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Science-Technology Division

Darra Ballance

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Science-Technology Division

Darra Ballance, Chair



The objectives of the Science-Technology Division shall be to draw together those members of the Special Libraries Association having an interest in the role of library and information science as applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all areas of science and technology, and to promote and improve the communication, dissemination and use of such knowledge for the benefit of libraries and their users.

Yes, it's still me, although I changed my name and have two new email addresses (how confusing—but don't worry, even the old one still works). I did the Las Vegas wedding thing on Valentine's Day. Men keep congratulating my husband on finding a clever way to never forget our anniversary, as well as a way of combining two occasions into one. Hmm—should I make him take me out for lunch AND dinner that day? Do I get flowers at breakfast and chocolates at night? I was born a week before Christmas, so I already get the "this gift is for your birthday AND Christmas" treatment a lot. Whoops, guess I'm in for more of the same.

After what I can only describe euphemistically as a rough year at work, it's nice to be able to look forward to the SLA Annual Conference in Toronto. I really enjoy meeting our Sci-Tech Division members, so please come up and introduce yourself if you see me. I promise not to immediately try to recruit you as a committee chair (I'll leave that to our incoming chair, Mary Frances Lembo. Just kidding, Mary Frances!). I'm sure you've seen the information about the program on the Sci-Tech web site, but there is also a complete schedule of events in this issue of Sci-Tech News. Thanks to our planner Ann Koopman for pulling together a great program this year.

Sci-Tech members had their first opportunity this year to conduct our voting for new officers electronically. In past years we had been able to email the ballots, but then had to print them out and snail mail them to our Teller. This year our Secretary Joe Kraus devised a web-based form that served as the ballot. Voter numbers were good, but I hope they will increase over time. It's really important that our members cast their ballots! Congratulations to Ann Koopman, who won Chair-Elect, and Catherine Lavalley-Welch, who was elected as Secretary.

In 2006 our election will be conducted somewhat later in the year, due to changes in the governance year that have been mandated by SLA. Our current officers will serve longer terms (by six months) so that terms of office will end with the calendar year, rather than in June. Details about the next election will be publicized after our Annual Meeting.

Also, our 2006 Program Planner, Janet Hughes, is hard at work on our program for the Baltimore conference. Members from that area will be needed to help with local arrangements, so if you can help out, please get in touch with Janet. I'm sure she will be most appreciative. We are planning to have a continuing education course at the 2006 conference, so suggestions or offers for help with that would be welcome as well. Our course will be specifically geared to the Sci-Tech audience, so as not to conflict with courses offered by SLA's professional development section.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Chair this year. I'm confident that our incoming officers will do a great job. Please join us, and the rest of our board members, at our Sci-Tech Annual Business Meeting on Monday June 6th in Toronto. See you there! ❖

Darra Ballance
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Chair, Sci-Tech Division

Toronto Treats for Sci-Tech

June is a beautiful time of year in Toronto, and Sci-Tech members will get to enjoy some special Canadian treats in their conference schedules. Alaine Haché, PhD, will bring some hockey talk to enthusiasts currently deprived of that sport. The Steam Whistle Brewery is the site of our All Sciences & Engineering Reception this year, so be sure to sign up for a tour and taste of this excellent microbrew. And both an open house and our tour this year feature Toronto luminaries in science fiction – both authors and the noted Merrill Collection. Be sure to fill out your evaluation forms so Baltimore's meeting can address your interests. Better yet – volunteer to help with the programming. Planner Janet Hughes would love to hear from you (janethughes@psu.edu).

Sunday

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Get started early with the Academic Science Librarians' Roundtable, once again shared with Chemistry, Biomedical & Life Sciences, and Sci-Tech. Ticket #200, \$10 covers a continental breakfast.

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Sci-Tech Newcomer's Brunch. More food! All students & newcomers to the division (as well as current members) are invited to meet division officers, learn more about the division, and begin networking. Beware of committee chairs wielding sign-up sheets! Generously sponsored by Thomson Scientific.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Vendor Update: Document Delivery for Science & Technology. Hear from CISTI, Linda Hall and the British Library about their products. Cosponsored by the Engineering Division.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Outgoing Board Meeting. All division members are welcome to attend as outgoing chair Darra Ballance presides.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Full Conference: Info-Expo Networking Reception in the Exhibit Hall.

