



Science and Technologies Libraries Section 2009-2010 Annual Report

Scope

The Science and Technology Section supports science and technology librarians, and by so doing, the users of their libraries. The section tracks and responds to current challenges relevant to librarians working with the physical sciences, engineering and technology. Activities include monitoring the dynamic environment in the field, promoting discussions, as well as exploring and sharing best practices among members who serve in research, public, corporate and government libraries. Working with colleagues in developing nations is a high priority.

Our overarching mission is to support and promote science and technology librarianship in a global framework.

Membership (2010)

The Committee has 13 committee members and no corresponding members. In June 2010, there were 95 members of the Section.

Officers

Janet Webster, Chair
Oregon State University
United States

James E. Andrews, Secretary
School of Library & Information
Science, University of South Florida
United States

Maxine Schmidt, Information Coordinator
University of Massachusetts,
United States

Standing Committee Members

	2003-2007	2005-2009	2007-2011	2009-2013
Josée Saint-Marseille Canada	1 st term		2 nd term	
Deva E. Reddy United States			1 st term	
Marcel Brannemann Germany			1 st term	
Christine Stotzenbach France			1 st term	

Caroline Wiegandt France			1 st term	
Sriyani Ileperuma Sri Lanka			1 st term	
Xiwen Liu China		1 st term		2 nd term
Ajay Pratapsingh India				1 st term
Eva Tolonen Finland				1 st term
James L. Mullins United States				1 st term
Janet Webster United States			1 st term	
James Anderson United States			1 st term	
Maxine Schmidt United States				1 st term

2009 Conference – Milan

The Committee held two meetings. The first was attended by nine committee members and two visitors, and the second by ten members and one observer. The election of new officers was held with Janet Webster being elected chair on the second round of balloting and James Anderson as secretary. Eva Tolonen agreed to serve as treasurer and Maxine Schimdt as the information coordinator.

The Section's open session (<http://www.ifla.org/en/sci-tech-libraries>) addressed the theme *Open access to science and technology research worldwide: strategies and best practices* and was a success. The session was attended with over 150 delegates. James Andrews ably monitored the session. Jill Mayer was successful in securing a travel grant for the Tunisian speaker. Dr. Poschl's paper was submitted and accepted for the *IFLA Quarterly*.

The Section co-sponsored an open session organized by Geography & Map Libraries Section on *Cultural Heritage Preserved: The Role of Digital Map*. The session by Agricultural Libraries Special Interest Group (<http://www.ifla.org/en/agricultural-libraries>) on the theme *worldwide trends in open access to agricultural information* attended by about 100 participants that included the president and secretary of IAALD (International association of Agricultural Information Specialists).

Irma Pasanen, the past Section chair, organized a well attended study tour of the "Museo

Nazionale Della Scienza e Della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci")
<http://www.museoscienza.org/>).

We submitted a statement encouraging the IFLA Professional Committee to respond to the EU's Green Paper statement on copyright.

2010 Conference – Gothenburg

The Committee held two meetings. The first was attended by eight committee members (including one via Skype) and two observers. The second had seven members and three observers. We have a fund balance of 360 Euros. Items discussed included the 2011 conference planning, strategic planning, communication with section members and web site development.

The Section held an open session on the final day and final time slot of the conference. Given the time, we had good attendance for an excellent program on measuring the impact of open access. Sergey Parinov (Russian Academy of Sciences) described his project, Socionet, that is aimed to be a better tool for sharing publications and assessing their impact. His efforts to provide more transparency in how science is communicated and funded are impressive. Andreas Strotmann (University of Alberta, Canada) illustrated the differences in the intellectual structure of open access and traditional research publications using the field of stem cell research. The patterns are subtle but real. The open access arena tends to less technology and more science while the traditional is more biotechnical and applied. His research approach could be used in other fields and provides fodder for the argument that open access adds breadth and balance to fields of research. Angela Repanovici (Transilvanie University, Romania) used the freely available software, Publish or Perish to assess the productivity of faculty members at her institution. She showed that those who were perceived as most productive by the administration using traditional measure were not the best at sharing their research through publishing and were not as influential as many perceived as less important in the faculty hierarchy. Karin Henning (Gothenburg University), a member of the newly formed Digital Services unit, presented the unit's work on measuring use and impact of doctoral theses. They suggest that download data and citation information make a stronger case for usage. They also remarked that publicity is a key factor in usage; the best doctoral theses are selected and promoted, and this marketing shows in the usage. Visibility is important! Finally, Jill Lagerstrom ((Space Telescope Science Institute, USA) related the impact of open data to proprietary data using the Hubble Space Telescope data as an example. Her study was straight forward and showed that astronomy provides a model for other disciplines considering open data.

The Section's SIG, the Agriculture Libraries Interest Group hosted a session on Current trends in agricultural information services for farmers.

2010 Satellite Conference – Chania

Anthi Katsirikou hosted the satellite workshop that was sponsored by the STL Section and Biosciences and Medical Libraries Section. There were 65 participants

from 16 countries. The attendees drafted a statement regarding copyright and open access that they hope will be shared with IFLA, and the Division Chair said he would assist. We felt it was successful and allowed people unable to attend the IFLA Conference an opportunity to participate.

Other Activities

A new format for communicating with members was trialed by the STL Secretary. This entails using a popular mail program called MailChimp. However, it is not compatible with IFLA's IT system or policies. So, we will need to also provide the short newsletter via pdf.

After intense discussion at the Annual Conference, the Chair refined our strategic plan and submitted that to the Division Chair. We decided on three strategic directions.

- Promote open access to scientific and technological information
- Support science and technology libraries globally so they can serve their users successfully.
- Encourage science and technology libraries to respond to the changing information environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Webster
STL Section chair