STS *SIGNAL*

From the Chair, Jill Newby

During the ALA midwinter meeting in San Diego, I had the opportunity to attend an ACRL leadership meeting with other Section chairs in which Tyrone Cannon, 2003-2004 ACRL President, and others presented a draft of the ACRL Strategic Plan for 2005-2010. The main goals are: providing continuous learning opportunities to members; furnishing leadership and advocacy; helping academic librarians become leaders in planning, managing and delivery of information technology; growing the membership from new and diverse communities, and sustainability. Our association has a role to play in advocating and promoting academic librarians as essential to the success and viability of higher education. As a member of ACRL, you have many opportunities to participate in helping the association reach these goals.

I encourage STS members to attend the ALA Annual meeting in Orlando from June 25 - 28, 2004. There are a number of STS discussion groups and meetings scheduled throughout the conference. Also, all STS committees and the STS Council meetings are open to members, with the exception of those of the Oberly Awards Committee. Be sure to save Monday morning, June 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on your calendar. The STS Conference Program Committee has put together a great panel of presenters who will speak on the theme of collaborating with faculty for information literacy in the sciences. This will be followed by the STS reception and poster session.

For details on all STS programming in Orlando, go to our website at the new, improved URL: http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/

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From the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Jeanne Davidson

The ALA Midwinter meeting in San Diego provided its usual excellent opportunities to network with colleagues from a wide variety of Sci/Tech libraries. I would like to thank the Institute of Physics Publishing for sponsoring the reception on Saturday evening – yet another wonderful occasion for good food and interesting conversation with science librarians from across the country. ALA Annual meeting in Orlando promises numerous venues for learning, making connections with colleagues and expanding horizons. The Membership and Recruitment Committee will be sponsoring a new member orientation continental breakfast on Saturday, June 26, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. In addition, STS will host discussions on several topics during the conference.

STS is always looking for new members as well as active participation by new (and long-standing) members in our organization. Among the many ways for members to become involved with the Section's activities are working on committees, chairing a discussion group, volunteering to serve as a Sci/Tech Librarian Mentor (for experienced librarians), finding a Sci/Tech librarian mentor (for new librarians), or simply attending Annual and Midwinter meetings. The STS website has more information on all of these and we encourage you to take advantage of them. If you are interested in working on a committee or chairing a discussion group, please contact me directly to express your interests.

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STS Continuing Education: 2003 Survey Results

Improving liaison relations with academic faculty and information literacy in the sciences currently vie for first place in the interests of science librarians, according to the 2003 STS Continuing Education Survey. Ranked slightly below these were:
- the effects of electronic sources on library collections and services;
- subject reference sources;
- presentation and teaching skills.

The respondents chose these from a list of twenty-two possible topics, then added alternative scholarly communication. The middle-ranked interests might best be summarized as "providing access and education in our costly, web-based environment."

Perhaps the fact that improving liaison relations sprang to the top reflects a determination to successfully confront high costs and rapid change. The "write-in ballot" for alternative scholarly communication supports that idea.

Ninety-one librarians participated in the 2003 survey. Although only 57% of them regularly attend ALA, in-person workshops were the preferred method for the delivery of education. Web-based information took second place, pre-conference workshops third. Teleconferences, e-mail tutorials, distance education credit courses, and mentoring generated a certain interest. Traditional for-credit courses garnered the least support.

Fifty-five percent were aware of the STS mentor program, formerly called Collegial Counsel. Seven volunteered to be mentors, but not one respondent claimed to have used the mentor program.

Of survey respondents, 95% subscribe to the STS listserv, while 85% are members of STS. Since only 57% regularly attend ALA, one interpretation might be that as the cost and/or effort needed to participate rises, the rate of doing so declines. Fifty-four percent have a science or technology undergraduate degree. Most participants were either early (having 0-5 years) or advanced (having 16 or more years) in their careers. Eighty percent were female.

