

STS *SIGNAL*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The College Science Librarian's discussion group topic, "Ownership vs. Access" attracted record numbers.

Alexa Jaffurs, Science Librarian from Amherst College, talked about Amherst's experiences with full-text journals. Amherst does not mount any full-text journals locally although they participate in Project MUSE and will be signing with IDEAL in the near future. Decisions to own or access are based on availability and user demand. Amherst is a member of a five-college consortium that is moving from SilverPlatter to OVID. The consortium will mount databases locally to increase speed and access. All of Amherst's electronic resources are cataloged, and with the addition of access to links, use of electronic journals is expected to increase. At the present time, access to full-text journals is not cheaper than subscribing to the paper version. It would be more prudent to fund tables of contents services, although Elsevier and FAXON are worth investigating.

Raye-Lynn Thomas, Associate Librarian from Sonoma State University, discussed the consortium that exists for California State Universities. The University has a computer access requirement for its students and the library tries to promote as much remote access as possible to information resources. There is a state university consortium that meets quarterly. Electronic resources are brought in on one-month trials. Some of these resources are available to the community at large to test while others are previewed by a select group of users. Sonoma State is reviewing IDEAL and may subscribe next year. They currently offer an "electronic collection" that includes Dow Jones, LEXIS, Britannica, and U.S.A. Statistics. An electronic core collection of full-text journals is being evaluated, but is currently only in the embryonic stage. Sonoma State recently added the JSTOR

He also offered a description of three different "publishing clients," each disguised and with unique issues -- the competition is not each other, but organizations new to publishing taking on the new issues in scholarly communication, and responding to what readers and publishers want. Some of the considerations include:

- critical mass
- independent of document format
- rights to clearance
- pricing models
- management information
- format

Libraries are likely to be a filtering environment and that the emerging models will be hybrid, containing different aspects that work.

Information supplied by Julia Gelfand

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion did not meet during this year's Annual Conference, but instead supported the Research Forum program.

Information supplied by Marcia King-Blandford

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The Publisher Vendor Relations Discussion Group held a joint program with the RUSA CODES Computer Based Methods Committee entitled: "Selection of Full-Text Online Resources: What You Need to Know." It was a panel discussion with Tim Jewell of

the Univ. of Washington Libraries in Seattle, WA, Meryll Penson of the Libraries of Columbus State Univ., Columbus, GA and Robert McGeachin of Texas A&M Univ. Libraries in College Station, TX.

Tim Jewell discussed the current state of e-journal publishing and some of the important issues: the relevance of content, importance of content, coverage, stability, costs and licensing, ownership/archiving, and consortia pricing. He also spoke about technical and "hidden cost" issues such as PC's, technical support and printing.

Next was Meryll Penson, who discussed the impact on reference and document collections. She offered a simple yet elegant formula: Function + User + Budget = Reference Collection. When evaluating full-text online resources, do they meet the established criteria for your reference collection in need and quality? She also spoke about the commitment to the electronic/digital/virtual library as weighed against the more traditional reference and instructional services.

Rob McGeachin addressed some of the reasons for providing access to online full-text collections, such as user convenience and satisfaction, access from remote locations and distance education. Rob also spoke on how we can best implement these services, via the Internet or on CD-ROM. Any commitment to a service on a LAN or institution-wide server requires user education and user support availability. With that, vendors of full text resources want to be assured of access security. Rob mentioned some of the problems people face when trying to deliver services to users: Internet and Intranet traffic delays, archiving rights, planning for long term access to these materials, and issues surrounding the cataloging of them.

Information supplied by Joe Galbraith

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1998 Midwinter Conference • New Orleans, LA

<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY/DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Friday, January 9		Sunday, January 11	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*	8:30-11:00am	Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (Closed Meeting)
9:30-10:30pm	STS Executive Board	9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Continuing Education Committee Government Information Committee
Saturday, January 10		9:30-12:30	Organization & Planning Committee
9:30-11:30am	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group	9:30-12:30	1998 Program Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)	8:30-12:30	1999 Program Planning Comm. (9:30-12:30)*
9:30-12:30	CONSOLIDATED MEETING Discussion Group Leaders Membership and Recruitment Comm. Subject & Bibliographic Access Comm.	11:30-1:00	Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group (11:30-12:30)*
11:30-12:30	Publications Committee	6:00-8:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Dinner**
2:00-4:00pm	General Discussion Group	8:00-10:00pm	Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group
2:00-4:00pm	Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries Committee	Monday, January 12	
		9:30-12:00pm	STS Council II

*Time in parentheses is the time listed in the official program, if different from actual time.

** This meeting is not listed in the official program.

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Interested in finding a mentor or in sharing your skills with others? If so, contact Kathleen Fleming by phone at (313) 577-6310 or e-mail at kflemin@cms.cc.wayne.edu for more information about the new STS Collegial Counsel Program.

Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group

Around sixty people crowded into the Medici Room of the Crown Plaza Parc Fifty-Five Hotel to participate in the Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group. The topic for the discussion was "Finding Scientific Jewels: The Use of Web Search Engines and Subject Directories." William Baer, Engineering Librarian at Brigham Young University, and Carole Leita, Web Manager and Consultant for the California State Library InfoPeople Project, set the mood for the discussion with brief presentations.

Baer gave three tips for improving the effectiveness of searching on the web: get to know the search engine(s) to be used, determine the needs to be filled, and use multiple search engines. He also discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses of popular search engines.

Leita's presentation focused on the "Librarians' Index to the Internet," a project in which several librarians have indexed and annotated over 3,000 sites that are of interest to reference librarians.

Topics discussed included teaching faculty to search the web, using multiple search engine searching tools, and the extra load of requiring subject specialists to maintain web pages. The discussion group had excellent participation.

Information supplied by William Baer

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

Annual discussion focussed on the format and content of the fifth survey, and a time line for its formulation and distribution. The date of distribution has been pushed back until after the first of the year (1998), to allow completion of the revisions and organization of the administration of the survey to ARL Science and Technology libraries. The size of the committee is being expanded to accommodate the additional work of processing the survey and resulting data. Expected due date for the returned surveys is tentatively set at April 1, 1998. Extraction of data will begin immediately. Non-identifying raw data will be available, via the committee web site, as quickly as possible thereafter.

Information supplied by Judith R. J. Johnson

1998 Conference Program Planning Committee

STS will be co-sponsoring the 1998 program with the University Libraries Section, to be held on Saturday, June 27, 1998 from 2-4 pm. The program is tentatively titled "Leadership & the New Science." The keynote speaker will be Myron Kellner-Rogers, in conjunction with two prominent librarians as respondents. Kellner-Rogers is co-author with Margaret J. Wheatley of "A Simpler Way" and a partner with Wheatley in the Berkana Institute which seeks to develop communities of support and inquiry focused on discovering the new ideas and new forms that represent the future of organizing. The Committee identified several potential respondents. ULS is seeking funding for Kellner-Rogers. Promotional information will appear on a web page and in a printed flier to be distributed during the Annual conference. The National Aquarium is the Committee's first choice of sites for the reception.

Information supplied by Linda Phillips

Continuing Education Committee

The STS Continuing Education Committee reviewed the first year of operation of its Mentor Program. This program connects new and even experienced sci/tech librarians seeking assistance on a question with a list of veteran sci/tech librarians. Initially this program has been well received, with a list of 42 volunteer mentors, and 12 inquiries for the list of mentors. A survey of all of these participants revealed a need for continuing and expanded publicity about the program. This will be undertaken, as well as establishing a formal liaison with the STS Membership Committee and including a direct link to information about the program from the STS web site. Special thanks to Virginia MacEwen for her excellent management of the program.

The committee will be pioneering a web page containing Science & Technology Librarianship Professional Education Opportunities to monitor upcoming conferences, courses, workshops, and ongoing vendor education events. Members will also be on the lookout for existing educational web sites to add to this site.

Work is beginning on the survey for STS continuing education interests and needs to be administered in Spring of 1998.

Information supplied by Kathy Whitley

Government Information Committee

At the first STS Council meeting the Legislation Committee was renamed the Government Information Committee. The committee's charge will remain substantially the same.

Members of the committee attended various meetings and information sessions conducted by GODORT and the ALA Washington Office. The committee gathered news about new products and changes in federal government information programs.

Major topics included:

Legislation will soon be introduced for rewriting Title 44 to revise the Federal Depository Program.

NTIS is involved in a project to deliver its products as electronic images over the Internet.

GPO and DOE are looking at making DOE technical reports (formerly distributed in microfiche format) available electronically.

Due to the Supreme Court's ruling the Communication Decency Act unconstitutional it is unlikely that there will be other legislation on this topic in the near future.

The committee discussed ways to monitor government information news. Members of the committee will be watching various electronic information sources. Important news will be relayed to the STS membership by way of the STS-L listserv.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

Call for Sci/Tech Abstracts

The ALA/ACRL Forum for Science and Technology Library Research Committee is planning its annual research presentations program for the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 1998.

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share with your colleagues recent research or works in progress that address significant issues to science and technology librarianship in its broadest sense. Proposals will be selected through a blind review process on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, and, relevance to science and technology librarianship.

ABSTRACT: An abstract not exceeding 250 words should convey the title and purpose of the project, its scope, methodology, conclusions and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Priority will be provided to papers that indicate research analyses, either quantitative or qualitative.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: November 21, 1997; Papers will be chosen at ALA Midwinter 1998.

PAPERS: Acceptance of proposals reflects a commitment of the authors to provide presentations of no longer than 30 minutes at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Presenters may choose to have their papers published electronically through ACRL/STS.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT (preferably by E-mail), including name, institution, phone number, fax number and E-mail address, TO:

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