

# Science and Technology Section

## Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

### Goal Area: Learning

#### *1. ACRL expands regional, national and international adoption, use and development of information literacy standards.*

The STS Information Literacy (IL) committee launched the STS IL Wiki in early 2009. The STS IL Wiki provides teaching tips for the Science and Engineering/Technology Information Literacy Standards. The wiki also includes a list of tutorials that address components of these standards. Both resources will serve to increase the use of the IL standards. The committee will continue to use creative outreach methods such as Facebook discussions to promote the STS IL Wiki and to expand the use of IL standards by science and technology librarians.

## Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

### Goal Area: Learning

#### *2. Strengthen ACRL's relationships with higher education organizations that are important to faculty and administrators in order to develop institutional understand of librarians' roles in enhancing teaching and learning.*

Organized by the STS Conference Program Planning Committee, the 2010 ALA Annual Conference Program provides information on how Science and Technology Libraries are building collaborative relationships with Federal Libraries. Attendees will be able to converse knowledgeably about major trends and issues in libraries and their effects on higher education, and lead to having ACRL recognized as a leader in trends and issues affecting libraries.

## Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

### Goal Area: Learning

#### *3. ACRL increases member abilities to create and manage physical and virtual spaces and services as environments for discovery.*

The STS Government Information Committee maintains the Top Web Sites for Government Science and Technology Information. By bringing together many different web sites in one list, it provides professionals with an environment for discovery — facilitating learning about these sources so they can be brought to the attention of library users in all academic/research libraries.

## Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

### Goal Area: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity

#### *1. Strengthen ACRL's role in serving as a catalyst for and supporting transformative change in scholarly communication systems.*

The STS Continuing Education Discussion Group hosted a special discussion group titled “Helping Researchers Manage Data” featuring Katherine McNeill, Anne Graham, and Amy Stout all of MIT Libraries. The session focused on the MIT Libraries’ ground-up approach to identifying researchers with data sets that needed curation, preservation, and distribution. Attendees were very engaged in the presentation which also covered aspects of MIT’s institutional repository.

## Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

### Goal Area: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity

#### *2. Enhance ACRL members' ability to provide education, advocacy, and coalition building to support transformative change in scholarly communication systems*

The STS College Science Librarians Discussion Group topic for the 2010 ALA Annual conference will be “The Data Game: Libraries and Data Repositories.” Understanding how data curation and preservation are important to e-science can help STS librarians support and collaborate with their institution’s researchers. The STS Executive Committee approved in concept the recommendations of the STS Open Access Taskforce to develop a new standing committee to monitor and lead members in areas of open access.

## **Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research**

### **Goal Area: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity**

#### ***3. Enhance ACRL members' understanding of how scholars work and the systems, tools, and technology to support the evolving work of the creation, personal organization, aggregation, discovery, preservation, access and exchange of information in all formats.***

STS Midwinter 2010 Hot Topics Discussion "E-Scholarship Tools for Science Librarians": After a presentation by the developer, the presenter introduced personalized information profiles (PIPs) and how they could be used to support faculty development and their associated research interests. Group discussions followed the presentation and allowed participants to develop methodologies that would be helpful in their work on their respective university campuses. Using information from several e-scholarship sites, participants worked together to identify applied uses that could be derived to support faculty publication needs, research interests, and special project development and management. STS Oberly Award recognizes librarians or other bibliographers who use the appropriate technology to integrate content and produce a piece of scholarly work that provides access to or summarizes the literature in any area of agriculture and natural sciences. It serves to encourage scholarly research and creative activity, which may lead to the discovery of material and sharing of resources. The 2009 Oberly Award recipient was the International Rice Research Institute's Rice Database. The STS Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee is preparing an annotated bibliography on the subject of E-science and the role of the librarian. We are reading and evaluating articles that will help science librarians understand their significance and the part they play or need to learn to play within the growing area of e-science. We created a Google docs area where we can share our annotations. We are expecting to submit this annotated bibliography for the Summer 2010 issue of STS Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship.

## **Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research**

### **Goal Area: Advocacy**

#### ***4. Increase ACRL's influence in public policy affecting higher education.***

The STS Government Information Committee sent action alerts and time-sensitive information to the STS-L listserv, regarding impending legislation and government action that will impact scientific scholarship and publication.