The survey and its results may be accessed at http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscontinuingeducation.htm.

Supplied by Marilyn Christianson (? to chrismc@auburn.edu)

NEWS FROM THE SAN DIEGO MEETINGS
* *

Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology

The Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology met to discuss the draft standards, performance indicators, and outcomes for science and technology. Action items to complete the work of the Task Force were discussed as well as how to disseminate the draft standards for review by the STS membership. Once this review is complete, the draft standards will be available

on the Task Force Website, with a form for submitting comments electronically. STS members will be notified via STS-L when it is available. Additionally, Virginia Baldwin will be presenting the work of the Task Force at the STS Program on Monday, June 28, 2004 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Annual in Orlando. After the program, Task Force members will present a poster at the STS Poster Session.

Information supplied by Catherine Woodworth Wong and Virginia Baldwin

College Science Librarians Discussion Group and Issues in Sci/Tech Library Management Discussion Group

The two discussion groups co-sponsored a dinner on Sunday evening. Twenty-two librarians met at the Fish Market Restaurant for an informal dinner. This was a great way for people to make new acquaintances, and there were many rave reviews for the food. The response was so enthusiastic that we are planning to have a similar get-together in Orlando.

We also began thinking about topics for our program in Orlando in an effort to try to create some commonality among the discussion programs and to link them to the major issues identified in our survey.

Information supplied by Julie T. Miran and Norma Kobzina

Sci/Tech Information Discussion Group

The Sci/Tech Information Discussion Group hosted Part Two of "Conversation About Libraries and Informatics" at Midwinter 2004. (Informatics means creative collaborations for libraries.) A group of 40 attendees explored library/faculty collaborations designed to support the research and instructional needs of faculty and students in data-intensive disciplines.

Guest speakers introduced the topic. Stephen Cammer, Bioinformatics Specialist, University of California at San Diego (UCSD) Libraries, described a joint program between the Libraries and the UCSD Graduate Program in Bioinformatics that provides teaching and consultation in this growing field. Sue McGuinness, UCSD's Pharmacy Librarian, discussed her role in developing an informatics course for UCSD's new School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Susan Starr, Associate University Librarian Sciences and Director,

Biomedical Library at UCSD talked about the library's role in informatics initiatives and future developments.

Many attendees shared their thoughts and questions about how our libraries might design and develop new initiatives to support both traditional informatics and the growth of what some have called "digital science." Positive feedback about these discussions on informatics has encouraged the chairs of the discussion group to consider other forums for a continued conversation.

Information supplied by Angi Faiks

Assessment Committee

The STS Assessment Committee focused on item #6 (data collection and assessment) of the ACRL Strategic Plan. For 6.1 (data analysis), questions and possible resolutions focused on: (a) Analysis and distribution of STS program evaluation data; (b) Distribution of data via surveys conducted by STS committees; (c) Archived minutes of the STS Council. Does the STS Assessment Committee have an "information clearinghouse role?" If so, possible roles and responsibilities were noted. For 6.2 (benchmarks/standards), relevant benchmarks or standards for science/ technology libraries need to be defined. Additionally, they need to be used in accreditation processes. These will be explored and refined by the committee. For 6.3 (program evaluation), the committee will create two templates: (1) A template for the assessment of programs; (2) A template for outgoing chairs of committees and discussion groups, to provide updates on goals attained by the group, or what has been done; on goals to be attained by the group, or what needs to be done; and on the membership of the group. Demographic data, or who attends the STS programs, will provide information and perspective. It is possible to provide demographic data via the program evaluations. Additionally, do the "programs" at the discussion groups need to be assessed? For 6.4 (organizational audits), it is assumed the committee will assist and support the STS Council on structural changes. For 6.5 (strategic planning), the STS Organization & Planning Committee is responsible for strategic planning. Other issues: (1) The STS Assessment Committee is compiling a list of the ALA units currently involved in assessment; (2) The charge of the committee was reviewed and changes were recommended; (3) A bibliography of relevant articles on the assessment process is being compiled.

