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ACRL STS Liaison Report

Organization: Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)

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The Association for Information Science & Technology ([ASIS&T](#)) is an international organization that brings together researchers and practitioners working on information science and related applications. ASIS&T meetings have become one of the best places for academics from Library and Information Science graduate programs to present and discuss their research. Although librarians and corporate practitioners are not as prevalent among the membership as before, there is great interest in bringing them back to the organization.

In my role as ACRL STS (Science & Technology Section) Liaison to ASIS&T, I have worked for the past two years to increase academic librarians' awareness about ASIS&T and to promote their participation within the organization. With that goal in mind, I gave a presentation about ASIS&T at the [ACRL STS Liaisons Online Forum](#) on June 12, 2014, describing the professional development opportunities that the association offers to librarians. As part of the awareness campaign, I also contributed a [post](#) to the ACRL Value of Libraries Blog sharing my experience as Liaison (published Jan 21, 2015).

Last year, my major initiative was the organization of a panel for the ASIS&T 2014 Annual Meeting (October 31-November 4, Seattle, WA) titled [3D Technologies: New Tools for Information Scientists to Engage, Educate and Empower Communities](#). The panel included public and academic librarians, information science researchers and museum practitioners, who discussed their experience working with three-dimensional (3D) printing, scanning and design. It was sponsored by ASIS&T SIG-STI (Special Interest Group – Scientific and Technical Information), a group closely related to ACRL STS. The main goal of the panel was to provide a broad understanding of the applications of 3D technologies in libraries and museums, and their potential to educate and empower local communities.

The panel showcased state-of-the-art services currently offered in libraries, while describing new academic collaborations achieved through the use of 3D technologies. The program drew attention to libraries and museums' contribution to student learning, and highlighted the transformative value that public access to these tools brings to the general population. The panel was well received, with attendants ranking the program as both informative and relevant (4.2 on a scale 1-5, with 5 as "strong agreement"). Most attendants were ASIS&T members with a varied professional profile. The audience included graduate students, industry practitioners, librarians, faculty members and researchers. Some participants commented positively on the diverse background and perspectives offered by the panelists. This suggests that programs that bring together library practitioners and researchers are seen as valuable by the ASIS&T community.

As an outcome of the panel, I am currently editing, in collaboration with Tod Colegrove (one of the panelists and ACRL-STS member), a special issue of the [Bulletin of ASIS&T](#) dedicated to 3D technologies (to be published in

October 2015). The *Bulletin* is a magazine directed to practitioners that shares news about the organization and information science-focused articles. The articles in our special issue will address a range of current topics related to 3D technologies in academia, from copyright/patent considerations, to specific examples on how to gather support from other academic units to expand library services in this area. Barbara M. Jones, Director of the ALA (American Library Association) Office for Intellectual Freedom, is one of the contributing authors, in addition to several academic librarians, researchers and museum professionals.

Our special issue of the *Bulletin* will make ASIS&T members cognizant of some of the technological innovations currently supported by libraries and other educational institutions, thus revealing opportunities for research and collaboration. Moreover, since the *Bulletin* is an open access publication, all articles will be in accordance with ACRL goals towards a more open system of scholarship. As a side note, ASIS&T unveiled a new re-designed [website](#) this year, with an interface that reflects some of the latest innovations in information communication and outreach. The improved online presence should attract more traffic to the website and increase visitors' awareness about ASIS&T publications, which might raise the impact of the articles in our issue.

In addition to being a panel moderator at the ASIS&T 2014 Annual Meeting, I also participated in the SIG Cabinet meeting, the SIG-STI Planning meeting and the ASIS&T Business meeting. I also took part on a focus group organized by the ASIS&T Strategic Planning Team, using the opportunity to advocate for further support for librarians within the organization, mostly based on the argument that our experience working directly with users is a valuable asset that should inform information science research. Fostering collaboration among the different professional communities at ASIS&T is one of the strategies that might help with the retention of current librarians, and the recruitment of new ones, to the association.

