Rumors

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain
A Model For Improving Electronic Resources Decision-Making

by Peggy Johnson (Planning and Special Projects Officer, U. of Minnesota Libraries) <M-john@maroon.tc.umn.edu>

Libraries deal with a wider array of electronic information resources than ever before. Librarians make choices about gateways and remote access, local search engines and locally mounted files, magnetic tapes and CD-ROMs, networked resources and stand-alone workstations, mediated and unmediated user access, interfaces and World Wide Web hotlinks. We consider funding questions (which budgets to use and who has authority to expend how much) and policy issues. We seek to ask the right questions and to define the local frame of reference in which to ask them.

This is a brief look at how one library is addressing the issues surrounding electronic resources. The University of Minnesota Libraries' approach is one possible model and may be useful for others to the extent that it identifies issues that need consideration. Like most libraries, Minnesota began selecting CD-ROMs cautiously when these were one of the few alternatives to librarian-mediated, remote database searching. However, within a surprisingly short time, we found ourselves with an incredible array of electronic information resources; CD-ROMs are now just one of many possible electronic formats. The ad hoc decision-making that had worked originally was no longer a responsible approach. Acquisition and access decisions, many with system-wide funding implications, were being made throughout the Libraries without regard to or realization of what was happening in other Libraries units. Some problems the University of Minnesota Libraries seeks to solve are due to our large size and many service units and others are due to the complex nature of electronic resources.

The Libraries decided to step back and look at CD-ROMs and other electronic resources using two guiding principles: responsible budget management and effective service and information access for users. We realized that we needed a coherent and consistent framework in which to make decisions and the policies to guide them. We now have a standing committee, the Data Services Advisory Committee (DSAC), that brings together expertise in public services, automation, collection management, and technical services. DSAC is charged with drafting a selection policy for electronic resources, identifying other policy issues, and preparing recommendations on specific issues as they arise. Recommendations go to the Libraries Management Team for rejection or acceptance and implementation.

Have you signed up for the 2nd Academy for Scholarly Publishing Conference in Charleston April 21-23, 1996? It's in just a few weeks. Why not sign up now? Charles Harmon <CTHarmon@aol.com> is a patient man. He recently agreed to publish a paper about the Academy for Scholarly Publishing’s first conference held in Charleston in February, 1995, in the Bottom Line. And it's even in the latest issue. Check it out. And mark your calendars for this new event! It's a way for academic faculty to talk to publishers and librarians about the publication of scholarly information.

And change is still afoot at Faxon/Dawson. Donald Lohin, appointed as president of Faxon in May, 1995 (see ATG, June 1995, page 8), is no longer with Faxon. Vern Cain, to whom Lohin reported, will remain as president and Chief Executive Officer of Dawson, NA, and as president and CEO of Faxon. Faxon will have two regional service centers—one in Westwood with Ron Akele serving as Executive VP and General Manager, and the other in Oregon, IL with Alan Nordman serving as Executive VP and General Manager.

If Rumors Were Horses

Blackwell is a conservative company but a lot's been going on all the same. The big news is that Blackwell Delaware has been formed as the holding company in North America and Fred Philipp has been appointed President and CEO. Fred has also replaced Dan Tonkery as President of Readmore. Terry Collins, Group Chief Executive with the Blackwell Group for many years is also out, effective April 19. The Blackwell Board has appointed a Group Management Executive Committee — Richard Barker (Managing Director, Blackwell Retail Ltd.), Doug Fox (Managing Director, B.H. Blackwell Ltd.) and Neville Hopkins (Group Finance Director, Blackwell Ltd.). The Group will be chaired by Julian Blackwell. Miles Blackwell continues as a Director. At Readmore, Judy Schott has been appointed VP of Marketing & Sales. This issue of ATG contains an interview with Fred Philipp, see page 32.

I hear that since he can't play golf (even fanatics don't play golf in the snow), Dan Tonkery's hard at work on a business plan and rolling out a new venture. No doubt to be continued ... As for Terry Collins, last time I saw him he was smiling ...