Information supplied by Don Frank

Continuing Education Committee

Committee members discussed the results of the most recent biannual Continuing Education Survey. Initial results show particularly strong interest in improving liaison relations with academic faculty and in information literacy in the sciences. Over half the respondents stated that they would attend pre-conference workshops at the Special Libraries Association conference, provided they could take advantage of member rates. Collaboration of this kind with SLA, as well as the possibility of crafting a cross-association Continuing Education Survey with SLA and similar organizations, will be pursued by the Committee.

Anecdotal information from participants in the Sci/Tech Library Mentors program indicates that it is under-utilized by potential mentees. As part of an effort to publicize the program, the Committee will write a short article for *STS Signal* [see page 7 of this issue] and consider creating letters or brochures that highlight the program.

The Professional Continuing Education on the Web page will be thoroughly updated. The Committee discussed possible design or organizational changes for the page, as well as ways to expand its contents through collaboration with our SLA counterparts.

Information supplied by Hilary Leon

Government Information Committee

Committee members attended several Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) sessions. The GODORT Legislative Committee is monitoring the status of the "Public Access to Science Act," introduced in 2003 "to exclude from copyright protection works resulting from scientific research substantially funded by the Federal Government." Though not expected to be passed in its current form, this legislation would help ensure that content generated through federally funded research be made freely available to the public. For more information, please enter <search HR 2613> at http://thomas.loc.gov.

Section members are encouraged to visit the Committee's links page: "Top 100 Science/Technology Government Information Links." Comments and link suggestions are welcome.

In Fall 2003, in order to improve and update the links page, Committee members formed subject area working groups, which revised the content and structure of the page. Committee member Tim Klassen is coordinating the web page project. At Midwinter, Committee members discussed ways to increase knowledge and use of the page among Section members. Committee members volunteered to include regular reminders of the site with news item announcements on the Section listserv STS-L, and to add appropriate meta-keywords to the page.
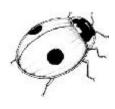
Information submitted by Randall Halverson

Membership & Recruitment Committee

At the 2004 Midwinter meeting, the STS Membership Committee finalized plans for the STS New Members' Orientation/Reception to be held at Annual on Saturday, June 26, 2004 from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. The event will include a continental breakfast, contingent on available funding. The Committee is working on PR for the Reception, including postings to non-STS listservs within ALA and from other organizations, and contacts with nearby library schools as well as with area Sci/Tech librarians. The format will be similar to that of the past two years: introductions and informal remarks from STS members in attendance, followed by a question & answer period, followed by informal "networking." Door prizes will also be provided.

The Committee continues to pursue multiple recruitment/retention activities: "welcome" letters for new STS members; letters and a survey (to be sent to dropped members asking why they dropped their memberships); "Thank you" letters with accompanying literature about STS to non-STS attendees of STS programs, events, and discussion groups; collaborative projects/opportunities with other units and/or organizations interested in Sci/Tech librarianship; a formal letter to library school faculty of Sci/Tech types of courses to reach students with information on STS and Sci/Tech librarianship; and the development of a "recruitment" page on the STS website. This page will include links to the STS brochure, letters, links to articles, and other relevant information.

Information supplied by Lori Critz

Organization and Planning Committee

Discussion focused on the ACRL Strategic Planning process, with an overview of the Friday, January 9 session on ACRL leadership. We considered ways in which ACRL's goals will affect STS objectives, and continued our review of the Section plan in light of the ACRL goals and objectives put forth at Midwinter.

Changes in the STS Strategic Plan were agreed upon by consensus, affecting every section of the plan except those objectives currently outlined under Goal 2 (Promote and publicize the role of science/technology librarians…). Alison agreed to summarize the recommended changes in a document to present to STS Council on January 12. (Alison presented the recommended revisions to Council members. Discussion was generally favorable regarding all of the revisions. Council members made several suggestions for wording changes, which were incorporated into a revised draft.) The Committee will also continue to update the STS Manual pages on the web site.

