



STS *SIGNAL*

Science and Technology Section
Association of College and Research Libraries

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Join us at RBMS 2024 for an immersive exploration of how we can leverage the invaluable lessons, experiences, and progress of the past three years to propel our profession towards greater equity, diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement. Watch rbms.info for details.

RBMS
Momentum June 25–28, 2024
Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, CA

Letter from the Chair



Rachel Hamelers
STS Chair

rachel-hamelers@muhlenberg.edu

Hello Science and Technology Librarians and welcome to another year in the life of STS!

As the only science librarian at my institution, STS has been a career lifeline to me. I have served on many STS committees and at least one taskforce, but I still find it hard to believe that I am now chair of the section. I enter this year with excitement for the job and the future of STS, some trepidation about doing all the things correctly, and gratitude both for the work you do and the opportunity to work with some of my favorite people.

We are sticking our toe, or toes, as the case may be, back into some in-person programming and events this year. The Program Planning Committee submitted a proposal for an in-person 2024 program at the San Diego ALA Annual Conference entitled (at least at the time I am writing this), “AI, Librarianship, and Social Change.” Thank you to the Program Planning committee, chaired by Tessa Withorn and Rebecca Renirie, for all your work on this program!

If you co-chair a committee that has done in-person or online programming in the past, please reach out to Members-at-Large Melissa Gold (gold.melissa@gmail.com) and Jessica Martinez (jjmart90@gmail.com), to discuss your plans and the format of your programming this year. If you are interested in having an in-person event or program, they can discuss with your committee how that fits in with the recommendations of the [Modalities Task Force](#), and how to coordinate those events with other possible STS in-person happenings. We are so fortunate to have the thoughtful and intentional work of the Modalities Taskforce to guide our section in this time where things are still changing and evolving. Thank you to Hannah Gascho Rempel, Taskforce chair, and all the members of the Modalities Taskforce for your work moving STS into our next phase.

One taskforce is complete, and so, in the way of STS, we start another. Please consider the [call for volunteers for the Taskforce on Committee Structure](#), which we hope will take a holistic view of STS, solicit member feedback, and come up with recommendations for how the executive and committee structure of STS can best serve us going forward. We would like a wide range of members, and I hope you will consider serving.

Please reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns that you have (my standard closing phrase at the end of library instruction sessions is “questions, comments, concerns, feelings?” - there are often lots of feelings) at rachelhamelers@muhlenberg.edu. Thank you for all you do for STS!

Best,

Rachel Hamelers, STS 2023-2024 Chair

Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect



Samuel Putnam

STS Vice-Chair

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Hello STS folks,

I hope everyone is enjoying all the excitement that comes with another fall semester. I know I have been enjoying this thing folks outside the American South call “Fall” each year. Apparently, the weather cools down and the trees change colors. It’s a wild development for this native Floridian.

ideas, or rants you have with me. I would love to see how we can use our membership, budget, and programs to address these issues and support our membership. I’m looking forward to the next few years with y’all and hope we can help STS grow.

In solidarity,

Sam Putnam

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In my first few months as vice-chair, I have enjoyed the small window I have into all the work that makes STS run. Whether it is the early birds in Conference Program Planning gearing up for ALA Annual 2024, folks [volunteering for the new Task Force on Section Structure and Responsibilities](#), or the myriad volunteers committed to making a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse section, I am continually impressed by all that STS accomplishes. Thank you to the membership for committing your time and labor!

While I am excited for all the work we are doing, I know declining membership numbers across ACRL mean that there are still needs that STS is not fulfilling or actions we are not taking. I can’t help but think about [Anti-DEI](#) legislation that has been signed into law in Florida, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and North Dakota, while numerous other states have introduced anti-DEI legislation. These legislations challenge our DEI efforts as well as our academic and intellectual freedom. They impact what we are allowed to teach, what collections we are allowed to develop, and what organizations we are allowed to join. State libraries in [Montana](#), Texas, and [Missouri](#) have already withdrawn from ALA, while other states are considering the move.

If your work has been impacted by these or any adjacent issues, please feel free to reach out and share any concerns,

STS Committee and Discussion Group News

Update from the 2024 Conference Program Planning Committee

The Committee has submitted a proposal for an in-person panel discussion for the ALA 2024 Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. The panel is titled *AI, Librarianship, and Social Change*, and will feature three speakers from different disciplines who will speak to AI's impact on librarianship and library practice. The Committee submitted this proposal in collaboration with the ACRL Distance and Online Learning Section, the ACRL Instruction Section Membership Committee, and the RUSA Business Reference and Services Section. We expect to hear whether the proposal is accepted later this year.

