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From the Chair, Barbara MacAlpine

Thinking back to the Annual Conference in Washington D.C. this summer, I'm still delighted with how everything came together so nicely. The programs were substantial and thought provoking, people flocked in from all over the country and the weather really cooperated. Congratulations to STS Chair Catherine Soehner and her program planning committee for putting together such a timely presentation on digital repositories of non-textual information. The poster session following the program, coordinated by the Research Committee, was a beehive of activity as members munched delicious snacks and queried the poster presenters. Links to the program presentations and the posters are available from the STS Web site (<http://www.ala.org/sts>).

In Washington we were able to continue o eringe()-12()-on)JJETEMC /Span AMCI1D 9 BDC BT/T1_0 1 Tf11 0 0 11 36.53319

**From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Virginia
(Ginny) Baldwin**

Thank you for the opportunity to embark on the next three years as one of our organization's leaders. I enjoyed meeting many of you at Midwinter and look forward to working with you in the months ahead. My term as Chair begins on July 1, 2008 and I welcome your ideas and input. Feel free to emaot()-116lD 91 7s1 7s1 7s1 (n)-77s1 7s1 p7s1 (h)-77sop tom towitthon z 051(thez 05)TJETez 05u in

Duda, editor of the ISTL, reported the ISTL mailing list currently has 4,324 members from around the world. The most popular articles are webliographies. Andrea and Yelena submitted talking points on a blog. The purpose of a blog in addition to STS-L is unclear, and recruiting fresh content is an issue. Paul St-Pierre, STS Web Editor, reported on the STS web site. Conference materials for Annual 07 and the STS Annual report 2006-07 are posted. The STS site is scheduled to migrate to Serena Collage. An Assessment Committee page is in progress, and the SBASM committee site was migrated to the STS site. Paul created web site documentation and added it to the STS Manual area. The STS site needs to be totally revamped and perhaps managed by a team. The STS Council will identify individuals to work on this effort with John Meier.

The committee worked on an ACRL Action Plan for a science librarian recruiting video. Representatives of the STS Assessment committee joined us and contributed valuable assessment suggestions for the project.

S L a E

Membership and Recruitment Committee

The first topic of discussion at the Membership and Recruitment Committee meeting was the announcements from STS Council I. We also talked about the STS New Members Orientation, which went well, with about 40 attendees (9 of them new members). It was suggested that for next year, smaller tables be used to encourage easier mingling. Another suggestion was to implement some way to better identify new members. Finally, it was suggested that we send personalized invitations to new members.

Peter Larsen gave an STS Membership update. It was asked whether we could obtain data on how many STS members attended the Annual conference. Kimberly Chapman reported that the ACRL-STS brochures have arrived. She went on to report that she has spoken to STS liaisons and asked them to distribute the brochures to the various other organizations. Joe Murphy expressed a willingness to take over keeping track of the Science and Technology Reference courses offered by the different library science programs. The possibility of another

Continuing Education Committee

The 10² Members Breakfast and discussion at Midwinter in Washington, D.C. was a big success. Fifty-two completed surveys were received. All 52 respondents agreed that the event should be held again in 2008! Forty-eight of the 52 agreed that the discussion after breakfast was worthwhile. The Committee will be seeking your input on topic discussions for next year.

The Continuing Education Committee is working on identifying the final wording of questions for the 2007 biennial survey. The survey is being drafted in collaboration with the SLA Sci-Tech division, the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division and the ACS Chemical Information section. The survey will be distributed electronically in fall 2007 using Survey Monkey. Response to the survey has been declining, a trend the Committee hopes to reverse this year!

The Mentoring program now has 34 volunteers who are willing to serve as mentors. Participation by new Section members has fallen short. The Committee hopes that increasing awareness of the program will boost participation. If you know of a new member or if you are a new member who might be interested in a mentor contact any member of the Committee. The roster with e-mail addresses can be found on the STS home page.

**Report from PATLIB
(Patent Information Conference)
May 2007, SEVILLE SPAIN**

Attending the PATLIB conference of patent and trademark librarians from all over Europe was an amazing experience. The conference was hosted by the Spanish Patent Office in Seville, located in southern Spain. This annual conference is organized by the European Patent Office (EPO) in Vienna, and those who arranged my trip spoke both English and German. All of the presentation slides were in English while the speakers spoke a variety of European languages. Each presentation was translated into English, French, German and Spanish. It was amazing just to watch the translators as they sat in booths and clued us in on what was being said through our ear pieces. Next year should be another translator recruitment feat as the conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland.

As is the PATLIB conference custom, after welcoming and keynote addresses, the first day's session, "Focus on Spain," consisted of presentations from representatives of various entities that are in the host country, Spain. The keynote speaker, Gérard Giroud, Principal Director, EPO got our attention by quoting research that exposes the extraordinary amount of funds that go toward technological development for which there are already patents, a plug for the work we do as patent librarians in assisting with patent searches for prior art.