The theme of the ASIS&T 2014 Annual Meeting was “Connecting Collections, Cultures, and Communities”. According to the Conference Chair, Jens-Erik Mai, the conference's theme was chosen “to celebrate the breadth of information science, its historical roots, its user-centeredness, and its unique aim of bringing people together around ideas, thoughts, and the exchange of information and knowledge”, a message that should resonate with librarians everywhere.

The first keynote speaker was Kris Kutchera (Vice President of Information Technology and Strategy Management at *Alaska Air Group*). She discussed how much innovation depends on sustained investment in people and technology, and the difficulties that many companies experience when trying to find talented information technologists in the current job market. She advocated for more STEM education initiatives at the Primary School level. The second keynote speaker was [Alessandro Acquisti](#) (Associate Professor of Information Technology and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University). His lecture addressed privacy in the information age. He described how commercial companies obtain personal information from users through “big data” practices, and then use that information to influence their online decision making. He explained how easy it is to gather private information from popular social networking sites, striking a cautionary note about the larger security implications of our online presence.

Additional programs that might have been of interest to science librarians included several panels or papers on Data Preservation and Management (one of the most popular topics of the meeting):

- *Putting Research Data into Context: Scholarly, Professional and Educational Approaches to Curating Data for Reuse.*
- *Responding to Emerging Data Workforce Demand: Harnessing Data Center Expertise.*
- *Transforming the Data Landscape: Connecting Data, Policies and Communities.*
- *Informetrics, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Altmetrics: What Is It All About? (SIG/MET).*
- *Ship Space to Database: Scientific and Social Motivations for a Database to Support Deep Sub-seafloor Biosphere Research.*

- *Where Does All the Data Go: Quantifying the Final Disposition of Research Data*
- *The Phylogeny of a Dataset.*
- *Curation and Policy Issues in Collaborative Research Data Management Communities: Perspectives from Key Stakeholders (SIG/STI).*

The complete program, with access to papers and panel submissions, is available in the online [Proceedings](#). The theme for the upcoming 2015 ASIS&T Meeting will be “Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community”. The meeting will be held at the *Hyatt Regency St. Louis At the Arch*, in St. Louis, MO, on November 6-10, 2015. Although the deadline for workshops, panels and papers submissions has already passed, ASIS&T is currently accepting proposals for posters, demos and videos until July 1, 2015.

My latest initiative as Liaison during 2015 was my participation in the organization of a webinar on Electronic Laboratory Notebooks, co-sponsored by ASIS&T SIG-STI and the ACRL STS Hot Topics Discussion Group. The event was advertised widely on several professional lists, including ALA Connect. It was titled [Electronic Lab Notebooks \(ELNs\): Capturing Laboratory Activity As It Happens](#) and it was presented on May 21, 2015, by Kristin Bogdan (Science and Social Science Data Librarian - Yale University), Wendy Kozlowski (Data Curation Specialist – Cornell University) and Evan Simpson (Head of Research and Instruction – Tufts University). The webinar was extremely popular, with over 500 advanced registrations, and near 200 participants on the day of the webinar. A recording of the event is currently archived and freely available on the ASIS&T website. The popularity of the webinar suggests that many ASIS&T and ACRL members share common interests, and that a closer collaboration between the organizations might be beneficial to both communities.

In sum, I am truly committed to my role as ACRL-STS Liaison to ASIS&T. During my tenure, I have engaged on several initiatives that brought academic librarians in contact with the association. At the same time, I have worked within ASIS&T to promote librarians’ participation as a beneficial outcome for the organization. As a result of my efforts, I hope to see more programs targeted to librarians in future ASIS&T meetings, and to see more collaborative initiatives between members of both organizations. To that end, I will mentor and support the new Liaison to ASIS&T, Kristin Bogdan, and collaborate with her to expand ACRL’s outreach program in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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