1989

1989 Charleston Conference

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*Against the Grain*

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*Ambassador Book Service*

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WHEN YOU'RE HOT
YOU'RE HOT
the beat goes on . . .

revised editions of the same
work.)

Because Books in Print is now
being updated via the tapes of major
publishers, it is probable that more
out of print declarations are being
picked up than in years past.
Nevertheless, the overall number can-
not be ignored.

• As shown in the sample study done
with Books in Print, it is likely that
certain fields of publishing are greater
contributors to the "OP universe"
than others, particularly mass market
paperbacks, children's books, and
scholarly research materials, with par-
ticularly small original print runs.

• The distribution among publishers of
OP declarations, on an annual basis,
is fairly even. With thousands of pub-
lishers listed in Books in Print (in
fact close to 25,000), it only takes 3
or 4 titles per publisher (or 10 to 12
from some of the larger ones) to work
up to the large counts which are
reflected in the overall picture.

After the AAP/ALA RTSD Joint
Committee completed its well-publicized
survey of the library market (which was
presented at the ALA Annual Conference
in 1987), a subsequent program was set
up on out-of-print acquisition problems.
This meeting, held in the Summer of
1988, focused on many of the key prob-
lems. This included a desire on the part
of librarians to know of out of print dec-
larations in advance, for books that may
shortly be unavailable. The result of this
meeting was the creation of a Task Force
which currently has over 100 actively
participating volunteers. One of these
subcommittees, chaired by Kerry Kresse
(University of Wisconsin-Madison), is
starting out work to focus on the keep-
ing or collecting of statistics on the vari-
ous issues associated with out of print
books. This includes trying to pinpoint
the rate at which materials go out of
print, with the clarification by type of
material and by type of target audience.

In addition, this subcommittee will
study what statistical information is
available in the hands of book vendors,
libraries, and organizations such as R.R.
Bowker. Lastly, the subcommittee will
study the cost to libraries of ordering
materials that are found to be out of print
(i.e., staff time, data processing charges,
etc.)

The work of this group is just begin-
ning, but it is hoped that over a period of
time, the detailed picture relative to the
demographics of what is being declared
out of print will come into better focus.

Charleston Conference – 1989
-- FYI --

The Charleston Conference is listed in the Ballen Booksellers calendar incorrectly!
It will be held November 9-11 and not the dates that are listed in the Ballen calen-
dar (I'm not even going to tell you those dates so you can't get even more con-
fused!!) The dates had to be changed when we had to change hotels and it was too
late to update the Ballen calendar!! Plus ca change!

Thanks to all of you who sent in paper ideas. We got quite a few. Now comes the
job of deciding what goes where. We have made one decision. The fee for next
year will be $95. That's 3% for inflation over 4 years. Really.

Prelim program will be mailed early summer . . .