

From the Chair, JoAnn DeVries

2002 is already an active and productive year. We are organizing interesting topics for the discussions and programs for the Annual meeting in Atlanta. Thank you to all who are active in making this a rewarding and dynamic year. I am realizing anew what all chairs recognize, that busy people contribute an extraordinary amount of time and energy to keep our section strong and vital. You are a great group to work for.

New initiatives proposed and developed from Midwinter are a task force on information literacy specific to the interests of science and technology, chaired by Virginia Baldwin. In addition, a task force on development (chaired by Julie Hurd) will recommend implementing STS awards or scholarships based on options compiled by Pat Kreitz. A subcommittee has been formed to propose an STS sponsored program on recruitment of new librarians into the profession, for the 2003 ACRL National Conference. This committee is chaired by Barton Lessin. If you wish to become involved in one of these projects, please contact the chair. Suggestions, comments and participation are welcome.

IOP, the Institute of Physics Publishing, sponsored a lovely reception especially for STS members at Midwinter. Thank you very much to IOP; it was a splendid *laissez les bons temps rouler* event. IOP plans to continue to sponsor a reception for STS at Annual. An RSVP invitation will be posted on the listserv. Be sure to look for it.

This year we have continued and sustaining donations for the STS program and New Member Orientation refreshments from the following publishers and vendors:

American Chemical Society
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
Elsevier Science, Inc.
Institute for Scientific Information
Springer-Verlag
Swets Blackwell, Inc.
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
YBP Library Services

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From the Vice Chair / Chair Elect, Barton Lessin

The winter issue of the *Signal* presents me with a good opportunity to talk about committee appointments. I want to encourage those of you who are interested in serving on STS committees and task forces to contact me at lessin@wayne.edu. STS Chair JoAnn DeVries and I will be making appointments during the course of the year and the appointment process will be greatly enhanced if we know about you and your interests in STS committees, discussion groups, and task forces. Please make time to introduce yourself and let me know how you would like to serve the Science and Technology Section of ACRL. There is no better time to do this than right now.

I'll also use this issue of the *Signal* to encourage you to help build STS and make it stronger for the present and into the future. Whether you currently serve on one of the many STS committees or are simply a member in good standing you can have a substantive impact on the health and well being of our section and association by working to recruitment just one

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new STS member this year. Our association and, in fact, our profession depends on our ability to attract new librarians to science and technology librarianship. Let's make a real effort this year to tell our colleagues, those new to the profession and those with more experience, about the value of the STS programs, publications, its avenues for service, and the wonderful occasions that it provides all of us to meet and interact with colleagues from other institutions of higher education. Join me in making recruitment a goal for yourself and for STS. Do your best to add one new member this year. Thanks for your interest in STS and working to enhance our section and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Barton Lessin
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College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The topic for the College Science Librarians discussion Group will be "The Information Seeking Behavior of Science Students." This session will examine how science students are looking for information with particular focus on how the digital information revolution has changed this process. New information-gathering behaviors and learning styles will be explored as well as whether there are differences among the various disciplines in how information is acquired. Strategies to assist students in getting the information that they need will also be discussed. There will be two facilitators to aid in examining this subject.

Information supplied by Terri Freedman & Rocco M. Piccinino

General Discussion Group

The General Discussion Group (GDG) held an interesting panel discussion at the ALA Midwinter meeting. Attended by about 40 conference goers, the discussion addressed some aspects of public services in the electronic library, all varied and timely. The four panelists reported on and answered questions about articles they had published in the most recent issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Libraries* (Number 32, Fall 2001), <<http://www.istl.org/01-fall/>>. Joann Sears from Auburn University spoke first, discussing her experience with real-time chat service at the Reference Desk. The second speaker, Susan Ardis of the University of Texas at Austin, reported on an ambitious project launched by her reference department, which provided web-based tutorials for their engineering graduate students. Bryna Coonin of East Carolina University discussed her article on serving sci-tech library users with disabilities, and Kathy Fescemyer from Penn State gave an account of her article, "Six Wishes of a Public Services Librarian." Each presentation was followed with provocative questions prompting some good discussion on several topics.

Susan Ardis ended the session by throwing a question out to the audience asking what they thought new science and technology librarians needed but weren't taught in library school. A number of good suggestions were offered, including the need to assure prospective librarians that they need not be afraid to answer questions beyond their expertise, and explanations of the peer review process.

Attendees were encouraged to plan to join the GDG session at the ALA Annual meeting in Atlanta on Sunday, June 16, 2002 from 9:30 am - 11:00 am when the GDG will combine with the Discussion Group of RUSA's Business Reference & Services Section (BRASS) to sponsor a session of mutual interest to business and sci-tech librarians.

Information supplied by Meg E. Spencer

Heads of Sci /Tech Libraries Discussion Group

At Council I it was reported that there would be no Heads of Science and Technology Discussion Group meeting at the Midwinter meeting, but the group would hold its usual social gathering at a restaurant on Sunday.

