
meetings has been dwindling over the years. In New

send messages to the STS Council and Margot Sutton at ACRL to express the Committee's appreciation for the assistance and support. To follow up, Annie Zeidman-Karpinski and the Committee will be responsible for the analysis and synthesis of the assessment data collected during the Preconference.

STS Council I: Don Frank reviewed the key points of STS Council I.

Transition: Annie Zeidman-Karpinski and Daria Carle will be the Co-Chairs of the STS Assessment Committee in 2006-08. Congratulations!

Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

There was lively discussion around our committee table as we continued to work on refinements to the survey questions for our project exploring issues related to subject and bibliographic access to electronic theses and dissertations. The survey will be distributed to university science librarians in both the U.S and the U.K. in November. The U.S. list of universities was developed from the Carnegie list. We had excellent attendance at the meeting, including our UK partner, Susan Copeland, from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland. Susan is the second of our two UK partners to come to our meeting at ALA and we would like to thank her for her contribution to our project. We would also like to express our gratitude to Bryna Coonin, our 2004-2006 Co-Chair, for the wonderful job she did in leading us in this project and for her continued participation and contribution.

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The STS Membership and Recruitment Committee hosted a successful New Members Orientation / Reception on Saturday, June 24, 2006. Turnout was good, with 37 people in attendance. This number included new STS members, several representatives from the Membership and Recruitment Committee and current and past officers of the section. Coffee and beignets were available and attendees were encouraged to mingle to facilitate networking. Small door prizes were also awarded. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and established members spoke on the benefits of STS membership and their personal experiences in the STS Section.

The Committee also continued its work on various recruitment activities including outreach to library school students enrolled in sci/tech reference courses and contacts with non-STs attendees of STS conference programs.

According to the most recent (May 2006) membership report from ACRL, total membership in the section is up by 2.5% from the same period last year and 4.6% from two years ago.

Organization and Planning Committee

The Organization & Planning Committee focused on two important aspects of our charge: revision of the STS Manual and the development of a new STS Strategic Plan. For the STS Manual revision, the History, By-Laws, Organization Chart, Functions/Duties of Chairs, Committee & Discussion Groups, and Master Calendar sections were identified as areas needing updates/revisions. A preliminary draft has been formulated and a sub-group of the Committee will complete the revisions and bring proposed changes to STS Council at Midwinter for approval. A second subgroup has been assigned to begin development of a new Strategic Plan; one that aligns with the new ACRL Strategic Plan. The existing STS Strategic Plan will be used as our starting point. Many sections are still applicable but may need revision or updating. New content will be added as appropriate. Input from STS Council and STS membership will be solicited during this process. The new Strategic Plan will be drafted and brought to STS Council at ALA Annual 2007.

Publications Committee

STS Webmaster, Paul St. Pierre reported that he had posted several program items related to Annual Conference, as well as the survey for the Continuing Education Committee to the STS website. He has also made the link to STS-L more prominent in our continuing effort to encourage members to join STS-L.

Andrea Duda announced that the ISTL subscription list has grown to 4,148 members. For the first time a supplement has also been published, representing papers from two conferences. Peter Spyers-Duran noted that STS-L subscribers are on the increase after a big drop when the list moved to an ALA server in 2005. Part of this increase may be attributed to greater emphasis on STS-L in the

letter sent to new STS members by the Membership Committee. Signal co-editors are now Caroline Gilson and Jennifer McKinnell. There was continued committee support for the Signal opinion feature entitled "On the Soapbox."

A rough draft of the new science librarians career brochure was discussed by Council members as well as the Publications Committee. Steve Adams, brochure designer, will continue to work on changes. [Note: The brochure was completed and 150 copies were printed in August.] STS Council approved the creation of a video to go along with the career brochure. Incoming co-chair Linda Eells agreed to coordinate a request for funding from ACRL.

Committee members would like to meet virtually rather than getting together at ALA Midwinter 2007. Barbara Blummer is investigating the chat function of the online community software that ACRL has made available. At the request of Council members, the Publications Committee will look into the possibility of starting an STS blog.

Oberly Award Committee Report

The Oberly Award is given in odd-numbered years for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or natural sciences. The committee sent out a call for nominations on various society and association listservs during the first half of September. This year, the committee will also post the announcement on society and association blogs, wikis, and electronic newsletters. Committee members are updating the lists of agriculture and natural sciences associations and societies to contact. They will also be increasing awareness of the award by targeting various international lists and contacting appropriate science publishers and university presses. The deadline for nominations has been extended to December 31st.

The committee decided to make some changes to the Oberly Award criteria to encourage nominations for electronic works. Bibliographies will need to consist of open access works to be eligible. A list of past winners from 1925 to present will also be posted on the STS Oberly Award web site. A new Oberly Award Procedures manual outlining the awards process has been posted as part of the Oberly Working Pages. The committee is planning to conduct a virtual meeting in advance of Midwinter in order to identify the most outstanding bibliographies for consideration. Every effort will be made to select a winner for 2007.

Government Information Committee

Matthew Marsteller reported that the committee co-sponsored GODORT program was on track for June 26, 10:30am. Our arranged speaker, Sheila Young, would speak on the use of patents. Marsteller and new member Damon Austin planned to attend.

