



STS SIGNAL

Science and Technology Section
Association of College and Research Libraries

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings fellow STSers!



Hannah Gascho Rempel

STS Chair

hannah.rempel@oregonstate.edu

It's probably only natural that I've thought about STS quite a lot over the past year. Likely you would be concerned if the Vice-Chair/Chair didn't think about STS on a pretty regular basis! I have learned about committees that I had not personally served on before, have read job descriptions for roles I have not had, and have come to understand more about workflows that may not (yet!) be personal affinities of mine (think fundraising and strategic planning). As I delve

deeper into the inner workings of STS, I have come to really appreciate the recent efforts the STS Organization & Planning Committee put into creating the **STS Core Values** (<https://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/sts/stswebsite/stsstrategic>) to replace our outdated strategic plan (and a particular nod to co-chairs David Romito and Andrew Stuart). These Core Values are representative of much of the current work STS does, and they are aspirational. In this time of continued uncertainty, frustration, and change, I believe planning based on a combination of considering how to sustainably continue our work, mixed with inspiration-seeking and meaning-making, is particularly important.

In a nod to the importance of the STS Core Values, I'm including all of the headings here, but I encourage you to read the longer description of the **Core Values** as well.

- **Member Enrichment and Engagement**
- **Role of Science and Technology Libraries**
- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility**
- **Open Science Resources**
- **Integrity**

As the STS Chair, I believe the core value of *Integrity* must underpin all we do as we work to create a network of support for science and technology librarians, dismantle systems that oppress or only allow some to fully participate in STS, and encourage sustainable, open scholarly communication that makes the practice of science research and education more equitable and accessible. I will connect the rest of my thoughts to the Integrity

value as I share some future decisions STS leadership are working on.

Integrity in our context is defined as follows: "STS commits to integrity by supporting transparency, social responsibility, and sustainability in its activities with members, constituents, vendors, and society at large." One of the foundational aspects of being transparent (in pretty much all areas of life) is sharing about financial matters. As we move forward with decision-making that impacts STS workflows and opportunities, I want to share details about the STS budget so you can be informed about the choices we are considering moving forward.

The STS budget is somewhat unusual as compared with other sections in ACRL in that we have a long history of successful fundraising (thanks largely over the past dozen years or so to the work of fundraiser extraordinaire Mel DeSart). The funds raised from various vendors and publishers have given STS more discretionary money to use on activities that have helped us network at conferences, support speakers, and sponsor scholarships for ALA/ACRL events (while following guidelines put in place by ALA/ACRL).

Here are more specifics about the STS budget. Each year STS receives an allocation of funds from ACRL based on our membership (this has been about \$1600/year for the past five years). The average amount of funds raised for events connected to ALA Annual in the three years prior to the pandemic was about \$18,000/year.

Continued

Letter from the Chair

Letter from the Chair Continued

The top five spending categories (connected to ALA Annual, as ALA Midwinter events will not be in the mix moving forward) are shown in the figure below. As you can see, food spent at events dwarfs the amount of spending on other items. There are a variety of reasons for this, including contractual obligations to use food providers connected with convention and hotel locations. But as STS makes financial decisions moving forward, we would like to revise our use of funds based on STS's commitments and core values, and the priorities of our members.

One action we are taking to align our priorities with our financial decisions is to take a look at how we communicate with potential sponsors. The STS Executive Committee has charged the new STS Development Task Force with formalizing some of these relationships and engaging with sponsors about possibilities for support that reflects our values.