We noted that the Committee meeting place, moved from its original place and time (at Alison's request), was difficult to find. Committee member Jo Ann Calzonetti was at Midwinter and tried very hard to find us; my apologies to Jo Ann! The Committee's meeting time will be changed for Annual conference to eliminate conflicts with STS discussion groups.

Information supplied by Alison Ricker

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee shared reports for its several functions. Margaret Mellinger reported on membership of STS-L (holding steady at 1088 subscribers) and the group discussed options for transition of oversight for both STS-L and Council-L, the managed list for Council members. Margaret also led a discussion of the need to move STS-L from the current server at UT-Knoxville to the ALA server.

New content and highlights of the activities of STS members were added to the most recent issue of *STS Signal*, and these changes were very well received. Co-editors Liz Cooksey and Barbara MacAlpine will continue to add special interest content to future *Signal*s.

The Committee also discussed a plan for transitioning to a new STS website editor, allowing current Editor Jennie Duvernay time to mentor the new editor

before her current term expires in 2005. Jennie also updated the group about changes to the URLs on the ALA server and how that will impact STS.

The Publications Committee welcomes new member Caroline Gilson.

Information supplied by Philip Herold

Research Committee

The STS Research Committee reviewed six different paper proposals for presentation at the upcoming Forum for Science & Technology Research at ALA Annual 2004 in Orlando. Two papers were selected based on their timeliness, evidence of scholarship, research methodology and relevance to the field of science & technology librarianship. The papers selected for presentation are:

> "Exploring Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Science" by **Edward González** and **Robert Yost**, Indiana University-Purdue University
> "Collaborating Directly with Research Faculty to Build Research Quality Collections in the Sciences: The Ohioview Model" by **Judith A. Sessions** and **John Millard**, Miami University

Julie Hurd, from the University of Illinois, accepted the Committee's invitation to participate as the Guest Responder for the session at ALA Annual in Orlando. She will provide expert feedback to the authors on their

research and presentations, helping them to further their research and develop their presentations for future publication. The STS Research Forum will be held on Sunday, June 27 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Committee also reviewed ten poster proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at ALA Annual. The following seven posters were invited to present their activities and research related to this year's theme, "Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative Approaches to Information Literacy in the Sciences."

"Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative Approaches to Information Literacy in the Sciences" by **Barbara Cockrell**, Western Michigan U.

"Science Information Literacy: Faculty-Librarian-Vendor Collaboration" by **Brian Simboli**, Lehigh U.

"Creating and Implementing the Nursing Information Literacy Program at Three Rivers Community College" by **Mona Florea**, Three Rivers Community College

"Better Living Through Chemistry Bibliography" by **Judith Emde** and **Ada Emmett**, U. of Kansas Libraries

"The Biology Research Portfolio Project: A Story of Recursive Faculty-Librarian Collaboration" by **Jeff Beck**, Wabash College

"Information Literacy + Engineering = One Grand Design" by **Barbara MacAlpine**, Trinity U.

"Planting the Seed for Collaboration: Connections with a Core Course in Plant Biology" by **Marian Burright** and **Maggie Cunningham**, U. of Maryland

The STS Information Literacy Task Force will also present a poster session at the reception. The STS Reception will be held immediately following the STS Annual Program on Monday, June 28. We hope to see everybody at both the Reception and the Research Forum!