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From your (flu-bitten) editor

What can I say? I took the flu shot. And still I got the flu! So much for technology.

And speaking of technology, we are doing a lot of talking about it in this issue, especially CD-ROM technology which is the "feature" theme this time. Still, we haven't abandoned our alliance to regular old books and journals. The paperback/hardback issue is still with us (pages 44 and 50) and so is a lot of talk about changing or evolving or different roles (pages 25, 72, 90).

Of course we have some new features — check out "For Readers Only," (p. 86), "Back Talk," (p. 90) and "Colleagues Remembered," (p. 87) We have also continued with the Legal Issues section and I have to say that support for this new section has been overwhelming! Thank you all!

Like all ATG issues, this is an especially "great" one! And don't forget that we will have a "sixth" issue this year — an end of the year roundup. And you — and you — and you — better participate! Hopefully by the time you get this the snow will be melted and the butterflies will be out.

** Yr. Ed. 🐦

![Image]

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And we learned walking around the exhibits during ALA Midwinter that Data Trek, Inc. (Carlsbad, CA), part of Dawson Holdings, plc, plans to acquire IME (Information Management and Engineering, Ltd) (London, England). The acquisition will create a global library automation services company. CEO of Data Trek Library Services is Scott Cheatham, and 1996 is its fifteenth anniversary.

Joyce Ogbum sends some new info: Joyce L. Ogbum, AUL for Information Resources and Systems, Old Dominion University Library, phone: 804-683-4189, fax: 804-683-5769, <ogbum@shakespeare.lib.odu.edu>

Harold Regan has been elected President and CEO of the H.W. Wilson Company by the Board of Directors. Regan has been with Wilson since 1974 when he was hired as Director of Personnel Administration.

Charles Evans has been appointed Director of Client Software Development at the H.W. Wilson Company effective March 14. Evans comes from EBSCO Publishing in Boston. Evans, who holds an M.S. degree in mathematical physics from the U. of Alberta, will be responsible for WILSONDISC and the development of distributed client server software, reporting to Lucian A. Farziale, VP, Information Systems.

On the publishing front consolidation continues. Thomson has announced plans to buy West Publishing Company for $3.4 billion. You all know that West has WESTLAW, an online legal database, which is a staple in many libraries. And Thomson owns companies like Clark Boardman, Barclays, and Lawyers Cooperative.

Heard from Jack David (ECW Press, Toronto, Canada) <ecw@symptomatic.ca> who is a subscriber to ATG. He is coming to Charleston on vacation and wanted to know some local restaurants and places of interest. Well, I have to tell you that Marianne's has closed (I learned this from Amanda Harmon, UNC-Charlotte) <ali00ali@email.uncc.edu> and so has LaFayette's! This just means that there will be some newer restaurants for us all in November!

W H Everett & Son Ltd. <100064.2777@compuserve.com> has already strengthened its book services through a strategic alliance (October 1995) with YBP, Inc. (Watch for our upcoming interview in the June, 1996 ATG.) Now W H Everett & Son Ltd and Universal Subscription Services Ltd — two London library suppliers — are pleased to announce that they have merged. Colin Harrison and Denis Eagle of Everett's have joined the Board of Universal; and Tony Roche of Universal has been appointed a director of Everett's and is now responsible for the combined group's subscription business. The strengths of the new partnership will result in a wider and more advanced range of services. Everett's, founded in 1793, is the oldest British subscription agent/bookseller. From their Fulham premises they have built a thriving and expanding business with academic and government clients in the UK. North America, Australasia and the Middle and Far East. Last year they implemented a new PC network-based subscriptions system with facilities for comprehensive electronic links with their customers. Together the companies share their bibliographic and technical resources. An early step is the current release of an integrated UKUS title database on the World Wide Web, with sophisticated searching and ordering facilities. Universal, established in 1961 in Sidcup, Kent, has most of its business with UK corporate, government and public sector research libraries. They are involved in a wide range of science and technology-based industries, and have particular strength in the fields of finance, medicine and energy. A growing element in their services is the consolidation of journal issues by Universal rather than direct delivery by publishers. This responds to the growing requirement from libraries in the UK and elsewhere for the outsourcing of traditionally in-house functions. For further information, try Colin Harrison at Everett's: <http://www.everetts.com> or Tony Roche at Universal 0181-302-7833.

