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### From the Chair, Jeanne Davidson

At Midwinter in Boston, information literacy guidelines/standards for particular disciplines attracted a good deal of attention. ACRL's Information Literacy Advisory Committee held a meeting to discuss the process for reviewing and approving disciplinary standards. The Information Literacy Standards for Science and Technology were used as one example of standards being developed by ACRL sections and may serve as a test case for the overall process. Our standards were also discussed at the ACRL Standards & Accreditation Committee (SAC) meeting. Members of the SAC were favorably impressed with them, although they did recommend a few changes prior to final review and approval by the ACRL Board. The revised standards will be published in the May issue of College & Research Libraries News and the original draft is already linked on the ACRL "Standards and Guidelines" website.

Mark your calendars for ALA Annual in Chicago! STS members have several opportunities for networking, discussions and professional development. Along with the committee meetings and discussion groups, we have a very interesting program planned for Monday, June 27. The main program will take place from 8:30 to 11:30am and will focus on new

roles, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities for science librarians. It will be immediately followed by a poster session and reception. In addition, we have a field trip to Fermi Labs planned for Tuesday, June 28 from 8:30am to 2:30pm. Thanks to Thomson Scientific for underwriting all the costs for the trip including transportation, lunch and docent fees at Fermi. Reserve your space when you see the announcement on STS-L – it will be a great trip.

*Jeanne Davidson*  
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STS SIGNAL is a biannual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2517. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferred, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Caroline Gilson, Prevo Science Library, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN 46135, Phone: (765) 658-4404, Fax: (765) 658-4017, Email: [cgilson@depauw.edu](mailto:cgilson@depauw.edu); Barbara MacAlpine, Trinity University Library, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212, Phone: (210) 999-7343, Fax: (210) 999-8182, Email: [bmacalpi@trinity.edu](mailto:bmacalpi@trinity.edu);

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. Additionally, it is available on the STS Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>.

## From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Julia Gelfand

I am now seeing the end in sight of making committee appointments and can still fit in some late-comers to the party that want to be included. I am humbled by the number of new persons who have expressed interest in getting involved and the number of previously active members who are coming back to STS and again want to be engaged in our agenda. The next year is revving up as the first meeting of the 2006 Program Committee took place and the consensus was that the program and agenda needed to be interactive, fun, educational, relevant, participative, substantial, and you get the drift, something that we can pull off. We are optimistic that we won't disappoint many in this celebratory 45th anniversary year ahead. Stay tuned, there is room for much input and many ideas. I look forward to hearing from you and connecting with you in coming months.

*Julia Gelfand  
Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian  
University of California at Irvine*

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### Hot Topics Survey 2004: Collaborative Continuing Education Survey

For the first time a collaborative effort has solicited the continuing education interests of science librarians. The STS Continuing Education Committee normally conducts a survey every two years to identify the continuing education interests of its constituents. At the January 2004 ALA Midwinter meeting the Committee, mindful of the rapid changes taking place in its constituents' work environments, decided to conduct a "hot topics" survey that year to continue the work of the 2003 survey. At the same meeting Virginia Baldwin, a member of the Special Libraries Association and the American Society for Engineering Education Engineering Libraries Division as well as of STS, proposed a collaboration of the three organizations in conducting the survey. The analysis of the 254 responses, available through the STS Continuing Education page, is the result.

Data collection took place October and November of 2004. The survey was publicized through the listservs of the three organizations. The resulting rich data set represents the wide range of interests and responsibilities of the science and engineering

librarians at work today.

Twenty-one Likert-like scale preselected topics were offered. Next, open-ended questions asked respondents to volunteer their three topics of greatest interest. Finally, membership information and conference attendance plans were solicited. The Likert-like scale results were analyzed overall and by attendance plans to ALA, ACRL, ASEE, and SLA conferences.