Monday

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Sci-Tech Division Business Meeting & Breakfast. Ticket #415 for \$15. Join your colleagues to celebrate division awards, network, and catch up on the latest division activities. Corporate sponsors: British Library and Knovel.

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Full Conference: General Session #1.

Choices, choices!

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Computer Science Roundtable, cosponsored with PAM Division

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Standards Roundtable, cosponsored with Engineering Division

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Chemistry, Sci-Tech & PAM Poster Session: Better Understanding Your Users. Corporate sponsors: ACS and Dialog.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Who Owns Scientific Knowledge and Who Deserves To: Are Patents an Incentive for Innovation or an Obstacle to Further Development? An international panel of experts on innovation, intellectual property protection and bioethics will discuss the problems presented by ownership of knowledge and offer some solutions using examples from health care and other fields. Cosponsored with Biomedical & Life Sciences Division. Corporate sponsors: Dialog and IEEE.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Full Conference: Visit the Exhibit Hall

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Cooperating to Survive & Flourish in the Modern Sci-Tech Library. The contributed papers session for Sci-Tech examines cooperative purchasing, collection sharing, innovative licensing, staff exchange. Hear colleagues' creative solutions to tough economic times. Corporate sponsors: Elsevier and OpenText.

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Technology Petting Zoo: PDAs and Beyond. Join colleagues from 5 divisions for this practical session to learn about the future of small technologies and experience several gadgets and "technology toys." Is the PDA dying? What will come next? Some of the latest innovations in small computing will be showcased and demonstrated. Cosponsored with IT, Biomedical & Life Sciences, PAM, and Engineering.

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Science Fiction, the Future, and Libraries: an IT, Engineering and Sci-Tech Division Open House. Science fiction has plenty to tell us about the future of technology and libraries. Join us to hear from

three leading science fiction authors: Robert J. Sawyer, Karl Schroeder, and Robert Charles Wilson. We'll have plenty of time for Q&A, book signing, as well as refreshments & networking.

Tuesday

7:00 - 8:30 a.m. Another early start! This time it's the Annual Diversity Breakfast — Age and Diversity: Examining the Impact of Age on the Information Profession. Cosponsored by IT, Sci-Tech, the European Chapter, and the Diversity Leadership Development Committee.

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Full Conference: General Session #2.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Science of Hockey. Join Alaine Haché, PhD, noted Canadian physicist and author of *The Physics of Hockey*, for an entertaining yet substantive look at the science behind the world's fastest sport. Corporate sponsor: CAS.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Open Access: Evaluating Quality and Participation. OK, we've gotten with the program and we know what Open Access (OA) is. Let's take the next step. How do OA journals perform with citation analysis? How does self-archiving affect readership? How do publishers determine their business models? What are the most effective ways to engage faculty attention and participation in OA publishing? Cosponsored with PAM, Biomedical & Life Sciences, Chemistry and Engineering.

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Full Conference: Visit the Exhibit Hall

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. All Sciences & Engineering Reception at the SteamWhistle Brewery. Ticket #610 for \$15 covers hors d'oeuvres, the local brew, and a tour of the popular brewery within easy walking distance of the Convention Center. Cosponsored by Chemistry and Engineering. Corporate sponsor: Elsevier.

Wednesday

7:00 - 8:30 a.m. Sci-Tech Incoming Board. All division members are welcome to observe their incoming officers struggle with yet another early morning encounter. It should be highly entertaining. Corporate sponsor: ACS.

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. General Session, Gary Hamel.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Science & Engineering Resources 101: Focus on Technical Reports, Patents, Standards and Codes. Our own Mary Frances Lembo and James Manasco will discuss how these documents fit into the life of an engineer or scientist, and introduce the best resources to discover, obtain and work with these types of material. Cosponsored with the Engineering Division. Corporate sponsors: Dialog and IEEE

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Self-Archiving, Information Repositories, and Knowledge Management: What Can Corporate and Academic Libraries Learn from Each Other? A panel of librarians from various institutions presents what different libraries can learn from each other about internal information management. Cosponsored with the Engineering Division.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Winner's Circle of Best Science Web Sites. Members of SLA's science-related divisions will highlight the best new, recently revised and "must see" Web sites in their respective subject areas. Cosponsored with Biomedical & Life Sciences, Chemistry, and ERM. Corporate sponsor: CrossRef

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sci-Tech & Engineering Happy Hour. It's been a LONG conference! Unwind with your friends at a local establishment — Dutch treat.

