



STS SIGNAL

Association of College & Research Libraries
Science & Technology Section

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Letter From the Chair



Sam Putnam, STS Chair
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Hello STS!

It was such a pleasure to see so many STS folks at ACRL 2025! I always feel like the best part of my conference experience is the opportunity to connect with so many great STEM librarians. Hopefully, you got to catch a workshop, roundtable, panel, or contributed paper sessions from one of our members, either in person or virtually. The wealth of knowledge and experience within STS is one of the things I value most about this section. I want to highlight those STS members that have contributed papers, which are now available on the [ACRL website](#):

[Interrupting the Flow: Do Libraries Create or Remove Barriers to Sources?](#)

Hannah Gascho Rempel, Taylor Ralph, and Adam Lindsley

[Institutional Change as Opportunity: Advocating for Students & Information Literacy](#)

Michele Santamaría, Melissa Gold, and Krista Higham

[The Graduate Specialist Program: Students Working in Research and Data Services](#)

Julia Anne Maxwell, Francesca Giannetti, Triveni Kuchi, Laura Palumbo, and Ryan Womack

[Amplifying Student Voices Engaging Marginalized Communities Through Photovoice in Academic Libraries](#)

Michelle Mussuto and Jodi Shepherd

[Adapting to AI: Developing Instruments to Study Changes in Information Seeking Behavior](#)



Samuel R. Putnam, Matthew Frenkel, Hebah Emara, Amanda He, Lindsay Anderberg, and Fiona Hibbard

Beyond this conference, STS has a number of virtual events coming your way:

STS Research Forum, Lightning Talks, and Panels

From the STS Research Committee

Tuesday, June 17 · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Check ALA Connect for a Registration Link

"Bringing Together AI, STEM, and Government Information" with Dr. Leo Lo

From the STS Government Information Committee

Tuesday, June 24 · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Check ALA Connect for a Registration Link

I'm always impressed by how much we accomplish as a section and the great professional development opportunities that we make available to STS members and the library community as a whole.

I also want to give a big shout out to the Task Force on Section Structure and Responsibilities for completing their work and [disseminating their final report](#). Big thanks to the co-chairs and the committee members for the work on this important project:

Jason Burton, Co-Chair
Nicole Helregel, Co-Chair
Theresa G. Burress
Shelby Carroll
Leah DiCiesare
Bonnie L. Fong
Emily F. Gorman
Jennifer Jane Horton
George S. Porter

The next step for STS's restructure will be forming and charging the implementation team whose work will begin July 2025. Keep an eye on ALA Connect for any updates.



As my time as chair comes to an end, I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve this section. In a time when higher education and libraries are being targeted by federal and state governments, I hope our STS community will continue to be a support and resource for all STEM librarians. Please reach out to me if you have any questions between now and the end of my term.

Sincerely,

Sam Putnam
Chair, STS
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Letter From the Vice-Chair

Dear STS members,

Spring requires patience in mid-Michigan, where it is not unusual to see snow in April. But at last, the green has begun to appear around us, leaves are opening on the trees, the early flowers are blooming, and the migrating birds are beginning to arrive. I hope wherever this finds you that you have joy and opportunity in the changing of the seasons. Though it is a tough time to be our authentic selves, I am encouraged every day by the strength, resilience, and resistance I see in my librarian colleagues and friends.

Speaking of which, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the ACRL Conference in Minneapolis! While I greatly value the accessibility and ease of virtual meetings and programming, it was still a treat to see librarians in person, catch up with



Rebecca Hill Renirie, STS Vice-Chair
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conversations, and share meals together. The STS reception at Brit's Pub was especially fun, thank you to those who planned the event and to SPIE for sponsoring! I attended many talks, paper presentations, posters, and roundtables hosted by our talented members and I have pages of notes still to go through. Please don't be surprised if I reach out well after the fact with a question about your research.

As I wrap up one of the big tasks of the STS Vice-Chair, I want to say thank you! to everyone who responded to the call for volunteers. STS cannot do the important work we are known for without you. Our committees will begin the year with full rosters and I look forward to seeing the work they accomplish. I will be contacting continuing and incoming co-chairs later this spring with roster information. As we approach July, I encourage chairs to reach out to their committee members and begin the discussions that will shape our section in the year to come. I also want to thank the current committee members for the wonderful resources and programming they have shared and planned this year! As a reminder, you can see upcoming STS programming on the [STS Events Calendar](#), and watch the STS listserv for more information. The spring and summer events look great, and many thanks are in order for the work involved in planning and presenting them. As another reminder, we will be reaching out soon for volunteers for the Section Structure and Responsibilities Implementation Task Force. How our committees will be organized in the future will depend on the work of that group.

