



From the Chair, Julie Hurd

Forty years ago, at its meeting in Chicago on July 14, 1961, the ACRL Board approved the formation of an Agriculture and Biological Sciences Subsection of the Subject Special-

STS SIGNAL is a biannual publication of the Science and Technology Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2517. It is designed as a communication vehicle to the members of the Section and other interested parties. Electronic transmission of materials is preferred, and instructions for transmission are available on request. Inquiries should be made to either of the Co-Editors: Philip Herold, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, Phone: (607) 255-7959, Fax: (607) 255-0318, E-mail: ph31@cornell.edu; Elizabeth Cooksey, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411, Phone: (912) 598-2474, Fax: (912) 598-2391, E-mail: liz@skio.peachnet.edu

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STS Signal is made available to all section members at no additional charge. Additionally, it is available on the STS Web site at http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts/sts_signal.html.

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group hosted a session titled “Mentoring in Science & Technology Libraries” on Saturday January 13, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. Approximately 46 conferees attended the session.

Session panelists included Jay Bhatt, Information Services Librarian for Engineering at Drexel University’s Hagerty Library; Tamika Barnes, Engineering Services Librarian at North Carolina State University Libraries; Nancy Hayes, of the University of Akron and Co-Chair of the STS Continuing Education Committee; and Kathleen “Pix” Fleming, of the Science & Engineering Library at Wayne State University (and past Co-Chair of STS Continuing Education).

Each of the panelists brought a unique perspective to the topic. Jay Bhatt has been instrumental in developing a mentoring program at the Hagerty Library of Drexel University and has also been active in the creation of the Mentoring Task Force for the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. He communicated this enthusiasm for the mentoring process through his presentation and in his answers to the questions he received from the audience.

Barnes, who holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was a mentee in a formal program co-developed by the librarian at the Vesic Engineering Library of Duke University and later by the senior engineering librarian at North Carolina State University. She credited her mentors with assisting in her successful transition from support staff status to professional science librarianship.

Nancy Hayes described the Collegial Counsel activities of the STS Continuing Education Committee. She highlighted one of the key aspects of this valuable resource, which is the possibility for peer-mentoring, in which established science librarians moving into new areas might find support and guidance. The networking possibilities inherent in Collegial Counsel were also detailed.

Pix Fleming closed with observations on “informal” mentoring in a science library setting.

Audience comments and questions rounded out this lively discussion.

Information supplied by Bryna Coonin & Kim Lyon-Mitchell

Heads of Sci / Tech Libraries Discussion Group

The Heads of Science & Technology Libraries Discussion Group met Sunday evening, January 14, and the program continued STS's emphasis on mentoring. Our speakers were Melissa Cast, organizer of ACRL's new mentoring program, and Don Frank, a long time mentor in the sci-tech library profession.

Melissa, Director of Membership Services at ACRL, spoke about her involvement setting up the mentoring program that was recently established at ACRL. (See <http://www.ala.org/acrl/mentoringprogram.html> for links to the Mentoring Program Workbook and applications for mentors and mentees.) About 20 new librarians have been connected with senior librarians who are providing help negotiating various parts of their positions. Melissa acted as matchmaker between mentees and mentors and then stepped back to let the parties develop their relationships. Most, if not all of these interactions have been conducted via e-mail or phone and have been very satisfying to both people.

Jeanne will make the suggested changes to update the links in the page. Toby Lyles will coordinate the page in the future and work towards adding a new section on Collection Development. All committee members need to examine this page and contribute so that the page is up-to-date and useful to STS membership.

Nancy Hayes reported that with a membership of approximately 1,660, STS is the fifth largest section in ACRL. Unfortunately, our membership continues to decrease. It decreased by 7.5% in the past year. The committee discussed ways to increase STS membership. Suggestions for publicizing the section included contacting library schools, pinpointing faculty who teach classes related to sci/tech librarianship and/

Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

Members discussed the e-journal survey that the committee conducted in 2000. Janice Christopher announced that the survey was accepted for a presentation at the SLA conference in San Antonio in June 2001, as well as for the STS Research Forum at ALA Annual 2001. Members agreed to prepare a paper based on the survey for ALA Annual, but decided to vote by email after Midwinter on whether or not to make a presentation at SLA. The title of the paper will be, "Perceived Successes and Failures of Sci-Tech E-Journal Access: A Comparative Study." Members agreed to have

Publications Committee

In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the section, the Publications Committee will be working to update the section's history and continue to develop the streaming audio presentations at the section website.

STS-L has over 1,000 subscribers and averages 54 postings per month. Gayle Baker and Teresa Berry will be stepping down as STS-L moderators. Margaret Mellinger and Jacqueline Kracker, both from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, will be the new moderators.

Philip Herold will continue as co-editor of STS-Signal. Heather Moberly will be replaced as co-editor by Elizabeth Cooksey.

There is a new URL for ISTL: <<http://www.istl.org>>. There

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Association of College and Research Libraries
Science and Technology Section
Annual Conference 2001; San Francisco, CA

DAY/DATE/TIME

COMMITTEE

Friday, June 15

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

STS Council I (*8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in program)
Executive Board (if needed)

Saturday, June 16

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

New Member Orientation
Oberly Award Committee (*8:00 a.m. in program)
Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee

STS Electronic Communications Update

STS-L Listserv

STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

To join STS-L, send the following message to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU (do not include a period after EDU). The SUBJECT line should not be left blank; if your e-mail software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name

Moderators: Gayle Baker and Teresa Berry

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)