Open access journals, collaboration with faculty on research or teaching, and marketing and outreach were the three topics of greatest interest overall, according to the open-ended data well responses. STS members' highest Likert-scale interests included the first two, plus:

- >Science blogs, listservs, other ways of keeping current;
- >Usage statistics for collection development;
- >Find free, high-quality online data;
- >Development of a digital institutional repository;
- >Assessment and user surveys;
- >Efforts to establish a national science library;
- >Federated searching; and
- >Semantic web

Groups planning conference programs or research may gain valuable ideas by studying the results. A more complete analysis detailing the interests of all participants, not just STS members, may be found through the STS Continuing Education web page: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscontinuingeducation.htm>

*Submitted by Marilyn Christianson*

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NEWS FROM BOSTON  
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### Continuing Education Committee

The committee finalized decisions based on earlier discussions of its SciTech Library Mentors program. The committee will go ahead with plans to revamp the program so that new participants will be paired with suitable mentors. The group also made many decisions on how to proceed and who will do what, starting with developing an online form to collect information on mentors and mentees. The committee will advertise the program in several new ways. New members of STS will be invited to participate via the STS welcome letter. The committee will create

a bookmark to be included with the STS brochure; they will be distributed at STS events and sent to instructors of sci/tech related courses at library schools. The committee will also send periodic reminders of the program to STS-L. Welcome letters and follow-up letters will be sent periodically to participants.

Next the committee decided on additions, deletions, and other changes to its Professional Continuing Education on the Web page and considered whether to change the organization of the page so that the links would be grouped by subject rather than by provider.

Results of the 2004 Hot Topics Survey were summarized. The group made preliminary decisions on the kinds of questions to include in the 2005 biennial survey, which will again be a collaborative effort between STS Continuing Education, SLA's Sci Tech Division, and ASEE's Engineering Libraries Division. News that ALA is considering the purchase of virtual meeting software was welcomed as that would greatly facilitate collaborative work of this kind.

*Submitted by Christina Desai*

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### **Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee**

The committee's current project will be a survey, resulting in an article, with the working title of:

*Successes and failures of subject and bibliographic access to ETDS via the OPAC vs. Institutional Repositories: British and American perspectives*

We are defining institutional repositories as digital repositories that include Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETDs), bachelor's-level papers, preprints, grey literature, and working papers. The project builds upon the panel the Committee sponsored at Annual in Orlando concentrating upon subject access to EDTs. We are working closely with Simon Bevan, Information Systems Manager at Cranfield University in the U.K.

*Submitted by Bryna Coonin and Sophie Bogdanski*

### **Membership and Recruitment Committee**

The STS Membership & Recruitment Committee met on Sunday January 16. The Committee made preliminary plans for the STS New Members Orientation/Reception at Annual. The format will be similar to that of the last few years – including a layout of small round tables to encourage interaction - and will include refreshments and door prizes. Time for informal networking between the new members and the attending STS Officers and Council members will be provided, as well as opportunities to share past experiences and answer any questions raised by the new members.

The Membership Committee also continued its work on various recruitment activities, including outreach to library school students and non-STS attendees of STS conference programs, and the development of an informational webpage with a bibliography of relevant articles on sci/tech librarianship. Initial contact with instructors of science/technology-related library school courses in the spring semester was planned, and the e-mail letter will include an offer to provide information on STS and sci/tech librarianship for any interested students.

The Committee also decided to continue its liaison activity with NMRT, in order to maintain both an avenue of communication between the two units and the opportunity for distribution of STS materials to new ALA members.

*Submitted by Lori Critz*

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### **Assessment Committee**

The Assessment Committee has observed that since changing its name, we've had more guests and interested visitors attend our meetings! After a brief report of Council I, we discussed efforts to standardize the methodology that we use to assess the value of the Section's programs and discussion groups as well as look for ways to reach out to new members. The group looked at a number of forms and has brought together a format that should work well for our needs. Our goal is to have this form linked off of the STS website in a space for all program and discussion group chairs, along with things like attendance forms,

in an effort to make this process more seamless. One of our committee members is also going to check with NMRT to see how they archive information to see if we could learn from their techniques.

The Committee also looked at a list of other committees within ALA that have some sort of assessment component attached to them. This contact information and list of sections will enable us to reach out to other sections within ALA to make sure we are not duplicating efforts. We will also investigate co-sponsoring some sort of assessment program as a possible ALA pre-conference. Groups such as EBBS are potential contenders with their emphasis on the social sciences and the sorts of behavioral issues that surround good assessment practices. For now we are sponsoring a Discussion Group in Chicago. We hope to offer an open forum led by a knowledgeable assessment colleague regarding data assessment issues confronting librarians.