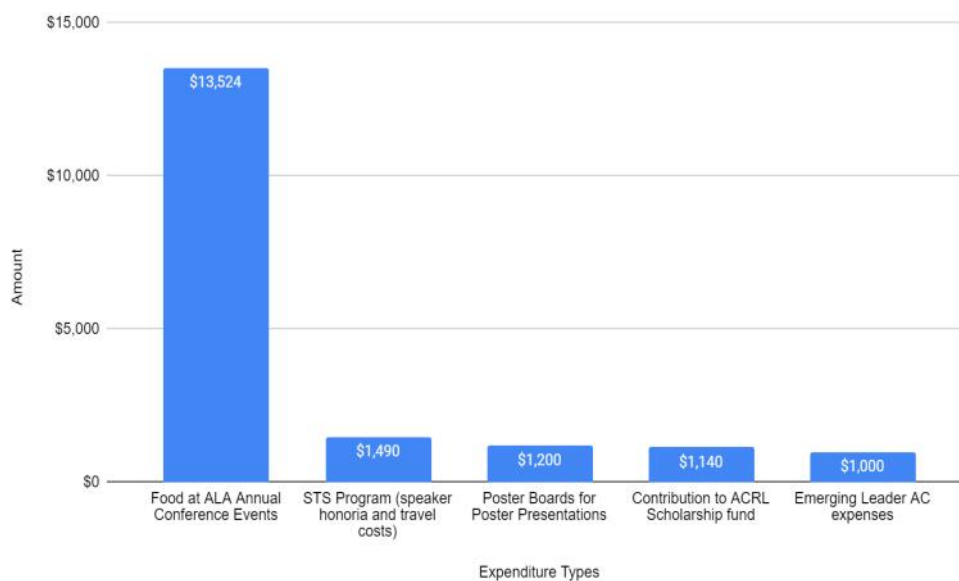
You might have questions and thoughts about this financial information. And STS leadership has questions for you! The pandemic has shaken up the ways we interact with each other as members. Budgets have changed. Comfort with and access to video communication tools has changed. STS leadership recognizes these changes and as we make plans, we want to be careful that we are not making decisions solely based on our idiosyncratic experiences. We want to hear

what your preferences are for engaging with STS programming and social networking opportunities, and what your thoughts are about STS spending priorities. So be forewarned - **an STS membership survey is coming your way** (if it hasn't already)! Please fill it out - we want to provide services that are relevant for you and that match your modality needs, and we want to hear your thoughts about the STS budget.

One final item of business - Discussion Groups have long been one of my favorite ways of engaging as a member, and learning and developing as a science librarian. STS has three Discussion Groups with different focus areas: Hot Topics, College Science Librarians, and Publisher/Vendor Relations. There will be a slight shift in these Discussion Groups this fall, as they will now be called Committees. While this change can seem like an issue of semantics, it's being driven by the larger ALA organizational shift to communicating via ALA Connect. As these Discussion Groups transition to Committees, they will now have their own workspaces within Connect. But this name change also gives us the opportunity to think about how these groups work in some new ways. And to think about whether any open discussion groups for specific topic areas might have value in the STS ALA Connect space. If you have thoughts about this change, please let me know.

Continued

STS Average Yearly Spending (FY17-21)



Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Letter from the Chair Continued

Apologies if this letter was a little dry - I'm still always good for a conversation about [what I ate for dinner last night](#), [what I'm watching while on the elliptical](#), or [what I'm reading](#). Feel free to send me a tangent-creating email any time! But I think the clarity the STS Core Values bring to our shared STS work is worth highlighting. Thank you in advance for the feedback you give via the STS members survey. And thank you for the work you do to support learners and researchers in your workplace and for the ideas and inspiration you bring to STS.

Hannah Gascho Rempel
STS Chair, 2021-2022



Letter from the Vice-Chair

Dear STS members,

I hope you, your family, and friends are safe and well. Throughout the pandemic, I think we have all tried our best to adapt to change – whether it's following new COVID-19 safety protocols, pivoting to remote work and/or online conferences, or modifying recipes due to the unavailability of items at the grocery store. In the upcoming year, I expect we will need to continue to be flexible. We are not yet 'back to normal' and our activities in STS, ACRL, and ALA will likely reflect this.



Bonnie Fong

STS Vice Chair/Chair Elect

LibrarianBonnieFong@gmail.com

I believe for many of us – myself included – having the option to attend webinars and conferences virtually has been wonderful. I found I was able to take advantage of more learning opportunities than in the past, including some via recordings. I hope you were able to attend some of the fantastic programs STS had to offer this [past](#) summer and will be able to take advantage of those coming up in the future.

Our most recent program, "Celebrating and Showing Support for Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islanders Colleagues in Librarianship and in Our Communities" took place on August 26th and was co-sponsored by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA). A [recording](#) of the session is available (password: G&r5PvYh). This panel presentation was organized by Ginny Pannabecker, Stacy Johnson, and myself in support of STS' March 23, 2021 statement of solidarity against anti-Asian/Asian-American violence.