Amy Prendergast suggested that the title "Top 100 Science/Technology Government Information Links" (part of the Committee's webpage) was somewhat inaccurate. It was tentatively agreed that "Top Science/Technology Government Information Links" might be a good compromise.

Criteria for selecting sites for the webpage was also discussed. It was decided that chosen sites should do one or more of the following:

- Contain substantial content or be good gateways to sci/tech information
- Be aimed at students, faculty, or the general public
- Be appropriate for higher education or scientific research
- Link to current legislative information related to sci/tech government issues
- Be an overarching agency site if subsidiary pages are obvious or easy to find
- Be subsidiary pages on an agency site if not obvious or easy to find on parent site

Alison Ricker asked about an advocacy role for the committee such as monitoring ALA Policy Office or legislative issues affecting Sci/Tech libraries. Marsteller suggested funding, regulation and policy change as areas to monitor. It was decided that Ricker, with Austin's assistance, would investigate if other groups were already doing this through such means as wikis, RSS feeds, or blogs.

Hot Topics Discussion Group

The Hot Topics Discussion Group met on June 25, to talk about Science libraries as a "third place." Lori Critz, Assistant Department Head of Information Services Department at Georgia Tech Libraries, led off the discussion with a brief slideshow of ways the library at Georgia Tech has been working to attract students to the physical library: they have worked with the campus clubs to sponsor a "gaming night", the libraries have published an in-house newsletter (the "T-Paper") displayed only in library restrooms and they offer "Tuesday Talks" where a

faculty member provides a layperson session on his/her research. Stephanie Hartman, a librarian at the Barker Engineering Library, also shared her experiences with changes they've implemented with both the web space and physical space at MIT.

After the presentations, a discussion opened and many attendees took the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. Several people emphasized that allowing food and drink (with some controls) was essential to increasing physical visits to the library. Two attendees added that their libraries have removed the food and drink policy completely and put out extra garbage cans without any problems. Others noted that providing flexible furniture (moveable) to support group learning increased traffic in their libraries. Another attendee added that since they created a lounge area, faculty drop by to interact with the students.

Research Committee

The Research Committee does not meet during the Annual Meeting, but hosts two programs. At the STS Research Forum in New Orleans, two guest speakers and guest commentator David Stern, Director of Science Libraries and Information Services at Yale's Kline Science Library provided the program. The STS Annual Poster Session and Reception had nine groups of authors presenting on the program theme,

The abstracts and handouts are available on the STS website. Please contact William Simpson at wsimpson@udel.edu if you would like abstracts from the Research Forum.

College Librarians Discussion Group: Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Support at the College Level

Sue O'Dell presented a slide show based on her research. Ninety Three liberal arts campuses were surveyed on the level of library GIS support. Participants discussed how GIS is supported on their campuses. There was great variation. A very lucky library has a full-time person in the libraries who is the GIS contact for the campus. Several other schools have librarians and sometimes student workers involved with their GIS program. Other schools have GIS software on one or more library terminals but do not have a dedicated person. A couple of attendees

noted that their libraries are working towards having a dedicated GIS position.

The research showed that one-on-one training was the most popular when compared to other options such as group or online training. The attendees thought this might be due to the fact that there are so many different GIS products available and that each situation is different. The discussion then focused on the issues of multiple softwares and GIS data types and the difficulties in being properly trained for all circumstances.

Several helpful resources were provided:

- <http://mapzlibrarian.blogspot.com/>
- <http://mapzlibrarian.blogspot.com/2006/04/want-to-be-gis-librarian-10-things-you.html>
- <http://www.nitle.org> (National Institute of Technology in Liberal Arts Education)
- <http://www.amherst.edu/it/software/gis/gis-introduction/> (basic tutorial providing an overview of GIS concepts from Amherst College)

The group thought that an ideal GIS set up would have a librarian to handle the administrative side of things and a paraprofessional or student to provide technical skills.

LIAISON REPORTS

What Has the American Chemical Society (ACS) Been Doing? A Report from the ACS 2006 Fall Meeting

The Chemical Information Division of the American Chemical Society has been doing some neat things. They have now podcasted two sessions from the Spring Meeting symposium "Social Software and Chemical Information" which can be found on the CINF site (<http://acscinf.org/dbx/mtgs/231nm/231cinfprogram.asp>). Speakers were Beth Thomsett-Scott, Teri Vogel, Brian Maurice Lynch, Barbara Greenman, Jeremy Garritano, Randy Reichardt, Martin Walker and Jonathan Coleman. Podcasts from the Fall Meeting symposium "Rediscovery of older information" are not yet available but you can review the sessions on the ACS web site (<http://acscinf.org/dbx/mtgs/232nm/symp/S20947.asp>).

The 2006 Herman Skolnik Award address by Hugo Kubinyi is available as a video (a format ACS is experimenting with). This talk covers the role of statistics in experiments.

including the Get Acquainted Session which incorporated breakout discussion groups on topics

Date/Time Committee

Visit the STS Program blog

follow-up discussion on how libraries can find new

The STS BLOG can be found at:

<http://sts-kaleidoscope.blogspot.com/>

Please contribute

NOTE: this blog has not been officially endorsed by ALA or ACRL.
The STS Publications Committee is

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship
(ISTL)

STS Web Page

STS Signal on the Web

Available as a pdf file at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/>

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ACRL -- American Library Association