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1997 Conference Program Planning Committee

The committee finalized the plans for the structure of the program. A panel of speakers will be asked to discuss user behavior and library services in light of changing formats. A list of possible speakers was formed. Publicity via a web page was discussed. The page would include information on the program and reception, as well as some links to local (San Francisco) science-oriented sites. The reception will be held at the National Maritime Museum, on Fisherman's Wharf. Discussion was begun on possible caterers, with decisions deferred until after fund-raising has begun.

Information supplied by Amy W. Shannon

1998 Conference Program Planning Committee

Your desk calendar may say 1996, but the ALA planning calendar says 1998. Do you have creative ideas for upcoming programs? Does your middle name spell "organization"? Have you ever wondered about the behind-the-scenes work for Annual Conference activities? The 1998 Conference Program Planning Committee is looking for volunteers. Appointments will be made prior to Midwinter, so fill out the Volunteer Form soon or contact Allison Level for more information.

Information supplied by Allison Level

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

A small group of college science librarians met Saturday morning to discuss the topic "2011: A Science Library Odyssey". The goal was to try to imagine your library 15 years in the future. Background material was provided by CSLDG Co-Chair Penny Russman of Wesleyan. The discussion ranged over some interesting issues, starting with how science libraries have already had to start dealing with a large number of electronic journals, and their attendant issues and problems (not present with paper journals)—e.g., ILL restrictions, archiving issues, consortia subscriptions, document delivery. Concern was expressed that while moving toward e-journals, document delivery, and the "scholar's workstation" may be great for faculty, the undergraduate student will lose out.

There was some discussion of the varying levels of knowledge among faculty about new information technology. It was suggested that the explosion of electronic information sources (of widely varying quality) will remind people that critical thinking and evaluation skills have been neglected, and that there may be a teaching opportunity here for librarians. We also discussed the relationship between the library and campus computing. There is currently a great degree of uncertainty about "who teaches what", and about libraries entering into new, non-traditional businesses.

It was agreed that the library of the future has to have an electronic classroom for hands-on instruction. To justify

At the conclusion, the incoming co-chairs of this discussion group were introduced: Julia Gelfand of UC-Irvine and Barton Lessin of Wayne State Univ. STS members are welcome to submit ideas or requests for upcoming discussion topics.

Information supplied by David Flaxbart & Don Frank

General Discussion Group

The ACRL-STS General Discussion Group met on Sunday, July 7, 1996, at the annual meeting of the ALA to discuss, "Preservation as Common Sense: Practical Tips for Science and Technology Collections." Julie Arnaud, Manager, Preservation Services, SALIENT, opened the discussion by sharing her motto, "Preservation is everyone's job." This motto laid the foundation for Julie's informative talk about improving the everyday tasks of libraries with an eye for preservation.

Tom Clareson, Preservation Manager, AMIGOS, addressed the issues involved with Emergency Preparedness and

*Time in parentheses is for official listing in ALA Schedule, if different from actual time.

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librarians use to decide on acquiring electronic versus print journals? Will advertising in electronic publications be a viable supplement to subscription revenues? Are electronic publications cost-effective for publishers? Is there a role for periodical vendors in the electronic publication model or will libraries deal directly with the publishers? We look forward to discussing some of these topics at Midwinter.

Information submitted by Ann Schaffner

Science Databases Discussion Group

The Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group met on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.. The topic, "Traditional Sci-Tech Resources Get a Facelift with the Web", was introduced by two representatives from publishers who have embraced the World Wide Web as their delivery mechanism in order to present a comprehensive collection of resources within a defined subject area.

Anthea Gotto from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts gave a brief overview of Cambridge's transition from Gopher to Web based product. They are providing access to their databases using a client's Web browser. By forming collaborations with other publishers and selecting related Web sites, they are able to offer to subscribers a comprehensive, rich array of information in the environmental sciences. With CSA itself becoming the provider instead of a third part online vendor, attractive pricing options are offered.

Bob Cowen from Engineering Information Inc. then demonstrated the Engineering Village, again a Web based product. The EI Village has undergone considerable changes based on subscriber feedback since its introduction about a year ago. The full service includes access to EI's engineering database—COMPENDEX, together with a spotlight feature which offers updates by discipline and industry, and a Tech Alert services which enables one to customize a search of the last two months of COMPENDEX along with AP and Reuters newswires. Also included are a standards database, document

delivery, reference service via Linda Hall Library, an Ask the Experts option and access to some 13,000 engineering-related Web sites, all annotated. Identifying and keeping up with changing URL's involves 7 staff at EI. Subscribers can choose from among these resources in order to reach a mix that is appropriate for their particular institution.

