in Libraries Discussion Group.

Trinity University Librarians Clint Chamberlain and Barbara MacAlpine discussed their experience with a switch from subscription-based journal access to a pay-per-view model. Trinity University cancelled all journals from a major science publisher. They allowed their faculty and students full access to online articles by going to the publisher's journals platform and clicking on the articles they needed. This pay-per-view model saved money by paying only for articles that were needed and eliminated the necessity to take a "package" of journals, many of which have minimal use. The speakers explained the budgetary considerations, public relations, faculty input and student issues involved in this decision. Two guest speakers presented the publishers point of view on pay per view access. Linda Beebe (Senior Director of PsycInfo database) offered the point of view of the American Psychological Association and Claire Ginn Winthrop (Director of Library Services at Ingenta), explained how the vendor can serve as a provider for both the libraries and publishers. The guest speakers presented their thoughts about the future of journal publishing and how the current models will change rapidly as the online access continues to grow. About 60 people attended this lively and important session on an issue that is of concern to all academic libraries.

Submitted by Irwin Weintraub



The Hot Topics discussion at the annual meeting was titled, "**Web Tools for Library Assessment: Focus on SurveyMonkey.**" Presenters included Marilyn Christianson, Auburn University; Bryna Coonin, East Carolina University; Katherine O'Clair, Arizona State University and Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Le Moyne College. The session was moderated by Maribeth Slebodnik, Purdue University and Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, University of Oregon. About 35 librarians attended the presentation and ensuing discussion.

The presenters described different ways that they have used or plan to use SurveyMonkey. All presentations included evaluations of the product's strengths and weaknesses. Uses included course evaluations, pre- and post-test for instruction, surveys for state library association, faculty needs assessment for electronic journals and research needs, survey of library summer hours, immediate feedback of one-time events, simple elections and generating research for scholarly articles.

The presenters observations included ease of use, ease of analysis and general flexibility of SurveyMonkey. Relative chunkiness of the product (as compared to some higher-end products) and lack of assistance to generate 'good' survey questions were presented of some of the issues associated with using SurveyMonkey. Differences between the free and subscription versions of SurveyMonkey were described. Specifically, the free version has some limitations that are outlined on the product's web site. It was noted that although approximately 20 question types can be accessed, sophisticated survey logic such as 'piping' is not available.

Suggestions for assistance with question design included several hard copy resources and the tip that social science researchers are often skilled at good survey question design and might be consulted. The presenters shared ideas for future uses. The presenters' handouts and additional resources mentioned during the discussion have been posted on the ACRL blog for easy access.

Submitted by Maribeth Slebodnik

**Report from PATLIB
(Patent Information Conference)
May 2007, SEVILLE SPAIN**

Attending the PATLIB conference of patent and trademark librarians from all over Europe was an amazing experience. The conference was hosted by the Spanish Patent Office in Seville, located in southern Spain. This annual conference is organized by the European Patent Office (EPO) in Vienna, and those who arranged my trip spoke both English and German. All of the presentation slides were in English while the speakers spoke a variety of European languages. Each presentation was translated into English, French, German and Spanish. It was amazing just to watch the translators as they sat in booths and clued us in on what was being said through our ear pieces. Next year should be another translator recruitment feat as the conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland.

As is the PATLIB conference custom, after welcoming and keynote addresses, the first day's session, "Focus on Spain," consisted of presentations from representatives of various entities that are in the host country, Spain. The keynote speaker, Gérard Giroud, Principal Director, EPO got our attention by quoting research that exposes the extraordinary amount of funds that go toward technological development for which there are already patents, a plug for the work we do as patent librarians in assisting with patent searches for prior art.

Other sessions at the conference covered "The Innovation Process", "Business Oriented Services", "Tools & Skills", "Networking", and "Financing." One of the most interesting concepts presented was the determination of patent quality, based on factors such as the number of citations, internationality of scope and technological scope. In keeping with the trend in recent library conferences, a presentation, "Patent Information Centres in the Age of Web 2.0," explored the attributes of today's patron and promoted the use of Web 2.0 applications.

In addition to the learning experience of attending the PATLIB conference I represented the United States Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program with a presentation entitled "Perspectives from the USA." The topic was coordinated with members of the European Patent Office and is posted at: [http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/3B3C2B862B6FEBD1C12572E6004B2CCF/\\$File/baldwin_final.pdf](http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/3B3C2B862B6FEBD1C12572E6004B2CCF/$File/baldwin_final.pdf).

