Newsletter August 2011

IFLA

Science and Technology Libraries Section

The Challenges and Changing Roles of the Science and Technology Libraries
by Janet Webster

Last August in Sweden, the STL Standing Committee discussed our work and how we were adapting to change. The dynamic information landscape poses unique and interesting challenges for science and technology librarians. We juggle budgets to provide access to more and different formats of resources. We work to meet clients' information needs, expectations and behaviors that are changing constantly. We react to the new and intriguing opportunities that present themselves to us such as data curation and digital repositories. We engage with communities beyond our immediate sphere of operation. Throughout all, we should demonstrate our value to our organization through strong community integration and appropriate assessment. The committee decided to address this topic of challenge and change at this year's conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We encouraged those submitting proposals for the session to consider these questions:

- What approaches and/or strategies have been successful and are transferable to librarians throughout the world?
- What resources exist that provide tools and methods to adapt to our new roles?
- How are we being proactive rather than reactive?
- How are new librarians being prepared to accept the challenge we face in this dynamic landscape?

Out of the twenty or so proposals submitted, our review committee selected six. We will be hearing these on Monday August 15th at 16:00 (for those of you who be coming to the IFLA Conference):

1. Heather Todd (University of Queensland, Australia) will discuss how her library has realigned its services to better support the University's research lifecycle that includes monitoring bibliometrics, assisting with data management and providing e-publishing services. Download the paper here.
2. Richard Lamptey and Abed Corletey (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana) address the challenge of setting up an open access IRs in Ghana.
3. Shubha Nagarkar (Bioinformatics Center, University of Pune, India) will describe an intriguing portal for bioinformaticians that provides personalized reference services using Google Sites as the platform and integrating open access tools such RSS feeds, Google Gadgets, Google News, PubMed and GoogleScholar. Download the paper here.
4. Julia Velez and Liz Pagan (University of Puerto Rico) used

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http://www.ifla.org/en/sci-tech-libraries

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Google Analytics to explore how two groups of academicians used their libraries' websites. Their study revealed differences yet suggested ways to better serve the two groups by working more closely to improve services and access. Download the paper in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

5. Michael Fosmire (Purdue University, USA) suggests that engineering librarians have an opportunity to work with students throughout their education careers due to changing curriculum. He focuses on the information resources and processes needed by engineers for design projects and describes integrate them into the learning process. [Download the paper here](#).

6. Kimberly Parker (HINARI, WHO Switzerland), Steve Glover (The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom), Carla Heister (Yale University Library, USA and Lenny Rhine (Librarians Without Borders®, Medical Library Association, USA) combine forces to describe how science and technology librarians in higher income countries are learning to focus on the information literacy needs of the international students and scientists who pass through their institutions. They suggest that emphasis should be put on making sure those users will be able to make the best use of information resources in their countries when they return to study, tech and work. [Download the paper here](#).

Other relevant conference events for the STL section include our standing committee meetings and the Special Interest Group on Agricultural Libraries session titled "Information systems for indigenous knowledge in agriculture." At our committee meetings, we will be discussing how to make progress on the strategic plan we drafted last year, electing new officers and deciding on a conference session topic for next year. If you have suggestions, please send them to me at [janet.webster@oregonstate.edu.](mailto:janet.webster@oregonstate.edu)

It has been a challenging pleasure to serve as the chair of the STL Standing Committee for the past two years. After the 2011 conference, I will turn those duties over to the next chair. I hope to continue to work on some of our projects in the future.

Conference Dates
IFLA World Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico August 13-18 2011

- Saturday August 13, 9:15-11:45 STL Committee Meeting
- Sunday August 14, 13:45-15:45 Agricultural SIG Session - *Information systems for indigenous knowledge in agriculture*
- Monday August 15, 16:00-18:00 STL Session - *The challenges and changing roles of the Science and Technology Libraries*
- Wednesday August 17, 9:45-11:45 STL Committee Meeting