I am both nervous and excited to assume the role of Chair for the 2025-2026 year. I want to extend gratitude and congratulations to Past-Chair Rachel Hamelers and Chair Sam Putnam for their service, guidance, and leadership. Their responsiveness to member concerns (including many questions from me) is greatly appreciated. I am very glad that Sam will continue as Past-Chair to help me in my new role (yes, the questions will also continue). I also wish Rachel well as chair of the 2026 Nominating Committee. She and her team will be looking for candidates to stand for election for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Member at Large, as well as EDI Officer and Publicity Officer, as the members currently holding those roles will finish their terms in June of 2026. If you are interested in serving on the STS Executive Committee, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Finally, I want to welcome and congratulate our incoming Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Tara Radniecki, incoming Secretary Nicole Helregel, and incoming Member at Large Christina Chan-Park! I look forward to working with you and what we will accomplish together!

Happy spring to everyone!



Thank you,

Rebecca Renirie

STS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect 2024/2025

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STS Committee & Discussion Group News

STS Hot Topics Committee

The STS Hot Topics hosted a successful webinar, *OER Evolved: AI, Libraries, and the Next Generation of Open Education*, with 154 in attendance. A second webinar is currently being planned for late spring or early summer.

Submitted by Jason Burton

STS Information Literacy Committee

The STS Information Literacy Committee continues to update the Science and Technology Section: Information Literacy LibGuide with resources. In addition, the STS Information Literacy Committee held an online discussion about the zine *A Librarian Against AI; or, I Think AI Should Leave*, by Violet B. Fox. A total of 69 participants registered for the event and Hannah Rozear and Georgette Nicolosi co-hosted the discussion. With a larger group, the committee used breakout rooms for small room discussion which then merged into a larger discussion. It was a nice deviation from the normal AI trainings.

Submitted by Kimberly Bailey



STS Section Structure & Responsibilities Task Force

The STS Task Force on Section Structure and Responsibilities has concluded its work. Our recommendations can be found in our Report: <https://bit.ly/STS-structure-taskforce>

Our recommendations include a streamlining of STS committees, to be carried out by an implementation team/task force. Watch for more information to come regarding changes and the future of STS!

Submitted by Nicole Helregel and Jason Burton

STS STEM Librarianship Resources Committee

The STEM Librarianship Resources Committee publishes posts every month on the [Inside Science Resources](#) blog (ISR). The posts highlight resources relevant to STEM librarianship, including (but not limited to) platforms, databases, tools, pedagogy, equity, and scholarly communication.

Since October 2024, posts on ISR have been viewed more than 5,000 times. Among the most-viewed new posts are [Preserving U.S. federal government public data](#) (Feb. 13, 2025) by Elliott Smith, [Evidence synthesis in STEM fields](#) (Feb. 28, 2025) by Helene Gold, and [The importance of technical reports](#) (Jan. 30, 2025) by Leah DiCiesare.

Posting is not limited to committee members. If you are interested in writing about a STEM librarianship resource that you believe may be relevant to members of STS, ACRL, and the wider scholarly community, please contact us. And if you are interested in STEM topics from a librarian perspective, please consider subscribing to ISR to be automatically notified of every new post.

Submitted by Elliott Smith



Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship Update

The STS journal [Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship](#) (ISTL) has just added a Generative AI Tools Policy to its policies page. The new policy clarifies when and how authors, editors, and reviewers may use and acknowledge the use of Generative AI tools in all submissions and in the peer-review process. The policy was greatly influenced by the [Communications in Information Literacy policy](#), the [Elsevier policy](#), the [COPE position statement on authorship and AI tools](#), and the [APA policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence in scholarly materials](#).

Issue no. 109 of ISTL was published in February 2025. The article contains the following articles:

- [Information Behaviors of Marine Engineers at Sea and on Shore](#) - Amber D Janssen
- [Identifying Research Trends, Active Research Areas and Pivotal Publications with Co-citation Analysis in CiteSpace: A Case Study with Active Matter](#) - Yuening Zhang

Please consider submitting an article to ISTL or registering to become a reviewer.

