

ASSOCIATION OF

COLLEGE LIBRARIES

& RESEARCH

LIBRARIES

A DIVISION OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Jill Newby

Having attended STS discussion groups and council meetings during the ALA Midwinter conference in Philadelphia in January, I'm reminded of all the time and effort that goes into planning successful programs, publications, surveys, peer review of new research, organizational planning and all the other large and small details necessary to keep STS running smoothly. Thanks to all STS volunteers for your hard work and support of STS! If you would like to join in the fun and planning of STS

Science & Technology Information Discussion Group

The Science & Technology Information Discussion Group (formerly known as the Science & Technology Databases Discussion Group) hosted a discussion about <science.gov>, the “FirstGov for Science,” an exciting new resource. Launched in December 2002, <science.gov> provides a gateway to science & technology information from fourteen scientific and technical information organizations from ten major U.S. government science agencies. Users can find more than 1000 government information resources about science, including technical reports, journal citations, databases, federal web sites, and fact sheets.

We were delighted that several people from the science.gov team joined us to provide an overview of the site and to participate in our discussion about this resource, its application in libraries, and future directions. This discussion also offered insight into the process of bringing a multi-party project to fruition. Among our special guests were Eleanor G. Frierson, Deputy Director, National Agricultural Library (NAL) and co-chair, Science.gov Alliance, Walt Warnick, Department of Energy, Gail Hodge, Science.gov secretariat, Melanie Gardner, NAL and Yvette Alonso, NAL.

Over 60 people attended the session and we received very positive feedback. We thank all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our ALA Annual discussion where we will explore genomics information and the role of libraries in gathering, understanding and disseminating this emerging data.

Information supplied by Angi Faiks & Ann Robinson

Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee

The revised STS Strategic Plan emphasizes the need to look at assessment and states that some group in STS needs to “Consult with appropriate agencies regarding assessment techniques” as well as “Provide opportunities to learn about assessment.” In keeping with this, the STS

1. GODORT Update Meeting

Judy Russell, recently appointed as U.S. Superintendent of Documents, is the first female Superintendent and the second librarian in the position. GPO is challenging librarians to provide feedback this year to assist the drafting of plans for a “21st Century” GPO and Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Comments on the appropriate functions and structure for GPO and the FDLP can be submitted via GPO’s Comments and Questions form: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/amaill001.shtml?fdlp/libpro.html.

Patrice McDermott, Assistant Director, Office of Government Relations, ALA Washington Office, reported:

- › Nearly 200 public comments were apparently received regarding the decision to discontinue PubScience; only 7 favored discontinuing the service. The Department of Energy’s Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) has analyzed these comments, but has not been willing to release its report.
- › There is a trend to move toward a “need to know”, rather than a “right to know” basis for access to “federal” information. The E-gov Act signed in December 2002 requires that agencies “categorize” (catalog) documents, and post priorities and timetables for providing access. It is not clear whether this act will lead to improved access.
- › “Critical Infrastructure Protection” restrictions were created in the Homeland Security Act passed in Fall 2001; last fall, “Critical Energy Infrastructure” restrictions were proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- › Regarding the development of a 21st century GPO, it’s not clear what this would look like, but the new Public Printer is publicly committed to enhancing access to government information. The proposed change to the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) may, however, allow for-profit publishers to benefit at the expense of government information users.

2. GODORT Federal Documents Task Force

Presentations were made by representatives from the Census and GPO. In response to a comment about the potential value of linking software such as SFX, a GPS representative promised to give higher priority to a plan to add Perl coding to records, to allow open URL linking.

3. GODORT International Documents Task Force

The GODORT Education committee has created three background issues kits, “Balancing Information Access Since 9-11.” These are Chronology, Brief Bibliography, and Web Resources. See these at: <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/education/>.

4. GODORT State and Local Task Force

Michael Esman of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) mentioned that NAL is seeking catalog records of agriculture documents from every state, including land grant institutions’ holdings and agricultural experiment station publications. Patricia Finney of the Center for Research Libraries reported on the progress of the comprehensive

collection of US state documents project dating from the 18th Century to 1950.

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Publications Committee

The Publications Committee discussed the future need for appointments and reappointments. The group talked about possibilities for format and content changes in the *STS Signal*, and plans to conduct a survey of STS membership to help determine interest in possible changes or improvements to the section newsletter. One suggestion to help free up space for new items is to limit the length of committee and discussion group reports.

There are 1,070 current subscribers to STS-L. The committee discussed possibilities for moving the list to an ALA server, and the implications of such a move, which include potential problems with migrating subscribers versus the current need for UTK staff on the Publications Committee to manage the lists. The group determined that this move is inadvisable at this time, but may reconsider it in the future.

Two committee members will help the Membership & Recruitment Committee reformat the section brochure in a software package that can be passed on for future changes.

Jennifer Duvernay, STS Web Editor, brought news of potential difficulties in publishing or otherwise noting direct links to STS Web information after an upcoming restructuring of the ALA Web site. Direct navigation to section web pages will be complicated.