In preparing for my presentation I learned that faculty researchers who obtain patents in most European

Countries retain the intellectual property rights, unlike what happens in higher education institutions in the United States. As part of my presentation, I set out to gather information about "tech transfer" by meeting with officials at the UNL Office of Technology Development. They were very informative and provided what I hoped would be valuable information to include in my presentation. Specifically, my talk included a discussion of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) tech transfer-related policies and support and summarized the effect of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 on institutional ownership of patents. I gave an overview of the US Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) and the facilities and services at the University of Nebraska Patent and Trademark Depository Library in the Engineering Library. One slide displayed the Web page for the association of patent and trademark librarians (PTDLA) at www.ptdla.org. I summarized the goals in the draft planning document for the association and gave some examples of the patent statistics reports that are linked from the USPTO Web page. At the PTDLP annual 2007 seminar we were encouraged by USPTO speakers to promote the new search templates available for each USPTO patent class on their Web site at www.uspto.gov/web/patents/searchtemplates/class.htm. I gave emphasis to that aspect in our long-range planning document and hoped thereby to "win points" with the USPTO for spreading the word abroad!

In addition to the conference sessions, attendees were able to attend workshops. One of the most valuable aspects of the conference for me came out of a workshop entitled "Blue Sky Thinking: Ideas and Suggestions to Ensure your Clients Get the Most out of Their Time in Your Centre" by Maria Lampert of the UK. In her workshop, Maria presented a suggested checklist of resources to include in a patent search for "prior art." This checklist piqued my interest since it relates so closely to the USPTO search templates. When I returned from Spain I developed a similar checklist for our own resources here at UNL. Now when a patron comes in for assistance with a preliminary patent search, after getting an idea of the appropriate class for the patron's invention, I review the USPTO search template for that class and provide the patron with a copy of the checklist that indicates the suggested databases and other resources to be searched (with the usual warning that the list is not all-inclusive). The checklist I use is posted on the PTDLA Web site.

I invite you to explore the PATLIB presentations at: www.epo.org/about-us/events/archive/2007/PATLIB2007.html.

Report by Virginia Baldwin

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section * 2008 Midwinter Meeting * Philadelphia

Date/Time Committee

Friday, January 11

2:00 - 4:00pm *ACRL Leadership Council*
 4:30 - 5:30pm *Sections Council*
 6:00-7:00pm *STS Executive Committee Dinner*
 7:30-9:30pm *STS Council I*

Saturday, January 12

9:00-10:00am *ACRL Conference Program Planning 2008*
 9:00-10:00am *ACRL Conference Program Planning 2009*
 10:30-12:30pm *All STS Committee Meetings for Continuing Education, Government Information, Information Literacy, Liaisons, Library Assessment, Membership & Recruitment, Organization & Planning, Publications, Subject & Bibliographic Access, Discussion Group Chairs*
 10:30-12:30pm *Research Committee (closed)*
 1:30-3:30pm *Hot Topics Discussion Group*
 4:00-5:00pm *ACRL/ SPARC Scholarly Communication Forum*
 4:00-6:00pm *Oberly Award Committee (closed)*

Date/Time Committee

Sunday, January 13

10:30-12:30pm *Publisher/ Vendor Relations Discussion Group*
 1:30-3:30pm *2008 Program Planning Committee*
 1:30-3:30pm *2009 Program Planning Committee*
 1:30-3:30pm *Nominations 2009 (closed)*
 4:00-5:30pm *ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group*
 6:00pm - *STS Dinner - off-site*

Monday, January 14

8:00-10:00am *STS Council II*
 10:00-11:00am *Executive Council Wrap Up*

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some times are tentative as of press time. Check the ALA conference web site for confirmed times and locations.

Member News

Caroline Gilson has been appointed Assistant Director of Libraries at DePaw University, in addition to her responsibilities as Coordinator of the Prevo Science Library.

Angela Gooden has achieved tenure and now holds the position of Tenured Associate Librarian at the University of Cincinnati

John J Meier, Science Librarian, Physical and Mathematical Sciences Library, 201 Davey Lab, University Park, PA (meier@psu.edu) has Recently taken over the position of STS Web Editor. He replaces **Paul**



St Pierre, who held the position for five years. **Thank you Paul**, for all your hard work, and welcome John!

The Assessment Committee is interested in learning about any assessment needs for projects that STS committees have planned for the coming year

We'd like to assist you if you need help designing assessment for your projects. We welcome any and all suggestions.

Please contact the Assessment Committee co-chairs: Annie Zeidman-Karpinski (annie@uoregon.edu) or Daria O. Carle (afdoc@uaa.alaska.edu).

Thanks and appreciation to the following Friends and Sponsors of the Science & Technology Section:

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STS 2008 Annual Conference

Theme:

One part inspiration: creative trends that further science learning

Social and cultural changes resulting from new technology continue to have an exciting impact on libraries and the scientific community.

Why do some ventures into cyberspace find an immediate and extensive audience?
How can we apply their playful aspects to encourage learning?

The 2008 STS program will combine a theoretical look at phenomena such as gaming and Web 2.0 with the whimsical viewpoint of those who are actually creating and applying the "Next Media."

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

STS-L is running on the Sympa software on the American Library Association servers. You can subscribe by logging into the web interface: <<http://lists.ala.org/www/info/sts-l>>. Moderator: Alison Bobal

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/>
Editor: Andrea Duda

STS Web Page

<http://www.acrl.org/sts>
Webmaster: John J Meier

STS Signal on the Web

Available as a pdf file at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>

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