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The Work and Goals of the STS Task Force on Information Literacy for Science and Technology

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The Work and Goals of the STS Task Force on Information Literacy for Science & Technology

Virginia Baldwin

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ALA Annual June 28, 2004

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Early History

- Task Force formed in January 2002
- Task Force Charge
 - Standards, PI's and Outcomes
 - Based on ACRL ILC standards
 - Relate to Science & Technology disciplines
 - Determine organization
 - Collaborative input
 - Report and solicit STS member input

Related Web Sites

- ACRL IL Standards: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/standards.pdf>
- ACRL Strategic Directions: 1.0 Society recognizes the contributions that academic and research libraries and librarians make in higher education, scholarly communication, and civic development.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/strategicplan.htm>
- The work of the STS Task Force on Information Literacy supports goals 1.4-1.5 in its efforts to redefine information literacy in the context of science and engineering information, teaching and learning. The Task Force members have developed a web site delineating standards for science and technology information literacy.
- More information and the standards will be presented at the Poster Session immediately following

Task Force Members

- Virginia Baldwin, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Engineering, Physics, and Astronomy Librarian, Task Force Chair
- C.J (Catherine Woodworth) Wong, Yale University, Science Librarian, *Responded to announcement in Spring 2002 Issue of STS Signal*
- Sheila Young, Arizona State University, Science Reference Librarian/Engineering, on ARL Learning Outcomes Workgroup, *Responded to information posted by Tom Volkening to the ELD list about the possibility of STS-ELD collaboration on information literacy*
- Ibiwonke Lawal, VCU, Engineering and Science Librarian, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Mathematics – *Invited initial TF member*
- Daureen Neddill, University of Utah, Science Librarian, *New Member from 2004 ALA Midwinter Task Force meeting*
- Barbara McAlpine, Trinity University, Science Librarian, *New Member from 2004 ALA Midwinter Task Force meeting*

Task Force Former Members

- Sherry Durren, Georgia Perimeter College, Information Literacy Librarian, *Responded to announcement in Spring 2002 Issue of STS Signal*
 - Jennifer Laherty, California State University at Hayward, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Geology, Health Sciences, and Nursing – *Invited initial T F member*
 - Elizabeth I. Hanson, Indiana University, Life Sciences, *Responded to announcement in Spring 2002 Issue of STS Signal*
- ### Highlights of the Process

- 2002: recruitment of TF members, *STS-Signal*, began bibliography and literature review
- 2002: Development of thematic issue of *Science & Technology Libraries (Information and the Professional Scientist and Engineer)*: for a look at information literacy requirements of the practicing scientist and engineer
- Meeting at ALA Midwinter 2003
 - Document review assignments
 - Decision: Limit TF to 7 members
 - Decision: Subject area coverage: Physics, Engineering, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geosciences, and Life Sciences
- Established TF Web site and bibliography of resources

Highlights of the Process con't

- 2003 February & March Yahoo Chat Sessions
 - Reported on documents for disciplinary standards
 - Discussed applicability of statements in the regional accreditation standards
 - Decided to review the documents again for references to critical thinking skills and ethical issues
- Eastern Illinois University Booth Library model
 - Combined ACRL standards 4 and 5 into standard 4 and created a new standard
 - The information literate student understands that information literacy is an ongoing process and one component of lifelong learning. Booth Library
 - The information literate student recognizes the need to keep current regarding new developments in his or her field and understands that ... STS Task Force

Highlights of the Process con't

- Reporting
 - STS Council
 - *STS Signal*
 - ASEE/ELD liaison reports
 - SLA/Sci-Tech Division Board meetings
 - Task Force Web site – drafted standards, key to the references, quotes from the references

Highlights of the Process con't

■ALA Midwinter 2004 – Action items

- Review of the five drafted standards for clarity, completeness, accuracy, references
- Review distributed monographs
- Complete outcomes for standard 5
- Task Force report to *STS Signal*
- Develop poster session
- Add email form to TF Web site for comments
- Solicit comments from listservs