*Submitted by Julie T. Miran*

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### **2006 Conference Program Planning Committee**

The STS Program for the ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans is tentatively planned for Monday June 26th, 2006. The committee discussed the place and technical logistics, the possible audience size and budget constraints. Julia Gelfand is coordinating fund raising and corporate sponsorship with ACRL. We can probably afford only one big name keynote speaker and we need a speaker who is provocative, has name recognition, and good speaker presence. Co-sponsorship is an option which may become clearer as other program proposals are developed. We discussed having an STS poster session and we will work with STS research committee on this aspect of the program. The program format being considered is a keynote talk with three people commenting and offering remarks. We want the audience to be inspired to work towards the goal of showing that library collections and services can have a positive impact on science learning, and to show how librarians support or can support science education. Program details will be finalized at Midwinter 2006 in San Antonio.

*Submitted by Barbara DeFelice*

### **Government Information Committee**

The committee brainstormed ideas for 2005/2006, including programs on ‘Is there a review process for government “web scrubbing”?’ or patent searching; developing a training module regarding sci/tech government documents; survey library school government documents instructors regarding inclusion of sci/tech documents; or survey federal scientists regarding their use of various kinds of sci/tech publications. Input to the committee regarding interest in these ideas is appreciated.

ALA Washington Update: Professor Abby Goodrum of Syracuse University encouraged libraries to report procedure or policy changes made in response to the PATRIOT Act. Goodrum is a lead researcher for ALA’s PATRIOT Study to “quantify and examine contacts by federal law enforcement agencies in public and academic libraries.”

GODORT Update: Patricia McDermott of the ALA Washington Office noted that the proposed Data Quality Act would restrict access to data that is challenged by lobbyist or citizen groups. Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell presented GPO’s “A Strategic Vision for the 21st Century.” See: <http://www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf>.

*Submitted by Mathew Marsteller, Amy Prendergast, and Randall Halverson*

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### **STS General Discussion Group**

Google Scholar was the topic of the day at the STS General Discussion Group meeting on January 15. Over 80 people were in attendance, with representatives from several of the large publishers and database vendors. Instruction librarians talked about whether or not they covered Google Scholar in their introductory sessions (many did), and faculty usage was also mentioned. Several librarians wondered how the use of metasearch tools would be affected, and whether the Google algorithm would work as well in this smaller subset of more scholarly material. Some libraries have added information about Google Scholar to their web sites, and a few have set up a link to it that allows proxy access to full text to which the library subscribes.

*Submitted by Julie Kelly and Katie Clark*

## **Planning and Organization Committee**

The Planning and Organization Committee completed a review of the STS Manual and also received numerous content and editorial suggestions from members of Council. Jill Newby gave the complete Manual a thorough reading and offered many useful suggestions. We are now in the process of sending these corrections to our Web administrator, Jennifer Duvernay. Jennifer has updated the Bylaws to reflect the new organizational structure of the Section by separating the positions of secretary and publicity officer. Each position now has a two year term of office to be elected in alternate years. Additional sections of the Manual will be updated with the whole project tentatively scheduled to be complete by June 2005.

The Committee's next project will be revising the STS strategic plan to correspond with ACRL's new strategic plan. If you have ideas or suggestions email Jo Ann Calzonetti at [jc44@uakron.edu](mailto:jc44@uakron.edu).

*Submitted by Jo Ann Calzonetti*

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## **Issues in Sci-Tech Library Management Discussion Group**

The Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management Discussion Group co-sponsored a dinner with the College Science Librarians Discussion Group for Sci/Tech Librarians on January 15. Thirty-six librarians met for dinner; this continues to be a great way for people to make new acquaintances. The response was so enthusiastic that we are planning a similar dinner in Chicago. We finalized plans for a discussion session that will be held in Chicago; it will be devoted to assessment issues, co-sponsored with the STS Assessment Committee.