Thursday

Yes, we have a tour! And it's FREE, but you have to sign up in advance.

10:00 a.m. - noon. Tour of the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation, and Fantasy. Join us for a tour of this special collection at the Linda H. Smith Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Staff of the facility will provide a tour, show some of the collection's more remarkable treasures, and discuss the development of the collection. Stay after the presentation for an informal walking tour of bookstores in Toronto. Transportation is on your own. **This tour is free, but preregistration is required — email Stacey Greenwell at stacey@uky.edu by May 1, 2005.**

The Science and Technology Division Welcomes These New Members

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Continuing Education Survey Results

Message from the ALA/ACRL/STS Co-Liaisons Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin, Leila Fernandez

The Continuing Education Committee of the Science and Technology Section (STS) of the Association for College & Research Libraries (ACRL) normally conducts a survey every two years to identify the continuing education interests of its constituents. At the January 2004 ALA Midwinter meeting the Continuing Education Committee, mindful of the rapid changes taking place in its constituents' work environments, decided to conduct a "hot topics" survey in 2004 to continue the work of the 2003 survey. At the same meeting Virginia Baldwin, a member of the Special Libraries Association and the American Society for Engineering Education Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) as well as STS, proposed a collaboration of the three organizations in conducting the survey. All three associations worked together to design the survey. The analysis of the 254 responses presented here is the result of that collaboration. (from the Web site below)

The complete results of the first STS continuing education "hot topics" survey are available online:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stscommittees/stscontinuingeducation.htm>

The survey represents a collaborative effort between ELD, ACRL Science and Technology Section and the SLA Science-Technology Division. The results will be valuable to members for future conference planning and for research.

Data collection took place during October and November 2004. The survey was publicized through the listservs of the three organizations. In order to gather a wide range of responses, colleagues were asked to fill out the survey and to submit it to others and to other appropriate listservs.

Twenty-one pre-selected topics were offered and respondents were asked to rank the topics by level of interest on a five-point "likert-like" scale from "not interested" to "very interested." Next, open-ended questions asked respondents to volunteer their three topics of greatest interest. Finally, membership information and conference attendance plans were solicited. Sixty-four percent of Science-Technology Division respondents indicated they plan to attend the 2005 SLA Annual Conference.

The Likert-like scale results were analyzed overall and by attendance plans for ALA, ACRL, ASEE, and SLA conferences. The analysis of the 254 responses, available through the STS Continuing Education page at the URL above, is the result, and includes 91 Science-Technology Division members. Chart 1 summarizes the membership affiliation of respondents.

3. Tell Us About Yourself

1. Check any that apply. I am a member of:





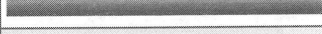

		Response Percent	Response Total
ALA		58.4%	142
ACRL		48.6%	118
ASEE Engineering Libraries Division		26.3%	64
SLA Scitech Division		37.4%	91
STS		41.6%	101
Other (please indicate):		39.1%	95
Total Respondents			243
(skipped this question)			11

Chart 1

The results for the pre-selected topics were analyzed overall and by conference attendance plans for ALA, ACRL, ASEE and SLA conferences. Among those respondents who indicated they planned to attend the SLA conference, the topics that received a median score of 3 or more on the "likert-like" scale were:

1. Open access journals in the sciences
2. Collaborating with faculty on research or teaching
3. Development of a digital institutional repository
4. Federated searching
5. Finding free, high-quality online data
6. Invisible web
7. Marketing and outreach
8. Science blogs, listservs, & other ways of keeping current
9. Usage statistics for collection development
10. Current awareness services for faculty
11. Efforts to establish a national science library
12. Disappearance of data from government web sites
13. Assessment and user surveys
14. Citation analysis

Respondents were asked to name the three most important topics. Open access journals, collaboration with faculty, and marketing and outreach were the three topics of greatest interest overall. Chart 2 summarizes the top overall responses. The numbers next to the topics are the question numbers on the survey. More detail is available on the survey web site given above.