After these brief overviews we opened the floor for discussion amongst the 25 attendees. Comments were generally favorable from those present who subscribed to either or both of these services. A concern which many in the room talked about was the problem of providing access to licensed products such as these remotely. Most access authorization today is via tabled machine IP address. While campus authorization systems are being developed which will overcome this problem, it seems we are in a "work around" situation at this time.

The area of preprints was raised as a difficult area to track and both publishers agreed that at this time, without any available standards to work with, they have left these publications aside. Electronic journals, however, are beginning to be included in the databases.

Students today have come to expect these graphical user interfaces, like the Web, trained by their video game experience.

The future of information providers such as Knight Ridder and STN was questioned, now that more and more publishers are developing their own search interfaces for their databases. Both publishers representatives agreed that the high costs involved in getting these products up and running on the Internet have been risky, but both felt this was the only way to go to remain viable for the foreseeable future with the unprecedented explosion of the Web.

A question for both publisher representatives concerned network traffic. Both EI and CSA said that current traffic in the U.S. has not strained their current resources, although outside the U.S. this is not necessarily the case.

Information supplied by Ann Eagan & Dawn Talbot

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The third survey spreadsheet was discussed. There is not as much data in this edition of the survey and the collection was done differently. However, there are some areas of comparison with the fourth survey. Some analysis can be completed and the information placed on the web site. The committee Web site was discussed. Basic format, text and tables from a test site were reviewed. The committee decided to continue building the site with additional sets of data based on types of library (stand alone, subject branch, etc.). In addition, the committee agreed that specialized sets could be useful. These include CIC libraries and land grant institutions. To insure anonymity, composite data with ranges and means will be used rather than actual, reported data.

The format of the upcoming fifth survey was discussed. Individuals who attend the Heads of Science Libraries and General Discussion Groups will be asked to complete a short survey concerning information they think should be included on the next survey. The discussion of the fifth survey will continue after this input has been received.

Information supplied by Bonnie Osif

Continuing Education Committee

The committee discussed the results from the STS Continuing Education Survey conducted this spring. This survey was designed to learn more about the continuing education needs and priorities of STS membership. A summary of results will be submitted to STS-L after the Annual Conference. The committee also discussed progress with the resource person/mentor program. Kathy Whitley will investigate whether the list of volunteers can be mounted on the WNW with restricted access by passwording or other means. Discussion then turned to other activities. Several members volunteered to research established continuing education programs in the library community. They will share their findings at the next meeting and present ideas on how we might share this information with librarians.

Information supplied by Susan Norrisey

Legislation Committee

Members of the committee attended several information update meetings to gather information. These sessions were provided by the Government Documents Round Table and the ALA Washington Office.

The major topic of discussion for government information providers is the rewriting of Title 44 of the U.S. Code. This concerns Congressional plans to have most government information distributed electronically in the future. The Government Printing Office has developed a plan for a transition to an electronics distribution system over a five year period. The Senate will be accepting testimony on the subject from the GPO, as well as ALA, GODORT, and other interested parties.

The committee discussed its distribution of information summaries from ALAWON (ALA Washington Office Newsletter) and the mailing list GOVDOC-L to STS-L. There has been enough positive feedback to keep up the program until the ALA Mid-Winter 1997 meeting.

The committee discussed its schedule of meetings for the mid-winter and annual conferences. Since the committee has not needed its second meeting time for several conferences it was decided to relinquish the second meeting time. The first time slot (usually 8 p.m. on Saturday night) will be kept because it fits in better with the work of the committee.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The committee welcomed it's new Co-Chair, Helen Smith, and said good-bye to members who were going off the committee. We also thanked the committee members who made a special effort to get the STS brochure into the packets handed out at the NMRT orientation session. We spent the remainder of the meeting discussing recruitment strategies and ways to promote diversity in STS. We discussed the possibility of developing a survey instrument to determine why people are not members of ALA; perhaps we could send it to members of SLA. We also agreed to look at the program to identify which meetings might attract potential STS members so that we could distribute brochures at them. We will try to compare the STS membership list with the subscribers to STS-L to identify non-members so that we may invite them to join STS.

Information supplied by Carol Robinson

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

Science and technology librarians and information specialists—take advantage of this opportunity to present your preliminary original research results or ALA committee findings at the 1997 ALA meeting by submitting an abstract to the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research. The Forum Committee invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship in methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Proposals should be limited to one page and should contain an abstract of not more than 250 words, as well as the researcher's name, institution, phone number, fax number and e-mail address (when available).

The deadline for submission is January 31, 1997. Send abstracts to: Dana Boden, C.Y. Thompson Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0717, via e-mail to danab@unllib.unl.edu or via fax at 402-472-7005. For further information, call her at 402-472-4412.

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