*Submitted by Norma Kobzina*

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## **Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee held its Midwinter meeting virtually, during the week of December 6, 2004. The meeting was a success, with participation from all committee members, as well as four guests. The Publications Committee moderates the STS-L list and manages the STS-C list. There are currently 1,137

subscribers to STS-L. The committee plans to move STS-L from a server at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, to an ALA server, but is waiting until ALA software is upgraded before this transition is made. STS-C is already managed on an ALA server.

The winter 2005 issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)* has been cancelled. The Spring 2005 issue will be devoted to the topic of open access journals, the Summer 2005 will be the annual all topics issue, and the Fall 2005 issue will look at library facilities.

There is an opening on the ISTL editorial board due to the resignation of Jean Poland. The Publications Committee reviewed and approved the position description, and a call for applications will be announced, with the replacement to be named after the ALA Annual meeting in Chicago. The ISTL editorial board has decided to discontinue the column on conference reports. The board encourages information from conferences to be submitted as full-fledged articles; for example, a speaker might write up their notes to present a complete discussion on the topic for our readers. A new column will be added that presents librarians' opinions on topics of interest. It will be edited by David Flaxbart.

*Submitted by Philip Herold*

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## **The NIH Public Access Proposal and the Open Access Movement: The Dream and Reality for Science Libraries**

This discussion was co-sponsored by the Science and Technology Information, College Science Librarians, and Publisher and Vendor Relations Discussion Groups. More than 55 people attended this excellent discussion group led by Jane Griffith, Acting Director of National Library of Medicine (NLM), and Michael Leach, Director of the Kummel Library of Geological Sciences and Physics Library at Harvard. Jane presented an overview of the NIH Public Access Proposal and Michael offered a comprehensive overview of the potential effects and challenges of open access on science libraries.

Ms. Griffith's presentation was similar to the one she presented for the SPARC/ACRL Forum. This session was video-taped and can be found at <http://www.arl.org/sparc/meetings/ala05mw/>.

Updated information on the NIH proposal can be found at <http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/>.

The PowerPoint slides from Michael Leach's Open Access discussion at Midwinter are available from the STS web site. The direct url is: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsconferences/LeachOpenAccess.ppt>.

There were a number of interesting questions. One participant asked what SLIS programs should do to prepare new graduates for the opportunities and challenges presented by Open Access. Michael replied that, in his opinion, core library skills need to be taught as well as new technologies. He added that technologies can be taught in job related situations but students need core skills and experiences in order to be effective information technologists. Issues around accreditation and consortial relations related to open access journals were raised. A question was raised concerning the results of the study by Phil Davis of Cornell and whether institutions could and/or should mandate that researchers pay for the cost of open publishing out of their grants. There was a tangential discussion about whether the author pay process will eventually drive authors back to the free publishers, such as Elsevier. Jane noted at the end of the discussion that the NIH proposal is currently directed towards text materials but that articles containing multimedia will need to be considered. A participant added that the institutional repository software at his organization allows for multimedia. Jane added that standards and means to maintain the multimedia over time will still be challenges.

*Submitted by Beth-Thomsett-Scott,  
for Angi Faiks, Sue O'Dell and Ibronke O. Lawal*

## Research Committee

At the Boston Midwinter meeting, the STS Research Committee reviewed several different paper proposals for presentation at the upcoming Forum for Science & Technology at ALA Annual in Chicago. Two papers were selected for presentation:

*"Proteomics: Measuring the Emergence of a New Scientific Discipline by Bibliographic Means"*

**Frederick W. Stoss**, Science and Engineering Library and **Rosemarie Maldonado**, Department of Library & Information Studies (graduate student), School of Infor-

## STS Field Trip

**Tuesday, June 28, 2005**

**8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
(times are approximate)**

**Join us for a guided tour of Fermilab. Fermilab is a national laboratory operated by the U.S. Department of Energy which conducts research into particle physics.**

**Registration is required and more information is forthcoming. (Sponsored by Thomson ISI)**



matics, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

*"Electronic Usage Statistics and Citation Analysis"*

**John McDonald**, Acquisitions Librarian, California Institute of Technology

The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at ALA Annual. The following eight posters have been invited to present their activities and research in Chicago:

"Science Librarians as Consultants: Partnerships for Knowledge" by **Scott Warren**, North Carolina State University Libraries