Information supplied by Maliaca Oxnam

2004 Conference Program Planning Committee

The 2004 Conference Program Planning Committee met at Midwinter to continue planning for the program at Annual in Orlando. The STS program, "Making Connections on Campus: Collaborative Approaches to Information Literacy in the Sciences" will be held on Monday, June 28 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

The program will highlight projects that have fostered significant, sustained collaborations between faculty and librarians in order to integrate Information Literacy into the science curriculum. Immediately following the program will be a Poster Session & STS Reception (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), co-sponsored by the Program and Research Committees. Confirmed speakers are:

Michael Fosmire
Science Librarian, Purdue U. Libraries
Vicky McMillan
Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Writing and Research Associate in Biology, Colgate U.
Debbie Huerta
Associate Professor and Science Librarian, Colgate U.
Maliaca Oxnam
Librarian, Science-Engineering Library, U. of Arizona
Regina Raboin
Reference Librarian, Tufts U.
Virginia Baldwin
Head of Engineering Library, U. of Nebraska-Lincoln and Chair of the Task Force on Information Literacy for Science & Technology

Information supplied by Sherri Jones

2005 Conference Program Planning Committee

The 2005 STS Conference Program Planning Committee met with all members present. We discussed information from the ACRL program planning orientation meeting. ACRL President-elect Frances Maloy's presidential themes are "Libraries in the Education Business" and "Connecting with Our Institutions." Maloy directed each section to decide on section program themes incorporating section interests. Program proposals are due on May 1; ACRL board votes on proposals at Annual, and budgets are allocated in September/October.

Chair-elect Jeanne Davidson asked the Committee to plan a program with a reception and poster session immediately following. This is also an Oberly Award year. Jeanne encouraged planning for a field trip in Chicago. The Committee will provide a detailed assessment and evaluation of the program and report to Council. Broad tasks were assigned to each member.

Information supplied by JoAnn DeVries

The SCI/TECH LIBRARY MENTORS Program

Eight years ago, the STS Continuing Education Committee conceived the Sci/Tech Library Mentors program as a way to connect veteran science and technology librarians with their less-experienced colleagues. Operating under several names, including the Collegial Council, the program has attracted mentors from academic and special libraries, many of whom have ten, twenty, or even thirty years of experience serving as library heads, directors, professors, and front-line librarians.

Although some lucky newcomers to science librarianship may find a nurturing and supportive mentor at their own institution, many others struggle to find someone who can provide helpful advice and a vital sense of perspective. The Sci/Tech Library Mentors program endeavors to connect enthusiastic mentors with these potential mentees. And new librarians aren't the only ones who can benefit from mentoring. As Terri Freedman, a current Continuing Education Committee member, points out, "Mentors are a great resource for people starting out in the field, but they're also wonderful contacts for more experienced librarians who are facing a new issue or challenge." Meg Spencer, a mentor from Swarthmore College, believes that mentoring "sets up a support system on several levels, personal and professional. It is often a long-term relationship … and can act as a touchstone to make sure one is on the right track."

Rather than face the more difficult task of finding a mentor by networking at conferences or posting questions on listservs, interested librarians or library school students can easily select a mentor from the list on the Sci/Tech Library Mentors' web site, http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsmentors/stsmentors.htm. Each mentor includes a short description of his or her library experience, and contact information, so mentees can get in touch directly. Mentor contacts can be as limited as asking a specific, work-related question (e.g., Can you tell me about the information literacy course you taught?) or as broad as a long-term professional relationship with many mutual benefits.

According to mentor Mel DeSart, of the University of Washington Libraries, "The greatest satisfaction is in talking to a mentee and in *not* trying to answer questions for them, but rather in stimulating their thinking in a particular direction it may not have been going previously, which in turn allows them to answer their own question." Whether you're looking for answers, or help formulating and investigating questions, we hope you'll consider the Sci/Tech Library Mentors as a unique and potentially valuable resource.

By Hilary Leon, for the Continuing Education Committee

HOP INTO SOME

GREAT STS PROGRAMS

IN ORLANDO!

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv
STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

To join STS-L, send the following message to: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU (do not include a period after EDU):
SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name
The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.
Moderators: Margaret Mellinger and Jeanine Williamson

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