Other sessions at the conference covered "The Innovation Process", "Business Oriented Services", "Tools & Skills", "Networking", and "Financing." One of the most interesting concepts presented was the determination of patent quality, based on factors such as the number of citations, internationality of scope and technological scope. In keeping with the trend in recent library conferences, a presentation, "Patent Information Centres in the Age of Web 2.0," explored the attributes of today's patron and promoted the use of Web 2.0 applications.

In addition to the learning experience of attending the PATLIB conference I represented the United States Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program with a presentation entitled "Perspectives from the USA." The topic was coordinated with members of the European Patent Office and is posted at: [http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/3B3C2B862B6FEBD1C12572E6004B2CCF/\\$File/baldwin_nal.pdf](http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/3B3C2B862B6FEBD1C12572E6004B2CCF/$File/baldwin_nal.pdf).

In preparing for my presentation I learned that faculty researchers who obtain patents in most European

Countries retain the intellectual property rights, unlike what happens in higher education institutions in the United States. As part of my presentation, I set out to gather information about "tech transfer" by meeting with officials at the UNL Office of Technology Development. They were very informative and provided what I hoped would be valuable information to include in my presentation. Specifically, my talk included a discussion of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) tech transfer-related policies and support and summarized the effect of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 on institutional ownership of patents. I gave an overview of the US Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) and the facilities and services at the University of Nebraska Patent and Trademark Depository Library in the Engineering Library. One slide displayed the Web page for the association of patent and trademark librarians (PTDLA) at www.ptdla.org. I summarized the goals in the draft planning document for the association and gave some examples of the patent statistics reports that are linked from the USPTO Web page. At the PTDLP annual 2007 seminar we were encouraged by USPTO speakers to promote the new search templates available for each USPTO patent class on their Web site at www.uspto.gov/web/patents/searchtemplates/class.htm. I gave emphasis to that aspect in our long-range planning document and hoped thereby to "win points" with the USPTO for spreading the word abroad!

In addition to the conference sessions, attendees were able to attend workshops. One of the most valuable aspects of the conference for me came out of a workshop entitled "Blue Sky Thinking: Ideas and Suggestions to Ensure your Clients Get the Most out of Their Time in Your Centre" by Maria Lampert of the UK. In her workshop, Maria presented a suggested checklist of resources to include in a patent search for "prior art." This checklist piqued my interest since it relates so closely to the USPTO search templates. When I returned from Spain I developed a similar checklist for our own resources here at UNL. Now when a patron comes in for assistance with a preliminary patent search, after getting an idea of the appropriate class for the patron's invention, I review the USPTO search template for that class and provide the patron with a copy of the checklist that indicates the suggested databases and other resources to be searched (with the usual warning that the list is not all-inclusive). The checklist I use is posted on the PTDLA Web site.

I invite you to explore the PATLIB presentations at: www.epo.org/about-us/events/archive/2007/PATLIB2007.html.

R. C. V. a Ba

SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section * 2008 Midwinter Meeting * Philadelphia

Date/Time Committee

Friday, January 11

2:00 - 4:00pm *ACRL Leadership Council*
 4:30 - 5:30pm *Sections Council*
 6:00-7:00pm *STS Executive Committee Dinner*
 7:30-9:30pm *STS Council I*

Saturday, January 12

9:00-10:00am *ACRL Conference Program Planning 2008*
 9:00-10:00am *ACRL Conference Program Planning 2009*
 10:30-12:30pm *All STS Committee Meetings for Continuing
 Education, Government Information, Information Literacy,
 Liaisons, Library Assessment, Membership & Recruitment, Or-
 ganization & Planning, Publications, Subject & Bibliographic
 Access, Discussion Group Chairs*
 10:30-12:30pm *Research Committee (closed)*
 1:30-3:30pm *Hot Topics Discussion Group*
 4:00-5:00pm *ACRL/SPARC Scholarly Communication
 Forum*
 4:00-6:00pm *Oberly Award Committee (closed)*

Date/Time Committee

Sunday, January 13

10:30-12:30pm *Publisher/Vendor Relations Discussion
 Group*
 1:30-3:30pm *2008 Program Planning Committee*
 1:30-3:30pm *2009 Program Planning Committee*
 1:30-3:30pm *Nominations 2009 (closed)*
 4:00-5:30pm *ACRL Scholarly Communication
 Discussion Group*
 6:00pm - *STS Dinner - off-site*

Monday, January 14

8:00-10:00am *STS Council II*
 10:00-11:00am *Executive Council Wrap Up*

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some times are tentative as of press time. Check the ALA conference web site for confirmed times and locations.

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Ca e G has been appointed Assistant