Highlights of the Process con't

■Documents and Resources Cited

- Regional Accreditation Standards
- Discipline Specific documents
- National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council**
- American Chemical Society, Committee on Professional Training**
- Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Inc. (ABET)**
- Monographs
- Web site: CAL POLY: Introductory Competencies in Specific Disciplines

Draft of the Standards

■Indicate divergence with ACRL standards

- Five standards, one entirely new
- Annotate sources**
- Key to References**
- Regional Standards documents – disciplinary related, interrelatedness, work with others, ethical use of information, continued learning
- Discipline documents – professional ethics, group or team work, multi-disciplinary teams, life-long learning, effective communication, critical evaluation
- Monographs – synthesis/summary of findings, current awareness, archiving/preservation, literature of professional associations, external vs internal sources

Synopsis of the Standards

- Standard One: Identifying the need for information
- Standard Two: Procuring the information
- Standard Three: Evaluating the information, revising search strategy, obtaining more information
- Standard Four: Using the Information
- Standard Five: Lifelong learning

Listserv Responses Solicited

- STS-L
- ASEE/ELD-L
- SLA/Sci-Tech Division
- Slapam-L (Physics Math Astronomy Division)
- ALA/ACRL/IS officers and committee chairs via Keith Gresham
- IATUL via Jay Bhatt (liaison from ASEE/ELD)
- STLQ (Web site: *The Sci-Tech Library Question* ? <http://stlq.info/>) via Randy Reichardt
- ELD-ILit - ASEE/ELD/ listserv via Stephanie White (member SLA/Sci-Tech Division and ELD)

Contributions from the Listserv Inquiry

- Standard One
 - PI 2: Understands cultural differences in science based knowledge systems and in the development of knowledge.
 - PI 2: recognizes how the use and importance of archival information may vary with each discipline
 - Clarification
- Standard Two
 - PI 1: Considers experts or other researchers as potential information resources.
 - PI 2: Uses other methods of search term input such as structure searching and image searching, specific to the discipline or information retrieval system.
 - PI 2: Follows citations and cited references to obtain additional, pertinent articles.
 - PI 2: Recognizes similar features among different interfaces (such as: print, e-mail, and save options, search fields, controlled vocabulary).

Contributions from the Listserv Inquiry

cont'd

- Standard Three
 - PI 1: Understands how to read a scientific paper efficiently and can use sections, such as the abstract or conclusion to decide whether to include the source.
 - PI 2: Understands and uses statistical treatment of data as evaluative criteria.
 - Clarification
- Standard Four
 - PI 1: Demonstrates an understanding of intellectual property, copyright, and fair use of copyrighted material and research data.
 - PI 2: ... what constitutes plagiarism and does not represent work attributable to others as his/her own. This includes the work of other members of research teams.
 - PI 3: Acknowledges all contributors, funding sources, grants, etc.

Contributions from the Listserv Inquiry

cont'd

- Standard Five
 - PI 3: Transfers information access skills to new subject areas.
 - Clarification

Where Do We Go From Here?

Completion and Adoption

- Incorporate additional Input
- Listservs and organization board members
- Additional documents
- Write a background, introductory statement
- Submit a final document to *STS –Signal* and *College & Research Libraries News*
- Request adoption by STS – inclusion on the STS Web site
- Submit the standards to the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee (SAC)
– Member Paul Beavers will be our liaison – SAC agenda for 1/2005

Potential of the Standards

- Useful in research consultation and library instruction
- Adoption university-wide, discipline-wide
- Collaborative development of library instruction test banks that address specific aspects of the standards
- Collaborative assessment projects
- Project SAILS (Project for the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) at Kent State University. <http://sails.lms.kent.edu/index.php>
- STS Task Force member CJ Wong with her Biology professor husband won one of three SAILS grants – and represents the science & technology disciplines, as well as the Task Force work!