And, in its ongoing support of schools, libraries, and not-for-profit organizations, the Board of Directors of the H.W. Wilson Foundation continued on page 8

<http://www.spidergraphics.com/atg>
The 62nd IFLA General Conference will be held August 25-31, in Beijing, China. Read about the 63rd IFLA conference in Turkey courtesy of Judith R. Bernstein and Dora Biblarz. Now we know what Tony Leisner was doing in Istanbul! See this issue, page 61.

And if you ever go to Turkey, I would advise you to take along Betty and Sevgin Oktay. Sevgin is Turkish and they can both speak the language! In fact, they just left for a trip to Turkey the other day. Got an email from Betty — "on my way to Turkey. Talk to you when I get back!" Wow.

And more on the IFLA front — Marjorie E. Bloss, Director, Center for Research Libraries, sends word that the IFLA Section on Acquisition and Exchange has changed its name. A number of members of the section's standing committee believed that the name "Acquisition and Collection Development" would more accurately reflect the section's activities. Several other reasons were given in support of this change. They include: (1) The term "exchange" is but one way of acquiring material, and is automatically included in the concept of "acquisition". (2) The inclusion of the phrase "collection development" reflects that today's acquisitions librarians order titles resulting from a collection's parameters and needs. Therefore, acquisitions work today involves a knowledge of the institution's collection (and very likely, others' collections too) as well as how to acquire the materials that constitute it. (3) In the same way as Acquisitions Librarians must be closely aware of what is needed when building a collection, they must also be aware of what is not needed. De-acquisition (whether through cancellations or through weeding) also calls upon knowledge of collections. The 126 library associations and institutions that are members of the section were polled by mail. All of the 50 respondents voted for the change. The change was approved at the December meeting of IFLA's Professional Board (the committee heavily involved in IFLA's programmatic activities), and is now official. If you have any questions concerning the IFLA Section on Acquisition and Collection Development, please send them to: Marjorie E. Bloss, Chairman, IFLA Section on Acquisition and Collection Development, Center for Research Libraries, 6050 South Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. <bloss@crilmal.uchicago.edu>.

Don't know how many of you saw the preprint Against the Grain did especially for ALA Midwinter, January 19-23, 1996. The preprint was about Charles Willett and Counterpoise, a new ALA Social Responsibilities Roundtable review journal. Quarterly publication of Counterpoise will begin in January, 1997. SRRT's Counterpoise will cover the alternative press for all libraries in the systematic, reliable fashion that we have come to expect from ALA. We will be publishing our interview with Charles Willett in an upcoming ATG. In the meantime, if you would like a copy, let me know and I'll send it to you. Chris Dodge (Hennepin County Library) <cdodge@hennepin.lib.mn.us> was also inserting copies of the interview in the latest edition of the MSRRT Newsletter (publication of Minnesota Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table).

Dave Mitchell (Business Manager, Guilford Publications, Inc.) <dmitch@guilford.com> was asking if Lisa Freeman's <lfreeman@maroon.tc.umn.edu> keynote address from the 1995 Charleston Conference would be published in an upcoming issue of Against the Grain. Lisa's paper and several others from the 1995 Charleston Conference will be published in an upcoming (winter?) issue of Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory. Watch for it!

Wayne Ray (HMS Pegasus, POB 340 Station B London Ontario N6A 4W1; phone: 519-433-8994) <resource.center@onlinesys.com> writes to say that HMS Press has published approximately 90 titles since 1982 and has recently converted to electronic publication. Along with its Imprint: Atlantic Disk Publishers of Stamford CT, USA they have over 100 titles this year on their DOS Reader Program.

