

From the Chair, JoAnn DeVries

2001 was a great year for STS and we celebrated 40 years in grand style! Thank you, Julie Hurd, STS Chair, and Julia Gelfand, and the 2001 Conference Program Planning Committee for a wonderful time.

The ACRL Board of Directors passed the following resolution at its June meeting, "Be it resolved that the Association of College and Research Libraries Board congratulates the Science and Technology Section on its fortieth anniversary and expresses gratitude for their extraordinary leadership."

We can be proud of our leadership in a large and vital committee and discussion group structure, informative programs and research publications, and our publications *STS Signal*, *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship*, and the STS-L listserv.

Looking forward to the next 40 years and to ALA Midwinter, nearly 100 STS member volunteers will be active in the section's business. You will see from the schedule that almost all STS meetings are open, so if you would like to be more involved, please come to a meeting and be sure to participate in the discussion groups.

JoAnn DeVries
University of Minnesota Libraries
Phone: 612-624-7446
Fax: 612-624-9245
j-devr@tc.umn.edu

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pages surveyed. He suggested that "prototyping," a method that is currently underutilized in creating web sites, could be very useful as a visualization and development tool.

Initial discussion centered on the study's findings and the creation and use of web pages as communication and marketing devices and as tools for accessing vital electronic resources. There was some discussion of who designs, builds and maintains web pages for the sciences in various campus settings, with some comparisons made between college and university science libraries. In particular, it was mentioned that it was difficult for many science libraries to obtain the kinds of resources that are needed to create and maintain highly sophisticated web sites. However, it was emphasized by several participants that for the most part, users are very satisfied with functional, easy-to-use web sites that do not have a lot of "bells and whistles." The latter are sites not requiring the latest web site development software or highly specialized personnel who are nearly always in short supply.

Following the discussion, several attendees went to lunch together at a restaurant near the convention center.

Information supplied by Rocco M. Piccinino

Comparison of Science and Technology Libraries Committee

The Comparison of Science and Technology Libraries Committee discussed the status of the first mini-survey on personnel issues, completed September 18. The data from the 5th survey has been combined and an article was discussed for publication in September 2001. The committee will continue using electronic mini-surveys as an alternative to the prior, exhaustive written instru-

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group sponsored the panel discussion "Digitizing Science." Panelists included John Saylor, Director of the Engineering and Computer Science Library at Cornell University, who was co-principal investigator of Cornell University's prototype project, sponsored by the NSF, to build a National Science Digital Library <www.siteforscience.org>, Krist Bender, the Chief Technology Officer of the National Council for Science and the Environment <<http://NCSEonline.org/>>, and Priscilla Caplan, the Assistant Director for Digital Library Services at the Florida Center for Library Automation in Gainesville, who represented the "Linking Florida's Natural Heritage" project <<http://susdl.fcla.edu/lfnh/>>.

More than 60 people attended the session, which featured explanations and demonstrations of the projects, followed by discussion of issues such as the funding and staffing involved in digitizing science collections.

Information supplied by Bryna Coonin

Heads of Science and Technology Discussion Group

The Heads of Science and Technology Discussion Group met June 17, 2001 to hear Frederick W. Stoss of the Science and Engineering Library, State University at Buffalo-SUNY speak about "Bioinformatics: the new Biology." He began by defining

Publications Committee

Detailed statistics on usage of the STS website were distributed to committee members. It was pointed out that items with high use are all directly accessible from the main page. After some discussion about the difficulties of keeping it current, it was decided to drop the list of sci/tech libraries, which has become incomplete and outdated. Two other STS committees have moved their pages to the STS website, and another has expressed interest.

STS-L now has 1,034 registered users. Gayle Baker and Teresa Berry will be stepping down as moderators and will be replaced by incoming committee members Jacqueline Kracker and Margaret Mellinger. The new STS Council listserv has also been a success.

ISTL now has 2,724 subscribers, and the website had over 172,000 hits in the first six months of the year. Jean Poland and Michael Fosmire were selected as new members of the ISTL editorial board from among an impressive pool of applicants.

An audio streaming demonstration project sponsored by the committee has received favorable reviews and members present expressed considerable interest in a proposition that we post materials from future STS programs in this manner.

Philip Herold will continue in his role as co-editor of the *Signal* and will join Heather Moberly as co-chair of the committee, replacing Edward Lener.

Information supplied by Edward Lener

Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

The STS Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee met at ALA Annual in San Francisco on Saturday, June 16th. Members discussed our research project, "The Perceived Successes and Failures of Sci/Tech E-Journal Access: A Comparative Study," which was to be presented as a part of the STS Research Forum the following day. Findings that the committee thought should be highlighted by Janice Christopher when she presented the study at the Research Forum were identified. The committee agreed to submit a paper based on the research project by the end of the summer, for



