June 1994

1994 Charleston Conference

Editor

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able on disk. We’ve done a business plan and now have more than 1700 subscribers worldwide. Ours was probably the first electronic newsletter for librarians and predated slightly PACS-L, ACQNET, and SERIALST.

The current editorial board is: Deana Astle from Clemson, Jerry Curtis from Springer-Verlag, Janet Fisher from MIT Press, Fred Friend from University College London, Chuck Hamaker from LSU, Daniel Jones from the University of Texas Health Science Center, Jim Mouw from the University of Chicago, and Heather Steele from Blackwell’s Periodicals Division.

To subscribe to the newsletter on the Internet, send a message to LISTSERV @GIBBS.OTH.UNC.EDU saying SUBSCRIBE PRICES [Your Name]. It is also available from Blackwell’s CONNECT, Readmore’s ROSS, and EBSCO in paper. The Newsletter is indexed in Citations for Serial Literature.

ATG: Where do you come down in the access vs. ownership dichotomy? Is UNC offering document delivery as a service? If so, is the library footing the cost?

MT: Right in the middle! Last year the library canceled 24 high-priced low-use journals and will pay for article copies from them via commercial document delivery. At the same time, we are conducting a journal prioritization project in the hope of canceling low-use periodicals and adding new titles that better fit the needs of our users. We do make UnCover available for patrons to order and pay for their own articles.

ATG: What trends do you think are important in serials librarianship. What do you think the future holds?

MT: Serials librarians are an endangered species. But serials are far more complex than monographs and, I believe, require a serials specialist. However, the trend is to organize by function rather than form, so we’re seeing lots of serials departments being merged into acquisitions. The UNC Serials Department is still organized into acquisitions, binding/reading room, and holdings.

Technology offers us other options, and paper will continue to coexist as the standards shake down for electronic publications. There are, of course, the Red Sage and TULIP projects currently under development. We’re going to go through a period of turmoil, excitement, and frustration. But it still makes sense to buy what one needs.

ATG: Lots has happened in serials in the last 10 years. If you had to pick the most significant things, what would they be?

MT: Technology has changed how we work in several ways. Tasks take less time and effort. Integrated library systems allow us to automate what we do and often result in reorganization of the workplace.

Exciting technology like email changes what we do. Electronic databases and document delivery via fax machines offer new options in terms of serials acquisitions and access.

Communication in the serials industry has grown, as evidenced by NASIG.

The electronic Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues is another landmark event as the first of its kind. It originated to address a crisis but its continued growth indicates that the crisis has become a part of life.

ATG: What do you do for fun?

MT: Well, I’m an avid Duke basketball fan. I like to read books and write books, knit sweaters, travel and exercise (at 6 am!). I also share my house with two cats: Babyface (who is white and fluffy) and Brunhilde (a short hair tortoise).

Ed note: Judy and I jockeyed about which one of us would get to interview the inimitable Marcia Tuttle. I have to tell you all that Marcia is one of my mentors and she was an early developer of the Charleston Conference and many of its characteristics. She is a “wow” person. Everything she does is like Wow! Thanks to both Marcia and Judy for this wonderful interview of one of the leading lights in librarianship. — KS

The 1994 (14th) Charleston Conference

Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition: The Savage Marketplace
November 3-5, 1994, Charleston, SC

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerry Campbell, Duke University

CALL FOR IDEAS/SPEAKERS/ETC.

The 1994 Charleston Conference will deal with issues regarding acquisitions, collection development and technical services, scholarly publishing and selection of print, electronic and other materials, vening of materials, standards, and issues which impact the world of publishing, vening and acquiring and accessing materials in the library environment. Many new features were instituted at the 1993 Charleston Conference including shorter hours, simulation rooms, and lively lunches. The 1994 Charleston Conference will carry on these traditions as well as some old ones and some new ones.

If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, or would like to make sure that we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We’ll probably like it . . .

Send ideas by June 30, 1994 to: Judy Webster, Head, Acquisitions and Processing Team; University of Tennessee Library; 1015 Volunteer Blvd.; Knoxville, TN 37996-1000. Phone (615)974-4431; FAX (615)974-2708; Internet: Webster@UTKLIB.LIB.UTK.EDU