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<http://www.spidergraphics.com/atg>
This is courtesy of serialist and Charles Bailey (University of Houston) <LIB3@UHUPVMJ.UH.EDU>. The Public-Access Computer Systems Review, an electronic journal established in 1989, is issuing a call for papers on scholarly electronic publishing activities on the Internet. The journal has published a number of papers on this topic in the past, and the editors are interested in exploring contemporary e-publishing projects and perspectives. See the journal’s home page <http://info.lib.uh.edu/pacsrev.html> for more background information about the journal, including author guidelines. The journal has a flexible publication schedule and papers can be submitted to either the Refereed Articles or Communications (editor selected). A Web version of the call for papers is available at <http://info.lib.uh.edu/pr/epibcall.htm>.

Diane J. Graves <uldig@cypress.mcsr.olemiss.edu> and Judy Luther <j Luther@smtpwu.isinet.com> have written a thought-provoking op ed for this issue, see page 25. Are we librarians ready to be more than just librarians?

Bruce Heterick <HETERICKB@faxon.com> sent in a great article on the year 2000 and all of the changes that means for computer systems. Watch for “The Millennium Date Change Problem” in an upcoming issue of ATG!

We were so sorry to learn of the death of Eleanor Cook’s father <COOKEI@conrad.appstate.edu>. And we were amazed to think that Eleanor would write to *apologize* to us for not having a column in this issue of ATG. What an incredible woman!

Irvin Muehnick (Assistant Director, National Writers Union) <crvmuch@netcom.com> tells us on CN-copyright about an overview of the electronic rights issue, entitled “Information Highway Robbery?”, by Nan Levinson and Donna Demac, in the February 1996 issue of The Women’s Review of Books. The authors have given the National Writers Union permission to distribute the full text via email. If you would like to see it, contact Irv at the address above.

Becky Bredlove, SIG Chair, <BECKY@delphinus.lib.umb.edu> reports that the ACRL New England Chapter Serials Interest Group is planning a workshop & forum discussion on “serials pricing” to be held May 23, 1996 at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Joseph P. Healey Library. Keynote speakers will include Marcia Tuttle (UNC), John Tagler (Elsevier), Mike Markwith (Swets), Phil Greene (EBSCO), and Janet Fisher (MIT Press). For more information contact: Becky Bredlove, Head of Serials, Joseph P. Healey Library, UMass Boston.

I used to think that I would be able to correspond with all of ATG’s subscribers with every issue! So much for enthusiasm. I wish I could thank each and every one of you — subscribers and contributors — with each and every issue. All I can say is a collective thank you! And here’s a new subscriber I want to welcome — John Sandstrom (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, Jackson MS) <sandsjd@okra.millsaps.edu>

The Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) has announced its 18th Annual Meeting from May 29-31 at the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers. The theme is “Assessing the Reality of New Markets and New Media: The Transition to Electronic Publishing Continues.” For more info try <cmaslown@resourcemcenter.com>

Jack Montgomery <MONTGOMERY@law.missouri.edu> had a 2 AM idea. How about an occasional column of short articles concerning the librarians, publishers, and vendors who inspired us or were important in some way in our lives? He even sent in a column which I hope is in this issue, page 87.

University Publications of America (Bethesda, MD) has a new website: <http://www.upapubs.com>

Ellen Finnie Duranceau <efinnie@MIT.EDU> sent in a fabulous book review of Nicholas A. Basbanes, A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books. Watch for it in a future issue of ATG!

Against the Grain cannot stand still. So much is going on and we need more and more help. Is anyone interested in working with the Against the Grain home page to implement new communication and services? This is a wonderful opportunity to work with an innovative, grassroots publication! How about it? Just call your editor <strauclr@cofc.edu> or 803-723-3536!

Email correspondence with Liz Chapman (Institute of Economics and Statistics, U. of Oxford) <elizabeth.chapman@econlib.ox.ac.uk> has been a little sparse in 1996! This means fewer laughs among other things. Liz writes that she has signed up for a series of lectures by people like Shere Hite, Martha Nussbaum, Onora O’Neill, Naomi Wolf, Marilyn French, Michele Le Doeuff. Liz says it keeps the old grey matter exercised.