"Librarians as Teachers: An Information Literacy Collaboration in the Life Sciences" by **Betsy Spackman**, Brigham Young University

"What Are Our Customers Reading? Analyzing Circulation Data to Identify Popular Subjects in a Book Collection" by **Harriet Hassler**, National Institute of Standards and Technology

"The Chymistry of Isaac Newton: New Technologies and Old Science" by **John A. Walsh**, Indiana University

"Enhanced Data Driven Model in Collection Development by Information Technology during Spending Reduction at the University of Arizona Library" by **Elizabeth Kline and Nathalie Zhou**, University of Arizona

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2005 Annual Meeting \* Chicago, IL

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
<b>Friday, June 24</b>		<b>Sunday, June 26</b>	
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	STS Council I	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Nominating Committee (closed)
		8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Government Information & Legislation Committee
<b>Saturday, June 25</b>		9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Continuing Education Committee
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	New Members Orientation	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	General Discussion Group
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Oberley Award Committee (closed)	11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management Discussion Group
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Assessment Committee	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	College Science Librarians Discussion Group
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Publications Committee
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Publisher/Vendor Relations	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Membership & Recruitment
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2005 Program Planning Committee	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Research Forum
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2006 Program Planning Committee		
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Organization & Planning Committee	<b>Monday, June 27</b>	
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	New Chairs Orientation	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Conference Program
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Sci/Tech Information Discussion Group	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Poster Session & Reception
		4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
		8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	STS Council II

“Building the Virtual Collaboratory” by **Karen Wenk and Martin Kesselman**, Rutgers University Libraries

“Creating a BUZZ: Attracting SCI/TECH Students To The Library!” by **Crystal Renfro et al**, Georgia Institute of Technology

“Cited Reference Searching: New Avenues for Librarian Faculty Collaboration” by **Marcia Henry**, California State University, Northridge

*Submitted by Karen Grigg and Maliaca Strom-Oxnam*

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### MEMBER NEWS:

**Dr. Anne Prestamo** is now the Associate Dean for Collection and Technology Services at Oklahoma State University.

**Brian Mathews** is now the Distance Learning Services Coordinator and Subject Specialist for Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech.

**Cathy Outten** is now the Science and Mathematics Librarian at California State University Long Beach.

**Kris Alpi**, NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene, has a recently published article: "Expert Searching in Public Health" *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. 2005 Jan; 93 (1) : 97-103.

**Fred Stoss**, University at Buffalo SUNY, has several upcoming publications, including “World Data Centers,” to be published in the next online version of the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, and “Building Lead-Free Communities,” which will be appearing in the Summer 2005 issue of RUSA’s *Reference & User Services Quarterly*.

**Chris Desai**, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, traveled to Malaysia last year and gave a presentation titled, "Current Trends in American Libraries: A Focus on Chat Reference." at the Biennial Meeting of the Librarians Association of Malaysia, Sarawak Chapter, Sarawak State Library.

Two recent publications from **Nestor Osorio**, Northern Illinois University: "Literature of Disasters from the Human Factors Point of View: A Descriptive Analysis" *Collection Building*, Vol. 23, No 2, p. 64-72, 2004; and "Engineering Education in Europe and the USA: An Analysis of Two Journals" *Science & Technology Libraries*, 23,(1),49-70, 2002. (published in 2004)

# **STS ALA Program Monday, June 27, 2005**

*The New Crossroads:  
Science Librarians in the 21st Century*

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Program**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Poster Sessions and Reception**

## **Panel of speakers:**

### **Mary Case**

University Librarian, University of IL at Chicago

### **Mel DeSart**

Head, Engineering Library, Univ. of WA at Seattle

### **Michael Leach**

Director, Geological Sciences & Physics Research  
Libraries, Harvard University

### **Alison Ricker**

Science Librarian, Oberlin College

## **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.

To join STS-L, send the following message to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU) (do not include a period after EDU):

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name  
The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.  
Moderators: Margaret Mellinger and Peter Spyers-Duran

### **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: Jennifer Duvernay

### **STS Signal on the Web**

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

Editors: Barbara MacAlpine and Caroline Gilson

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The Newsletter of the Science & Technology Section  
ACRL -- American Library Association  
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