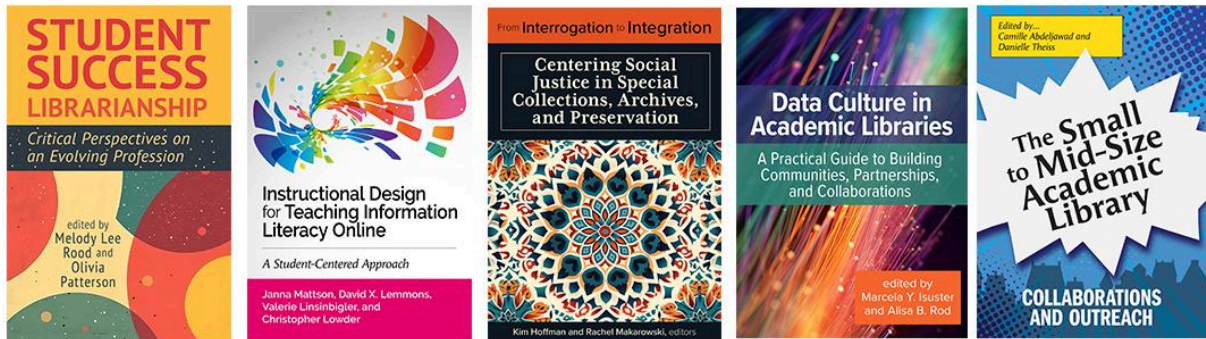
Remember, ISTL is the main open access journal in science and technology librarianship.

Submitted by Ed Eckel, Editor, ISTL



ACRL Updates

ACRL Books



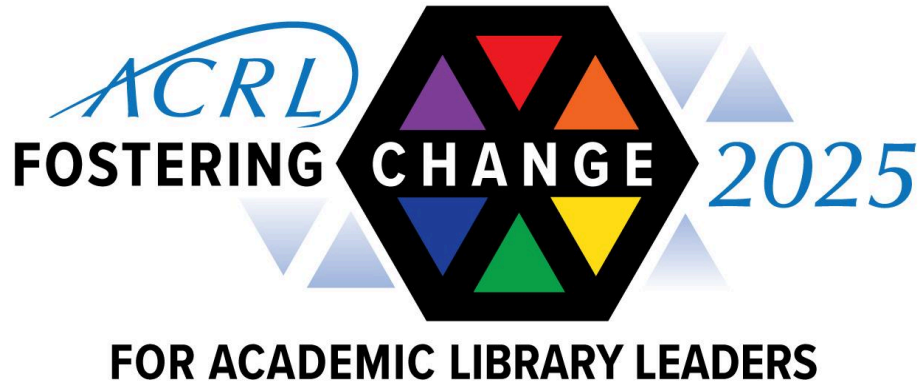
ACRL publishes a range of books that can help academic and research library workers worldwide develop your careers, manage your institutions, and stay on top of developments in librarianship and higher education. See recent titles below, and explore our [online catalog](#) for more timely, thought-provoking, and practical ideas and research.

- [Instructional Design for Teaching Information Literacy Online: A Student-Centered Approach](#)
- [From Interrogation to Integration: Centering Social Justice in Special Collections, Archives, and Preservation](#)
- [Student Success Librarianship: Critical Perspectives on an Evolving Profession](#)
- [Data Culture in Academic Libraries: A Practical Guide to Building Communities, Partnerships, and Collaborations](#)
- [The Community College Library: Collections and Technical Services](#)
- [The Small to Mid-Size Academic Library: Collaborations and Outreach](#)

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program.



Fostering Change for Academic Library Leaders



Registration is open for the virtual, nine-week [2025 Fostering Change for Academic Library Leaders](#) cohort. The cohort aims to build a community of change agents in academic libraries. Library workers often recognize the need to initiate a change in their organizations but may have no idea where to start. In this cohort experience, participants will gain the tools to spark, lead, and sustain change no matter your organizational position. You will also gain a network of peers to lean on as you lead change. The cohort runs from Monday, May 26 through Friday, July 25, 2025, and registration closes on May 23.

ACRL Data Products





ACRL offers a suite of data products to help libraries understand the impact of their work and confidently advocate for the library's future:

[Project Outcome for Academic Libraries](#) provides libraries with FREE access to quick and simple patron surveys, an easy-to-use survey management tool to collect their outcomes, custom reports, and interactive data dashboards for analyzing the data, along with a variety of resources to help move libraries from implementing surveys to results-focused action.

[Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends](#) houses the data from the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Annual Surveys. All academic libraries have complimentary access, which allows them to complete surveys and view select benchmarking visualizations. Subscription access provides more dashboards and detailed data.

The [Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy \(TATIL\)](#) is a simple, easy-to-use standardized test that measures the achievement of information literacy education outcomes, regardless of a student's major or research focus, across four modules which address learning across all the frames in the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.