Submitted by Tessa Withorn and Rebecca Hill Renirie

Update from the Membership and Recruitment Committee

The Membership and Recruitment Committee co-hosted the STS Research Forum & Membership Chat on Wednesday, June 21st .

Submitted by Sheena Cambell

Update from the Publications Committee

Publications continues its work reviewing content in STS LibGuides, the design of the new Section website, and is beginning to look at new ways of sharing content on the work of the section through the *Signal* and Section newsletter.

Submitted by Jason Burton



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Science & Technology Section

STS Committee and Discussion Group News

Updates from the STS Research Committee

Over summer the Research Committee hosted two virtual events.

The STS Lightning Talk session was held on June 20, 2023 with presentations on review of systematic review resources and support services, researcher diversity in information literacy instruction, library initiatives against student food insecurity, and photogrammetry to share library materials online.

The STS Research Forum was held online on June 21, 2023 and it was co-hosted by the STS Research Committee and STS Membership Committee. This year, we had three research presentations followed by breakout rooms for members to discuss topics related to science and technology libraries. Presentations focused on citation analysis of chemistry and physics dissertations, equitable and accessible materials for STEM students, and information literacy instruction and student persistence in STEM.

The committee is in the process of organizing for the coming year. We will be discussing the type of events we will be holding and the timing and format (in-person or virtual) for these events. STS members should watch for calls for proposals for presentations in the coming months and be prepared to share your research with the STS audience.

Submitted by Andrew Stuart and Kelly Getz.

Updates from the STS STEMM Librarianship Resources Committee

The STS STEMM Librarianship Resources Committee continues to serve as a forum for the exchange of information and resources relating to STEM and technology librarianship. Recent posts on the blog (insidescienceresources.wordpress.com) include an overview of lab manuals for data management and reproducibility; an article discussing incorporating ChatGPT into information literacy activities; and a review of the database Drug Bank Online. The committee members are busy working on new posts on topics such as the IUCN Red List and Google Dataset Search.

Submitted by Kimberly Jackson and Andrew Stuart

ACRL NEWS

ACRL Books

ACRL books provide timely and practical advice and thought-provoking research for academic library workers worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [Practicing Privacy Literacy in Academic Libraries: Theories, Methods, and Cases](#)
- [Creators in the Academic Library: Collections & Spaces and Instruction & Outreach](#)
- [The Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy Symposium: Reflections, Revisions, and New Works](#)
- [Instructional Identities and Information Literacy](#), 3 Volume Set
- [Managing Crises in the Academic Library: Past, Present, and Future](#)

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ACRL NEWS



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Join us at RBMS 2024 for an immersive exploration of how we can leverage the invaluable lessons, experiences, and progress of the past three years to propel our profession towards greater equity, diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement. This conference will delve into critical questions: How do we reignite and sustain vital initiatives in both physical and virtual realms? How can we maintain momentum in a landscape where change often comes in small steps? Discover the keys to fostering and sustaining momentum in collaborative partnerships. The call for proposals will be announced this fall and registration will open in the spring. Watch rbms.info for details.



ACRL Off-RoadShows

Bring robust online learning directly to your library, chapter, or consortium with ACRL's virtual [Off-RoadShow workshops](#)! Led by expert presenters over multiple days, these online workshops are based on our popular in-person RoadShow workshops and support academic library professionals in tackling the greatest issues facing the profession. Workshop hosts can work with presenters to adapt the content to their institutional contexts. [Schedule a virtual workshop](#) for your library or organization today. Organizational members of ACRL receive a 10% discount off the hosting cost!

ACRL NEWS



ACRL Online Learning

ACRL's [live webcasts](#) and multi-week [online courses](#) are designed to meet the demands of your location, schedule, and budget. Learn more about these events on the [ACRL website](#).



Benchmark

[Benchmark](#) is the newest tool for data-driven planning and advocacy in academic libraries.

Launched by ACRL in late 2021, Benchmark provides enhanced access to ACRL annual survey data from 1998-2020. With Benchmark, you can illustrate ongoing activities and usage in a compelling fashion for different audiences, as well as generate key metrics for strategic planning, budget justifications, annual reports, fundraising, and more! Benchmark is also where you can contribute your library's data to national surveys to further research and advocacy. [Login to your free account](#) today to complete the 2023 Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey, which includes trends questions on the topic of post-Covid library service and workplace trends!

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About the Signal

STs SIGNAL

We're on the Web!

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