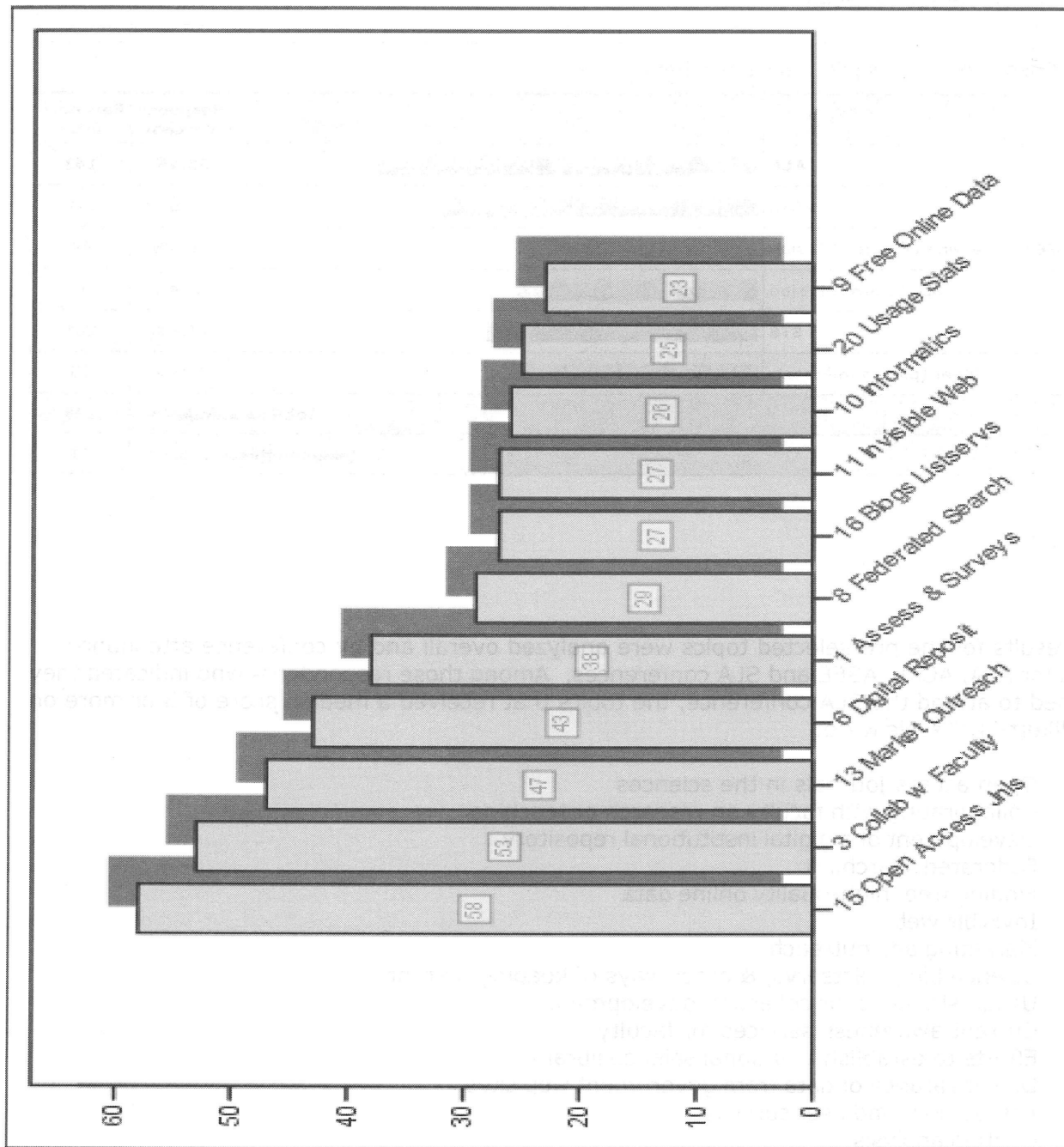


Chart 2

