From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Alison Level

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to serve on a committee for 1997-98. Since STS is a section with many active committees and discussion groups, I was able to appoint almost everyone who expressed an interest in a committee.

As we look ahead to the 1997 conference in San Francisco, the Program Planning Committee for 1998 is already hard at work. Co-Chairs Lois Pausch and Linda Phillips, along with their committee members, are planning a program that will incorporate the ACRL President's theme, "Facing the Millennium: Values for the Electronic Information Age".

This is an exciting time to be active in STS as the section continues to promote and support the ACRL Strategic Plan. I hope that your participation in the section contributes to your professional development and I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

Allison Level
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1997 STS Officer Candidates

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
  Gail Clements
  Billie Reinhart
Secretary
  Elizabeth Brown
  Mike Haddock

College Science Librarians Discussion Group

The discussion topic for the Annual Meeting will be "Full-text, To Own Or Access?" We will discuss the various electronic fulltext scientific journals to which science libraries are subscribing. Panel members will talk about pricing, owning vs. remote access, archival issues, cataloging, and teaching users how to access fulltext journals. Are library patrons more likely to use the online version of a journal? How are various libraries dealing with the printing costs incurred by users wanting paper copy of electronic journals? Will users stop coming to the "physical library" if journals can be accessed online from their offices or dorms? What will happen to the science library as we presently know it?

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section • 1997 Annual Conference • San Francisco, CA

DAY/DATE/TIME	COMMITTEE
Friday, June 27	
7:30-9:30pm	STS Council I (8:00-10:00 pm)*
9:30-10:00pm	Executive Board
Saturday, June 28	
8:30-11:00am	Comparison of Sci/Tech Libraries Committee
9:30-11:00	Publisher/Vendor Discussion Group with CODES
9:30-12:30	1997 Program Planning Committee
9:30-12:30	Continuing Education Committee
11:30-12:30	Membership Committee
11:30-12:30	Oberly Award Committee (Closed Meeting)
11:30-12:30	Publications Committee
2:00-4:15pm	Organization & Planning Committee
2:00-4:15pm	Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee
Sunday, June 29	
8:30-11:00am	Nominating Committee (Closed Meeting)
8:30-11:00	Legislation Committee
8:30-12:30	1998 Program Planning Committee
9:30-11:00	Sci/Tech Databases Discussion Group
2:00-4:00pm	Forum for Sci/Tech Research
6:00-8:00pm	RECEPTION Maritime Museum
8:00-10:00pm	Heads of Sci/Tech Libraries Discussion Group
Monday, June 30	
8:30-11:00am	PROGRAM
2:00-4:00pm	Forum wrap-up meeting
7:30-9:30pm	Council II (8:00-10:00 pm)*

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

General Discussion Group, continued

Mel DeSarts's presentation, entitled "Uncovering the Ties Between Document Delivery and Collection Development", discussed a bold initiative by the KU Library to replace part of the serial collection with CARL's document delivery service. Both the process of cutting serials and replacing them with a document delivery service and the consequences for both the collection and the users were illustrated succinctly with excellent data that was gathered and analyzed by the project's managers. While the project's data and conclusions are of wide general interest, they also have a great deal of significance for sci/tech collection development. For example, two thirds of the articles ordered through CARL's service were from science and technology journals. Also, for roughly eighty percent of the sci/tech journals defined as high use (they had five or more articles requested from them), it was still more cost effective to supply them from CARL since it would have cost the KU Library almost four times as much to subscribe to those journal titles as it cost to pay the document delivery fees. In the near future, more detailed information about the presentation will be available from the STS home page. Anyone wishing to ask specific questions may contact Mel DeSart by phone: (913) 864-3854 or email:desart@ukanvm.cc.ukans.edu.

Julia Gelfand spoke about "Priorities and Trends in Sci/Tech Collection Development", discussing a wide range of crosscutting trends that are changing the nature and functions of collection development within the academic library. Two of the trends mentioned were the expanding role being played by document delivery services, book jobbers, and serial agents whose expertise and rapid service threaten the traditional roles of collection development and acquisitions; and the changing nature of academic research as effected in the declining size of doctoral dissertations whose over all length and number of footnotes have shrunk by forty percent in the past eight years. She engaged in a dialogue with the attendees which illuminated many of the consequences of the challenges she outlined. A fuller description of her discussion will also be available from the STS home page.

