

Report:

Association of Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting:
Diversity of Engagement: Connecting People and Information in the Physical and Virtual Worlds.
October 27-November 1, 2017. Crystal City Hyatt, Washington, D.C.

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Liaison to ASIS&T for ACRL STS Liaisons Committee

ASIS&T, is a global association predominantly composed of researchers who conduct information science research at academic institutions. They also include a core base of information practitioners, such as librarians, who are interested in applied research as information practitioners. They are active in the ASIS&T special interest groups (SIGs). My purpose for attending the annual meeting is to network with the information practitioners who are officers in the SIG Scientific and Technical Information (STI) SIG to find out what trends and issues they were facing as science and technology practitioners. Although I was chair of STI in 2014-2015, I had been inactive in STI in 2016 but rejoined in 2017.

On October 29, I attended two SIG events: annual SIG cabinet business meeting and the annual SIG luncheon. First, I attended the SIG cabinet meeting on Sunday morning as a STI member. At the conference, I discovered no other STI officers, or members, were present at the cabinet meeting and no STI business meeting was scheduled. Kristine Unsworth, the outgoing SIG director and meeting moderator, asked me to represent STI at the cabinet meeting. I accepted. She also granted me time to address the cabinet as the ACRL STS Liaison. There was concern expressed during the meeting regarding the future of STI. When permitted, I addressed the cabinet as the ACRL STS liaison to ASIS&T. I asked the SIG members in attendance if anyone was interested in having a discussion with me regarding IS issues and trends in STEM. I described to the cabinet that the Science and Technology Section was composed of STEM librarians who are interested in serving the needs and providing services for our science and technology communities. If they would like to join in a conversation with our librarians then to please contact me. After the meeting, I briefly spoke to a couple of SIG chairs and handed out cards but have not heard back from anyone.

Later I attended a second function as the STI representative at the SIG luncheon. At the luncheon, I met two information science doctoral students who were interested in STEM research and wanted to join STI. I also discussed with them if they would be interested in joining ACRL STS. Again, I gave them my card, but received no response. My next step in working as liaison to ASIS&T is to have a discussion with the current SIG Cabinet Director, Ms. Brandi Loveday-Chesley, and to see if we can gauge interest regarding SIG interests in STEM issues and trends.

