MPLA Technical Services Section Report
January 24, 2004
Submitted by Sandra Barstow, section chair

The Technical Services Section meeting was held on November 6, 2003. There were 11 members and one guest in attendance. Incoming chair Sandy Barstow accepted the section notebook from outgoing chair Carlene Aro. The newly elected Chair-Elect, Dustin Lamore from Dakota State University, Madison, SD, was unable to attend the 2003 conference.

The attendees discussed the fact that the Technical Services section had not sponsored a program during the 2003 conference. The previous chair and chair-elect had agreed on a program to be sponsored and the chair had submitted the information, but when the conference schedule came out, that program wasn't on the schedule.

The attendees brainstormed program ideas for the 2004 conference and compiled the following list:

- Is a cataloging job a dead end? Web Cataloging, a new road
- Managing electronic serials - licensing, web interface
- Subject access to e-resources
- Metadata
- Dealing with worms and viruses
- Changing to a new system
- Comparison of various systems
- How to communicate with your systems people; technical "stuff" for non-technical people
- Challenges of providing electronic journal access to small libraries
- Change is good - dealing with constant change
- Workflows in technical services - particularly in serials
- OCLC Connexion - possible BCR preconference sponsored by the Tech Services section?
- Federated search engines

There was a good discussion on whether the Technical Services section can include systems issues in our scope, since the members present all thought that our section would be an appropriate home for people concerned about dealing with IT people, searching for new integrated systems, etc.

Goals for 2004

One goal for 2004 is to investigate the discrepancy between the large number of MPLA members who select the option of being members of the Technical Services Section and the small number of these members who actually participate in section activities. Memberclicks will be used to contact the members to obtain suggestions for programs they would find interesting and to ask those who don't normally attend MPLA conferences what would make them more likely to attend.

The other issue to be resolved in 2004 is the current status of the revised section by-laws. It appears that the by-laws were revised and approved. If so, the revised by-laws need to be incorporated into the Manual of Procedure. If not, the revision will need to be approved at the next annual meeting.