At Council II it was reported that about 10 people had a great time at Ralph and Cacao's. It was also noted that the co-chairs had not yet decided on a subject for the discussion group meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

Information supplied by Laura Lane

Publisher / Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The discussion was held on Sunday and was a great success. Approximately 88 people attended the discussion, which was led by Eric Van de Velde, chair of the NISO OpenURL Committee and Jenny Walker Director of Sales and Marketing at Ex Libris. Mr Van de Velde described OpenURL as transportable metadata, which will allow libraries to provide localized and targeted services to our users. The OpenURL standard has the following advantages: 1) permanent links; 2) multiple links per object; and, 3) context-sensitive links

More information can be found at: <http://library.caltech.edu/OpenURL>

Ms. Walker described the Ex Libris application of the OpenURL standard called SFX. This application delivers linking

The Sci/Tech Databases Discussion Group met to discuss natural resources databases. There were about 30 attendees, gathered in a circle of chairs in a small room, facilitating easy discussion. The discussion leaders distributed a short handout with the URLs of some databases useful for natural resources topics; plans are to mount this list on the STS website.

Donna Gagnier (Co-chair), Fred Stoss (UBuffalo), and Marilyn Christianson (ULA at Baton Rouge) led the discussion. Donna talked about the databases she found useful for biology students and her local Audubon Chapter members. Fred discussed efforts for the development of a national library of the environment that could equal the status of the National Library of Medicine. He talked about the groups and people interested in creating such a library and the need for its resources. He has been active as a consultant as well as a user of environmental sources for years and has a related book in preparation. He was very knowledgeable about the history of efforts to create and fund such an entity, often contributing ideas for sources to others, as the discussion continued around the room.

Marilyn Christian spoke of Louisiana state and local sources, including those produced by campus institutes, and government entities. She distributed a section of a recent issue of the *Baton Rouge Advocate* featuring one of the biology faculty with whom she works. She pointed out that since Baton Rouge was home to both LSU and the State government, the local newspaper generally covered issues of the environment and natural resources better than other papers in the state. She urged attendees to go to the newspaper's website because its archives include graphics that are usually missing from the commercially available

Government Information Committee

The Government Information Committee welcomed one new member, Randall Halverson, at the Midwinter meeting.

The committee discussed the Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism), passed by Congress on October 26, 2001 and signed by President Bush. The US Senate voted 98-1 for the bill, and the House voted 357-66 to pass it. This lengthy, far-reaching Act that has many implications for libraries. The focus of the committee in light of this act is access to government information dealing with science and technology.

OMB Watch provides a number of suggestions for obtaining information following the U. S. PATRIOT Act: 1) go to OMB Web site to see which government sites are current <http://www.ombwatch.org/>; 2) identify a blocked website and place a "need to know" request; 3) OMB attorneys say there are currently no grounds to sue if information is removed from a site; 4) track your own local and state government pages for removal of information; 5) contact members of Congress; and, 6) ALA's website on U. S. PATRIOT Act <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/alertusapatriotact.html>.

The committee would like to restructure its web page. This should be completed by the end of March or the beginning of April. Timely updates will be key. A committee member will monitor the GOVDOC-I listserv.

The committee would like to explore the possibility of presenting a program.

Information supplied by Jennifer Laherty

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The meeting of the Membership and Recruitment Committee (co-chaired by Lori Jean Critz and Nancy Hayes centered on several tactical issues: the New Member Orientation to be held at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, the Sci/Tech

Oberly Award Committee

Because this is an even number year, the Oberly is not scheduled to be awarded. The committee has four new members who are learning the history and process of awarding the Oberly. The committee will be reviewing the information on the working pages and adding to it. We are also reviewing the address lists for distributing the nomination information during the summer.

Information supplied by Kathy Fescemyer

ACRL Science and Technology Section
Continuing Education Committee
COLLEGIAL COUNSEL

Librarians do many different things as part of our jobs. In addition to reference work, our assignments may include collection building, evaluation of reference collections and services, stack organization and shifting, creating home pages, designing instructional flyers, or any one of a million other special projects. If your job has ever

Publications Committee

The Section email list, *STS-L*, currently has 1,040 subscribers. The committee discussed the need for an attachment policy for *STS-L*, and voted to ban attachments from the list. Chairs took this issue to STS Council II and received agreement. The committee also discussed the possible ways to have

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE
 Association of College and Research Libraries
 Science and Technology Section
 Annual Conference 2002; Atlanta, GA

DAY/DATE/TIME

COMMITTEE

Friday, June 14

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

Saturday, June 15

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Oberly Award Committee (closed) (*8:00 a.m. in program)
 Comparison of Sci / Tech Libraries Committee
 2003 Program Planning Committee
 Publisher / Vendor Relations Discussion Group
 2002 Program Planning Committee
 Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee
 Discussion Group Chairs Meeting
 ACRL no-conflict time
 Organization & Planning Committee
 ALA no-conflict time

Sunday, June 16

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

New Member Orientation
 Government Information Committee
 Continuing Education Committee
 General Discussion Group
 Publications Committee
 Membership & Recruitment Committee
 College Science Librarians Discussion Group
 Forum for Science & Technology Library Research (closed)
 Heads of Science Libraries Discussion Group
 Heads of Sci/tech Libraries Discussion Group

Monday, June 17

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

STS Program
 ACRL no-conflict time
 STS Council II (*8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in program)

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