Continued

Letter from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Letter from the Vice-Chair continued

With 208 registrants and 145 attendees, plus even higher figures for the “Equity Starts Before Hire: A Look at Equitable Approaches to Hiring and Retention” program organized by the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Task Force earlier this year, it is clear there is a lot of interest in EDI-related programming. I am thrilled we now have an STS EDI Officer (Isabel Altamirano) and EDI Committee (with Co-chairs Roxanne Bogucka and Sara Russell Gonzalez) and look forward to supporting their efforts.

I believe part of the reason our EDI programming has been so successful is our partnerships with other organizations. Our Members-at-Large, Rebecca Renirie and Tara Radniecki, and I are currently exploring options for how we might improve communication between STS and other library/librarian organizations to cross-promote relevant programs and other activities. The hope is that STS will also at some point in the future partner more often with these other organizations in ways that are mutually beneficial – perhaps leverage our respective expertise – so that we are able to better serve our members.

Possibly my most important responsibility as your Vice-Chair is to appoint members to serve on STS committees and I will be doing so with the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in mind. I highly encourage all members to consider joining a committee and become more involved with serving our amazing organization. For more information about what the different committees do, visit the STS “About Our Committees” LibGuide, reach out to one of the co-chairs, and/or attend an open committee meeting. The ACRL Volunteer Form is expected to open in December, but feel free to be in touch with me (LibrarianBonnieFong@gmail.com) any time if you have any questions about the process.

STS

Science & Technology Section

I am excited and honored to be your Vice-Chair and look forward to working more closely with our chair Hannah, the other members of the Executive Committee, STS Council and members of our Section. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you and our organization.

Best,
Bonnie

STS Committee and Discussion Group News

STS Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee has started working on submission and management workflows for the new STS data repository. With workflows in place we will be able to start testing out configurations for the Open Science Framework page through the remainder of 2021.

Submitted by J. Burton

STS Publications Committee

The STS Publications Committee met recently to discuss our current migration of section-specific content from the ACRL site to a Wordpress site. The committee will meet again in October to discuss the progress of the migration as well as other issues.

Submitted by M. Toups and M. Marsteller

STS Science Resources: Discovery & Access Committee

The STS SRDAC recently updated and expanded its charge in order to permit the inclusion of additional resources and topics of interest, such as diversity, inclusion, and equity issues in the academic world. The revision was inspired by the work of the STS EDI Task Force. This is the updated charge: "To provide a forum for the exchange of information relating to science and technology librarianship. Serve as a channel/clearinghouse to identify concerns, problems, issues, trends, standards, and best practices. Propose projects and present them to the appropriate STS Committees." The first SRDAC meeting was held in past July, and our members are excited to share new ideas and resources with our community. Our August post addresses the Research Resource identification Initiative. As a reminder, the blog may be found at insidescienceresources.wordpress.com, and you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Submitted by A. McCormick and S. Putnam

ACRL NEWS

New Virtual Workshops from ACRL

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.

Current virtual workshops cover topics including: [open educational resources and affordability](#); [using the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education to communicate your library's impact](#); [engaging with the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#); and [building your research data management toolkit](#).

[Schedule a virtual workshop](https://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows/offroadshows) (<https://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows/offroadshows>) for your library or organization today. Organizational members of ACRL receive a 10% discount off the hosting cost!



ACRL NEWS Continued

Project Outcome

Project Outcome is a FREE online toolkit designed to help libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. Participating libraries are also provided with the resources and training support needed to apply their results and confidently advocate for their library's future. Project Outcome's standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by service topic, program type, and over time. Sign up today at <https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/>.



ACRL Books

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship. ACRL books provide timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [Mind, Motivation, and Meaningful Learning: Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners](#)
- [Envisioning the Framework: A Graphic Guide to Information Literacy \(ACRL Publications in Librarianship No. 77\)](#)
- [Teaching About Fake News: Lesson Plans for Different Disciplines and Audiences](#)
- [Stories of Open: Opening Peer Review through Narrative Inquiry \(ACRL Publications in Librarianship No. 76\)](#)
- [The Teaching with Primary Sources Cookbook](#)

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



About the Signal

STs SIGNAL

We're on the Web!

www.ala.org/acrl/sts

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