Executives' Roundtable

T Scott Plutchak  
*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Younsuk Chi  
*Elsevier, Science & Technology*

Kent Anderson  
*Publisher*

Deb Thomas  
*University of Tennessee*

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FULL-SPECTRUM STEWARDSHIP OF THE RECORD OF SCHOLARLY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Speaker: Brian E. C. Schottlaender - The Audrey Geisel University Librarian at the University of California, San Diego

Reported by: Margaret M. Kain (pkain@uab.edu) - University of Alabama at Birmingham, Mervyn H. Sterne Library

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Schottlaender began his exciting presentation by examining the scholarly record. Twenty years after this term first appeared in library literature, the original definition still applies. The corpus of scholarly publishing with perpetual access was stewarded by Libraries. Access and perpetual access changed with the development of projects by trusted third parties, such as PORTICO. Ithaca changed what types of resources would be archived by including data resources. These changes have had an impact on the definition of the scholarly record. Prior to the Ithaca development, some of the materials maintained were archived in less stable environments. Researchers recently added scholarly inquiry, such as blogs, wikis, and open notebooks to the records that should be maintained. The question becomes whose responsibility is it to steward the record and infrastructure of these resources. Schottlaender noted that librarians and trusted third parties talk to one another but not to others in the community. The dilemma is how to sell successful stewardship to Universities and the administration. He emphasized that all of the stakeholders must be engaged for this to be accomplished. Librarians should develop a more expansive view of stakeholders, the scope of the infrastructure, with more interoperation and attention paid to all areas.

The PowerPoint for this presentation can be found at: http://www.slideshare.net/CharlestonConference/full-spectrum-stewardship-of-the-scholarly-record-by-brian-e-c-schottlaender-university-of-california-san-diego

EXECUTIVES’ ROUNDTABLE

Speakers: T. Scott Plutchak - Director, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham (Moderator); Youngsuk (YS) Chi - Vice-Chairman and CEO Elsevier, Science & Technology; Kent Anderson - CEO/Publisher, The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery, Inc.

Reported by: Deb Thomas (deb-thomas@utk.edu) - University of Tennessee

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Participants discussed the changes in and challenges of scholarly publishing. For example: what are the issues in the way journals provide supplementary data? (Plutchak: The distinction between article and data can be fuzzy; it’s not impossible to have data with a supplementary article. Anderson: Publishers don’t do data well – they can’t verify data and don’t have the
bandwidth to handle it. Chi: Maybe data should be vetted in a bottom-up process by institutions or disciplines? Scholarly societies need to provide guidance.) How is scholarly publishing changing? (Chi – publication at the article level – don’t wait until x number of articles are collected. Books should be alive, and they’re dead until publication. Anderson: Blogs are alive, self-publishing is flourishing, and lack of interaction between authors and readers is anachronistic. Plutchak: Differences between books and journals are fading. Everything is a serial, and everything is a database.) What kinds of people are needed in scholarly publishing? (Chi: People with subject expertise who know technology and who can envision secondary uses for primary content. Anderson: People in all aspects of publishing – editorial and business – for whom technology is second nature. Plutchak – People who can rethink the scholarly publishing model because any publisher who depends on growth from the academic library market is in trouble.

No solutions were reached, but the discussion was lively and thought-provoking, and a real dialogue developed between panelists.

WHEN RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD: RETHINKING YOUR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Speakers: Roger Schonfeld - Research Manager, Ithaka S+R; Sue Woodson - Associate Director of Digital Collection Services, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Reported by: Beth Hoskins (bhoskins@dukeupress.edu) - Duke University Press

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This plenary session discussed two experiences in navigating the transition to electronic-only content, from the perspective of a content provider and a librarian. Schonfeld began by presenting findings from the 2009 Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey (http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/faculty-surveys-2000-2009/Faculty%20Study%202009.pdf) which questions faculty readiness to move to a fully electronic model. Schonfeld predicts that faculty will evolve more slowly than other end-users and that the librarian will assume an even more vital role in the world of electronic content for this reason. Schonfeld went on to present measures that Ithaka S+R has taken to provide content preservation options and the challenges encountered in catering to a diverse community of libraries.

Woodson presented the experience of the John Hopkins Welch Medical Library in moving towards becoming an entirely digital space. Woodson walked the audience through the history of this transition, beginning in 2000 with a user study that was conducted to better utilize the library’s space and ending with the library’s recent charge of reducing 80% of print holdings by 2012. Woodson offered insight into the many challenges and rewards experienced by the library throughout this process, including the move from providing content to providing services, changes in staffing, and the overarching question of what a library space is and how it can be most effectively utilized in the electronic world.