Information supplied by Philip Herold

Research Committee

Using a blind review process, the Research Committee evaluated abstracts submitted for paper presentations at the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research at ALA Annual 2003. On the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship, research methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship, the Committee selected the following proposals for presentation:

“Student Expectations for Library Web Site Organization,” Charity Hope and Shannon Staley, San Jose State University Library

“Creative Solutions through Collaboration: Information Literacy for a Large First Year Biology Class,” Pamela Jacobs and Wendy Rodgers, University of Guelph Library

A guest commentator will be invited to provide expert feedback for the authors at the Forum. We look forward to the presentations and a discussion with the authors, our guest commentator, and the audience about the research process at the annual conference in Toronto.

The Committee also used a blind review process to review proposals for posters to be displayed at the reception following the STS program in Toronto. Seven groups of authors were invited to present posters:

Jeffrey Williams and Mary Linn Bergstrom –
University of California San Diego
John Millard – Miami University
Anna Pilston – Penn State Erie
Gail Clement – Florida International University
Tracy Thrasher Hybl, Katherine Kearns, Ardelle
Legg – Boston University
Catherine Soehner – University of California Santa
Cruz
Michael Shochet – National Agricultural Library/
University of Maryland

Many of the posters reflect aspects of this year’s program, “Partners in Science: an Exploration of a Scientist-Librarian Relationship.” The Research Committee will work with the Program Committee to coordinate the poster session at the STS Reception.

Information supplied by Kathryn Kjaer



Subject and Bibliographic Assess Committee

As the proposal to present a panel discussion on grey literature at ACRL National did not go through, the committee is partnering with the General Discussion Group Committee to sponsor a session in Toronto on the same topic. The title of the session will be “**Fading of the greyness in grey literature: Is grey literature still grey?**” At Midwinter, the committee talked about issues that need to be worked out with our partners to have an eventful, successful and well-attended program.

The committee also spent considerable time discussing the draft version of its “**Selected Annotated Bibliography on Grey Literature in Sciences.**” This bibliography, now being prepared, would be adapted to produce a handout for the joint program in Toronto. The committee wants to work it up to publishing standards and explore that possibility. To this effect, it was decided to: 1) add an introductory paragraph to address issues such as audience, scope, coverage and selection criteria; 2) conduct an up-to-date search to include items in European languages other than English or French as well as publications from alternative presses. It was agreed that a chronological arrangement would be most useful.

In the little time left, the committee discussed its next project, investigating subject analysis practices among science and technology libraries that catalog electronic theses and dissertations (ETD). If the Library of Congress Subject Headings are not adequate for providing the subjects, what are the alternatives?

Information supplied by Ibronke Lawal

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section---2003 Annual Meeting---Toronto, CANADA

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Friday, June 20			
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	STS Council I (*8:00 - 10:00 p.m. in program)	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Government Information Committee
		9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Continuing Education Committee
Saturday, June 21			
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	New Member Orientation	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Science/Technology Information Discussion Group
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Oberly Award Committee (closed)	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Membership and Recruitment Committee
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Organization and Planning Committee
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2003 Program Planning Committee	Monday, June 23	
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	2004 Program Planning Committee	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	STS Program: "Partners in Science: An Exploration of a Scientist-Librarian Relationship"
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Publications Committee	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Poster Session and Reception
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	STS Council II
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group		
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Discussion Group Chairs Meeting		
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Research Committee (closed)		
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	General Discussion Group		

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

2004 Conference Program Planning Committee

The committee met for the first time at Midwinter in Philadelphia. We discussed the general process and logistics of putting on the program at the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. While our discussions are still in the earliest stages, the topic that emerged as a favorite involves collaborations with teaching faculty to promote information literacy in the sciences. This fits in with ACRL's 2004 theme of partnerships and connections in the learning community. Members will brainstorm possible speakers this spring. If any readers would like to suggest possible outstanding speakers, or if you know of an exemplary faculty-librarian collaboration effort underway, please contact the committee co-chairs. The program will occupy the usual Monday 8:30--12 time slot and may be followed by a poster session and the STS reception.

Information supplied by David Flaxbart

Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology

Discussion by the Task Force centered on subject areas to cover and how to best format the Information Literacy in the Sciences final report. The inclusion of the following disciplines: chemistry, engineering (including computer science), geosciences, life sciences (including environmental sciences), and mathematics (including statistics) was agreed upon by those present. The Task Force will be reviewing regional accreditation standards and subject specific accreditation. Additionally, the members will look at the broad ACRL Information Literacy Standards and determine how applicable they are to the sciences. At the 2004 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego there will be a discussion group to go over a working draft for review by the STS membership. A web site will be created to post the STS IL document as it progresses, and a finalized report will be produced after January of 2004.

Information supplied by Catherine Woodworth Wong and Virginia Baldwin

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):

SUBSCRIBE STS-L First Name Last Name
The SUBJECT line should be left blank; if your email software does not allow leaving this line blank, try typing only a period (.) in the SUBJECT line.

Moderators: Margaret Mellinger and Jeanine Williamson

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)