## **Strategic Area: The Profession**

### **Goal Area: Continuous Learning**

#### ***1. Expand ACRL's alignment of programs and other learning opportunities based on data, member needs, and strategic priorities.***

The STS Assessment Committee assists other STS committees by assessing the work and projects they are doing. This supplies data to those committees so that they can design better programs and services to the members. The STS Continuing Education Committee conducted the biennial survey of the continuing education interests of science librarians during November 2009. The survey was advertised to STS-L, STS on ALA Connect, American Chemical Society \ Chemical Information Division, American Society for Engineering Education \ Engineering Libraries Division, and Special Libraries Association \ Science-Technology Division. Some interests mentioned in the responses include emerging technologies, alternative publishing models, copyright, and faculty/staff collaboration. The committee is in the process of compiling the data. The STS Continuing Education Committee facilitated round table discussion groups at the STS All Members breakfast at 2009 ALA Annual Conference. Each table selected their own topic for conversation. Topics included journal subscription cuts and the user experience. The STS Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group organized a discussion on "The Future of Science and Technology Indexing/Abstracting Sources: Are We Driving them to Extinction?" at the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The discussion topic, chosen using a survey of the membership, provided timely input into strategic thinking in the workplace for librarians. Publishers and vendors gained insight on a burgeoning problem with a typical bibliographic product.

## **Strategic Area: The Profession**

## **Goal Area: Continuous Learning**

### ***2. Increase the accessibility of learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of members by relying on research and best practices for design, delivery, and accessibility.***

At the 2010 Annual ALA meeting, the STS Assessment Committee will be sponsoring a discussion session titled "Evaluating and Weeding Book Collections in the Sciences." This session will discuss decision making points for science librarians as they look at weeding their book collection and will be a significant learning opportunity for science librarians. The mentor program coordinated by the STS Continuing Education Committee seeks to pair subject specialists in similar situations with new professionals.

## **Strategic Area: The Profession**

### **Goal Area: Leadership**

#### ***1. Develop leadership opportunities for ACRL members and increase professional development offerings on leadership.***

Each STS Assessment Committee member works with another STS committee to provide advice and support as needed. Each member is acting both as a leader and a liaison. The STS Nominating Committee is developing leadership opportunities by using STS Signal to call for members to express their interest in an STS position and by considering not only those who have expressed an interest, also selecting from those who have held past leadership roles and encouraging them to step up to a higher level of responsibility.

## **Strategic Area: The Profession**

### **Goal Area: Leadership**

#### ***4. Increase ACRL's efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to academic and research librarianship.***

The STS Publications Committee has created a recruitment video aimed at science majors. The goal of the short video is to introduce science students to different aspects of science librarianship. The video will be posted online and can be shown when talking to students about a career in librarianship. This video focused on a maps librarian, but additional videos can easily be created that focus on other aspects of librarianship by using the documentation from this project (e.g., storyboarding and video shot sheet). The STS Membership & Recruitment Committee is working on creating an electronic (PDF) science & technology librarianship recruitment brochure to send to Library & Information Science programs to make available to their students.

## **Strategic Area: The Association**

### **Goal Area: Membership**

#### ***1. Expand the appeal of ACRL membership among current members with a special focus on those new to the profession and early in their careers.***

The STS Membership & Recruitment Committee keeps ongoing membership statistics for STS, as well as conducting "exit surveys" of all members who leave the section. This data is used to identify membership trends and possible areas of improvement for retention of members in the section.

## **Strategic Area: The Association**

### **Goal Area: Organizational Vitality and Effectiveness**

#### ***1. Increase and diversify fiscal and human assets.***

The STS Organization and Planning Committee charge was revised to expand its role in the assessment of STS strategic plan implementation and to provide long-range strategic direction for the Section. Committee members now serve as liaisons and work with other STS committees and discussion groups in evaluating their committee activities in comparison to the ACRL Strategic Plan 2020.

## **Strategic Area: The Association**

### **Goal Area: Organizational Vitality and Effectiveness**

#### ***3. Increase and improve ACRL's organizational use of information technology.***

The STS Membership & Recruitment Committee is working to create a “new members” wiki for STS on ALA Connect. We are also working to create a repository of membership data on ALA Connect to ensure this information is accessible and not lost during administrative changes. In addition, we successfully used ALA Connect’s chat feature to hold our Midwinter 2010 Committee meeting and to organize committee reports.

## **Strategic Area: The Association**

### **Goal Area: Sustainability**

*1. Expand commitment to adopting green and sustainable business practices for ACRL offices, conferences, continuing education and operations with business partners.*

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