STS SIGNAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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From the Chair, Pat Kreitz

I'd first like to recognize the hard work of those who volunteer for committee assignments, participate in discussion groups, support the section's publications, and volunteer their time and energy to do the section's work. Over sixty people volunteer in some capacity. I wish I had the space here to thank each by name!

Next, I'd like to solicit your input on an important issue -- whether to continue the annual STS members' reception in its traditional format, abandon it, or change it in some way. The Section Council has been troubled by increasing costs and decreasing attendance over the last three years. For Chicago, the Program Planning Committee will have a reception more closely coordinated in time with the program itself and you'll be hearing more about that from the Program chair.

Please think about the issues and questions below and get back to me with your ideas and opinions by the end of December. I'll summarize your input for Section Council's discussion at Midwinter.

+ Over the past three years, the STS reception costs have risen while funding and attendance have declined. In 1998 around 100 people attended at a cost of $46 per person. In 1999 there were roughly 90 attendees at a cost of $37 each (there was no alcohol in 1999).
+ ALA/ACRL does not give us any of your section membership dues to pay for this. Instead, each section chair asks vendors for donations to pay the site rental and catering costs which typically range from $3,500 to $6,000.
+ Vendors' checks are usually received in a 3-4 month window around the conference date. Months before receiving these checks, and often before knowing who will agree to donate and precisely what amount, the STS chair and Program Committee must set a budget, select the site and caterer, and place deposits.
+ At times, costs have exceeded what the vendors donated. Some past chairs have quietly paid the difference out of their own pockets.

The STS Council and I need to know what you think. Is the reception important? What is the value of holding it at a science-related site? Why is attendance declining? Does the time on Sunday night compete with too many (more lavish) vendor receptions? Would it be a better use of time and the section's energy to solicit donations for the program costs of bringing outside speakers, for a science librarianship scholarship, or for an award in science librarianship? Would members attend an event that helped them 'network' but that was ticketed or was radically less expensive? Please let me know what you think!

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From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Julie Hurd

Greetings to all new and returning STS members! I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. As science and technology librarians we are participants in an evolving system of scientific communication. We all deal with change as a constant, and the challenges we face in our profession offer opportunities for STS. Our programs, discussion groups, and other committee initiatives can inform us of new developments and provide a chance to exchange experiences with colleagues who share our concerns.

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I plan to work with other STS officers through the STS Council, the Executive Committee, and our section committees to make our section responsive to your professional needs. If you have suggestions, please do send e-mail or phone. I also hope that all members will give thought to volunteering to serve on an STS committee. I will be making appointments soon and would be pleased to learn of your interest. Committee appointments come with the expectation that you will attend both mid-year and annual meetings; often there are also duties between meetings as well. You can find a volunteer form on the back of this newsletter or at the STS web page. If you have

Commercial Code Article 2B. One of the best Web resource sites is the Copyright and Intellectual Property page from ARL at http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/copytoc.html.

If you are licensing a source to be 'housed' elsewhere, i.e. not on servers under your own control, the contract should define acceptable availability via the Internet to the supplier's centralized resource. Define acceptable levels: server hours; scheduled system maintenance; backup server sites; and adequate capacity.

Vendors will reserve the right to make changes to a product. So that you are never left with payments for a product that no longer contains what you needed, write into the contract that substantial changes to the method of access or to the content must be reported to the licensee within 30 days prior to the change. Add that the Licensee has a right to cancel the contract with a prorated refund if the changes result in the product no longer being useful for the licensee's original needs.

Contracts need to address archiving. Determine if perpetual access will be supplied from the publisher, vendor, or aggregator or through local means. Also spell out local electronic copying rights for archived materials. If the material will be used for reserves, be sure to put language in the contract to cover course packs and electronic reserves. Ensure full rights from digital or print format for sale as course packs and/or for distribution as electronic reserves to authorized users in registered courses. You should also include protective language for the supplier assuring them that digital copies will be deleted at the end of the term and that you will not allow non-course related systematic reproduction rights or distribution to anyone other than authorized users. However, strike out any clause that assigns responsibility to you for end users and how they use the information. Include specific language on data collection and reporting. Ensure privacy by including a statement that the anonymity of individual users and the confidentiality of searches will be protected. You also want to ensure that any data collected will be for the publisher's private internal use only.

In conclusion, Ms. Davis mentioned that a committee of library, publisher, and vendor representatives was crafting standardized licensee agreements for different library types. She hoped these would soon be available to help reduce the overhead of working out individual license agreements with a multitude of vendors. She also commented favorably on the license information available from some of the major subscription agents.

Because of the valuable amount of detail included by Ms. Davis, time was short at the end. Discussion included how to handle universities that have distributed campuses and distance learning programs and encourage vendors to think in terms of campus-wide access. Ms. Davis reminded the group that they need to fight for basic access rights in the contract but that they also must be reasonable. For example, she recommended never fighting warranty language. In response to a question about adjunct faculty and affiliated users, she suggested having them sign a document promising that their use of the product will be for their own personal educational purposes and that they won't use it for commercial purposes.