RBMS 2025: A Multitude of Stories (#RBMS25)



Hosted at Yale Library | New Haven, CT

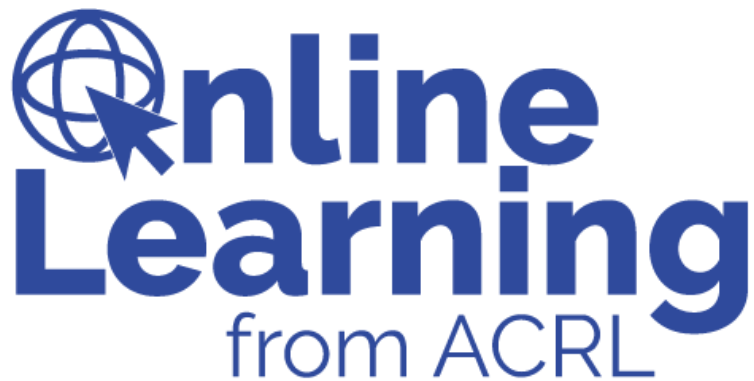
June 24 – 27, 2025

[REGISTER TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY](#) before June 13!



RBMS 2025 in-person registration is sold out due to popular demand and venue capacity. You can still join RBMS virtually and experience trusted content and valuable connections. This event will critically examine colonialism's impact on libraries and cultural heritage institutions. Explore practices that make collections more inclusive and representative of often marginalized voices. The program [agenda](#) is available online. We look forward to seeing you in New Haven, CT and/or online! The registration deadline is June 13.

ACRL Online Learning



ACRL's [Online Learning program](#) provides a unique opportunity to participate in professional development events that are focused on practical, tangible topics to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Upcoming events include:

- [Developing Information Literacy and AI Guidelines: Blazing a New Trail](#) - **June 12, 2025**
Artificial Intelligence is impacting the world of library instruction and information literacy. As librarians, we need to start adapting and adjusting to the evolving world of AI. Discover opportunities and risks with using AI, redesign your instruction models, and develop guiding principles for your library. This interactive webinar will describe how a library at a private university put together a task force of librarians to develop a guiding principles document for navigating the confluence of information literacy and artificial intelligence, and best practices. Examples of tailored in-class activities and assignments will be included.



- **Exploring AI with Critical Information Literacy - July 14-August 8, 2025**
[*Registration available soon!*](#) The rapid development of AI raises critical questions for academic librarians. This course will equip you to address concerns around misinformation, bias, and the impact of AI on scholarship and research. Examine and unpack AI through the lens of critical information literacy and explore the ways AI is rooted in and is an expression of our social, political, and cultural systems and power structures. With this critical lens, examine how librarians can uncover, navigate, and respond to many of the challenges posed by AI. How can we, as librarians, leverage our expertise and contribute to conversations and efforts around things like ethical AI movements? How can librarians empower our communities to ask questions and engage with AI and technology more critically?

[ACRL at ALA Annual](#)

ALA Annual | **2025** PHILADELPHIA
Conference & Exhibition | JUNE 26 – 30

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION | ALAANNUAL.ORG

Don't miss the 2025 ACRL President's Program, "Demystifying AI: Navigating the Laws and Policies Shaping Our Digital Future," featuring Brandie Nonnecke, Founding Director of the CITRIS Policy Lab, on Saturday, June 28 in the Philadelphia Convention Center Room 118C from 10:30am – 12:00 pm, hosted by ACRL President Leo S. Lo. ACRL will also sponsor 23 section, committee, and individual programs at the conference on topics such as artificial intelligence; inclusive library spaces; feminist citation practices; reflective teaching and library instruction; academic library trends and statistics; censorship and academic freedom; and more.



Maximize Your Professional Development Budget with ACRL RoadShows



Looking to further your institution's impact? ACRL's [RoadShows](#) bring affordable, high-quality, professional development workshops directly to your campus, chapter, or consortium. We offer in-person or virtual experiences, developed and led by expert academic librarians and researchers.

These engaging and interactive workshops are designed to enrich skillsets, strengthen competencies, and help academic and research librarians tackle the greatest challenges facing our profession today.

Our curated RoadShow topics include strategic assessment, scholarly communication, open educational resources, implementing the *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education*, and more!

A licensed ACRL RoadShow includes:

- Professional development training for up to 100 participants.
- A full day of learning and engagement with your colleagues.
- Tools, materials, and resources you can adapt for your own work.
- An evaluation report to measure success and help you plan for next steps.

Visit [our website](#) to learn more. Organizational members of ACRL receive a special 10% discount.



ACRL's Consulting Services Can Help Your Library Thrive



Our [Consulting Services](#) can help your library cultivate a successful future. ACRL's team of experienced consultants will work with you to develop plans, reports, and trainings intentionally tailored for your library's unique needs. From accreditation to strategic planning, we're here to help you grow.

- Consulting specialties include:
- Strategic Planning
- Dean or director search
- External review
- Building leadership capacity
- Accreditation self-study
- Stakeholder input
- Organizational change
- Applying the *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education*

Meet our consultants, see project examples, and learn more at: ala.org/acrl/consulting



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