Information supplied by Pat Chris

Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion Group

The discussion group had its largest attendance ever for a lively discussion of the pros and cons of moving to World Wide Web based publications, databases and products. As those in attendance consisted of both vendors and academic librarians this forum provided a means for librarians to present problems, success stories and make suggestions for ways to improve products to vendors and get their response and point of view. Some of the specific issues discussed at this session included:

1. There is often a lack of advanced warning of changes in electronic products for public service librarians which does not allow them to become familiar with the changes before having to help users with them. New product and change announcement literature often only is sent to the library acquisitions units that deal with subscriptions but does not reach those who need it most. It was suggested that E-mail lists should be developed by the vendors and publishers of public service librarians to receive change and new product feature announcements.

2. Internet product response times can slow down to unusable levels due to vendor server overload, regional or campus network traffic overload, or other traffic demand problems. One person called this the "World Wide Wait". As a solution some vendors offer the option to establish dedicated lines to their services. The use of Java based interfaces sending compressed pages was another solution offered.

3. Some library users and librarians are reporting frustration with free trial period services. Apparently many users miss the notification that they are using a time-limited trial service and then suddenly miss it when no longer available, especially very short or very long duration trial periods. One suggestion was to only allow librarians access to trials to evaluate products and only make them available to users as subscribed products that will not go away.

4. The issue of how long term archival access will be provided and when are Internet based electronic products reliable enough to cancel print copies was discussed. Many smaller academic libraries can not afford both print and electronic versions of materials so are still only getting print. The larger libraries and consortia that can afford both print and electronic versions are acquiring both for an average of 125%

Both Allen and Klingler listed several advantages to consortial database use. A consortium has greater negotiating power with vendors which allows the consortium to acquire databases for a lower price. Resource sharing also lowers the price. By loading a database on one site the cost of maintaining the database on other sites is avoided. Sharing the costs often brings down the cost to each library. This savings can be reallocated to purchase other databases that would not have otherwise been available.

Some disadvantages were mentioned as well. It takes longer to make decisions in a consortium. The slowest member determines how fast a decision can be made. It is often difficult to work well together. Each library will have different needs and priorities. One library may find a database indispensable while another may find the same database undesirable. Concern was also expressed over the loss of local control.

CIC and OhioLink have made great strides and the pros seem to have outweighed the cons for these consortia. They did suggest things that need to happen to make a consortium work. The participants need to be clearly defined. Some important decisions include which formats will be available, how contracts will be renewed or terminated, and how the money is to be handled. It may be helpful to involve lawyers in the negotiation process. Learn exactly what is being purchased and how much it is costing, and don't sign anything based on what is being developed.

Information supplied by William Baer

Committee on the Comparison of Science & Technology Libraries

The committee reviewed the results of the presurvey distributed at the Heads of Science Libraries and General Discussions Groups last Annual, seeking input on what information they would like to see included on the next (5th) survey. No substantial changes in content were suggested. Midwinter discussion centered on the format and content of the fifth survey, and a time line for its' formulation and distribution. The questions are under review, to be finalized at the upcoming annual, with distribution of the survey to ARL Science and Technology libraries targeted for the beginning of the 1997-98 academic year. Means of accelerating distribution of survey results were considered,

The committee also discussed ideas for reorganizing. The committee is currently understaffed for its normal activities. It was felt that changing the name of the committee to better reflect its work and choosing a more convenient meeting time for its meeting would attract more members.

Information supplied by Richard Llewellyn

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The committee reviewed using the Continuing Education Committee mentoring program as a way to retain members.

Publications Committee

Liz Brown updated the committee on *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)*. An ISSN number has been assigned and a good cataloging record has been created. Articles have been lined up for the next issue. Efforts are being made to have it indexed by Wilson's *Library Lit*. The editorial board needs to determine terms for both themselves and the editor.

David Atkins and Janet Hughes reported on the STS Web Page. They will feature candidates for STS officers for the upcoming election in the next few months. The committee decided that *ISTL* should feature reviews rather than the STS Web Page. STS Committee Chairs will be asked to review their respective sections on the page. A call will go out to the membership via STS-L to suggest appropriate links (URL, descriptive information, etc.) to web pages of interest to the membership for the STS Web Page. David will make some style changes to the page for the committee to review at the Annual meeting.

Marty Courtois and Terry Wittig led a discussion on archiving messages on STS-L. They will poll the membership about this and the need for a USENET newsgroup and report on their findings at the Annual meeting.

Gayle Baker reported that ACRL is still supporting a print

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