Information supplied by Patricia A. Kreitz

Editor's note: The model licenses recommended by Trisha Davis are now available at http://www.licensingmodels.com.

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 2000 Midwinter Conference • San Antonio, TX

DAY/DATE/TIME	COMMITTEE
Friday, January 14	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*
9:30-10:30pm	STS Executive Board
Saturday, January 15	
8:30-11:00am	Oberly Award Committee (8:00 - 11:00 am)* (closed meeting)
9:30-11:00am	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group
	Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Comm.
	Publications Committee
11:30-12:30	Discussion Group Leaders
	Membership and Recruitment Comm.
	Subject & Bibliographic Access Comm.
2:00-4:00pm	General Discussion Group
	Forum for Science & Technology
	Library Research (closed meeting)
4:30-6:30pm	Continuing Education Committee

DAY/DATE/TIME	COMMITTEE
Sunday, January 16	
8:30-12:30	2000 Program Planning Committee
9:30-11:00am	Science and Technology Databases Discussion Group
	Government Information Committee
1:30-4:00pm	2001 Program Planning Comm. (2 - 4 pm)*
2:00-4:00pm	Organization and Planning Committee
6:00-8:00pm	Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Dinner**
8:00-10:00pm	Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group
Monday, January 17	
9:30-12:00	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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Partnering with the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division

An ACRL Initiative Fund grant prepared by Billie Reinhart and Allison Level provided the STS with an opportunity to actively pursue collaborative activities with the Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). The grant provided financial resources to send a member of the STS Council to the 1999 ASEE Annual Conference and Exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina. It also supported the attendance at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans by one member of the ASEE ELD Executive Committee. Mel DeSart, Coordinator of Science and Engineering Resources and Services, Anschutz Library, University of Kansas (ASEE ELD) and Barton Lessin, Assistant Dean and Director, Science and Engineering Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI (STS) were chosen to represent their respective organizations.

The exchanges were used for more than opportunities to attend an additional conference. The coordinating group for science and technology librarians in each organization held a brainstorming session to identify possible areas for partnering. The ASEE ELD held its meeting first and developed a thoughtful list of twenty-two potential projects for collaboration with the ACRL STS. Additionally, the ELD Extended Executive Committee identified a priority list of those projects that were of greatest interest to it. The ACRL STS Executive Council responded by holding its own session devoted to collaboration where it examined the earlier list and chose those projects where it thought collaboration was both possible and mutually beneficial. Fortunately, there was overlap among those projects deemed most important by both groups. The STS project priority list included these topics for focused attention and a suggested part of the STS organization that would be involved if a joint project is undertaken:

- Recruitment
- CRL project
- Comparative statistics
- Newsletter communication liaison
- Virtual committee members
- Information literacy.

The last item on the list of potential areas for collaboration represents the only one where there is no existing segment of the STS organization that is a match for the expected focus of this project. We understand that this situation is also the case for the ELD. The STS preferred project areas have been communicated to the new chair of the ELD, Sheila Curl at Purdue University. Further action is anticipated prior to Midwinter Conference.

Submitted by Barton Lessin

IATUL Conference Report

The annual meeting of IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) took place in Chania, Crete May 17-21. This was an absolutely beautiful site to attend a conference. The history, natural beauty, options for distractions made for a very special trip. Crete is very near the Balkans and the immediacy and concerns for the war being fought so nearby was very evident. That week was also the anniversary of German bombing during WWII.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Future of Libraries in Human Communication," and many sessions reflected ideas related to issues in library service and management. Several keynote papers were delivered on topics ranging from the "Changing Role of the Library: Missions and Ethics," which described changes in the new British Library by the Director-General, David Russon; Ann Wolpert, UL at MIT addressed "Commercial Brand Management," Alan Bundy from the University of South Australia delivered a most enlightening paper on "Challenging technolust: the educational responsibility of librarians."

About 30 papers were delivered. Specific papers of interest included, "Sharing metadata: enabling online information provision," which was about preparing bibliographic records for OPACs; the new concept of the "International library, information and analysis center (ILIAC) a new project at the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology," which was described as a worldwide venture to gain investment in resources for that library and to share and encourage cooperation between Russia and other countries; and several others on different new services, partnerships and activities introduced by creative librarians and information providers from around the globe. Registration included about 120 librarians from throughout Eastern and Western Europe, Australia, South Africa and from North America.

Field trips during the conference in Crete included visits to the archaeological sites at Knossos where we visited the famous Minoan Palace and also had a brief stop at the Heraklion Museum to see the relics from the restoration at that site; academic libraries at the University Crete; monasteries of Preveli and Gonia and a trip to the Samaria Gorge.

IATUL will next meet July 3-7, 2000 in Brisbane, Queensland, with the theme, "Virtual Libraries, Virtual Communities." Major subthemes are: 1) Information economy: the virtual campus; 2) Networked Learning; 3) Innovative Client Services; and 4) Information Literacy.

Submitted by Julia Gelfand