Maria Fitzpatrick <Maria5645@aol.com>, our old friend from Academic Press, is now the director of marketing for Wildlife Education, Ltd., publishers of Zoobooks. Here is her new mailing address: Wildlife Education Ltd., 9820 Willow Creek Road #300, San Diego, CA 92131, phone: 619-578-2440.

I have to apologize to the fabulous, cheerfully splendidous and always patient Don Jaeger. He sent me an On the Road column for the April issue, but I was unable to fit it in. Please forgive me, everybody, especially Don. Next time, okay?

This was reported in Lexis Counsel Connect. A French cybercafe has published over the Internet Le Grand Secret, a book which was banned in France because it detailed Francois Mitterrand’s long battle with cancer and was construed as an invasion of the prime minister’s privacy. Apparently, the publisher has reserved the right to sue the cybercafe.

And, let’s see what else is going on. Adrian Alexander is now employed by Swets! Mike Markwith (CEO of Swets) <mmarkwith@swets.nl> sends word that as of March 11, Adrian is Sales Manager and will work from his home office in Lawrence, Kansas. So Swets has added Adrian and Carol MacAdam in the past 6 months. The snow’s not keeping them down up there...

Meanwhile, back at Faxon, the amazing and always-landing-on-his-feet Roy J. Reinalda (Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, The Faxon Company) says that Faxon is sorry to lose this eloquent spokesperson (Adrian) for the library industry. Roy says that Faxon will continue Adrian’s articles on serials pricing, not to worry. And David Fritzsch, Manager, Central Region, will assume Adrian’s responsibilities. All Faxon clients in the Western Region, whether their accounts are handled out of Westwood, Massachusetts, or Oregon, Illinois, can reach David at 313/677-3530 (Voice); 313/677-0955 (Fax); 1295 King George Boulevard, Ann Arbor MI 48108 (snailmail); or at <fritsch@faxon.com>.

We have gotten some great suggestions for papers for the 1996 Charleston Conference. Barbara Dean-cdean@leo.vsla.edu>, for example, just sent me ideas and comments from Gerald (Jerry) Perry (Rush University, Reference Manager and Collection Development Specialist) 312-942-2280 (voice), <jerry@lib.rpsle.edu>. Have you sent in your suggestions? See this issue, page 24. And don’t forget the *sixth* issue of ATG! See this issue, page 14.

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This is a pretty neat concept and I’m looking forward to it! Prof. Larry Lessig (University of Chicago Law School), Prof. David Post (Georgetown University Law Center), Prof. Eugene Volokh (UCLA School of Law), and the Cyberspace Law Institute and LEXIS Counsel Connect are presenting an online seminar: Cyberspace Law for Nonlawyers. The seminar is aimed at educated laypeople, not primarily at lawyers and is supposed to be low on legalese and Latin. The seminar will start in April or May, but you should sign up now—send a message with the text <SUBSCRIBE CYBERSPACE-LAW yourfirstname yourlastname> to <LISTPROC-REQUEST@COUNSEL.COM>

The Creative Incentive Coalition (CIC) <sicinfo@cic.org>, a group of copyright owners and users, are going to use the latest computing technology at a Senate hearing to be held soon to demonstrate how it is becoming easier to steal copyrighted works in digital form. The demonstration is part of CIC’s testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is holding hearings on the NIH Copyright Protection Act. The demonstration, projected onto a large screen, will take committee members on a tour of the World Wide Web’s pirate sites. To learn more about this legislation, visit the CIC web site at <http://www.cic.org>.

On January 16, 1996, Judge Gladys Kessler, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, dismissed part of a FOIA suit brought by Tax Analysts to force the Department of Justice to turn over legal databases licensed by West to DOJ pursuant to a 1988 contract (a successor contract to a 1983 contract.) If you would like more information on this complex issue, try Alan D. Sugarman, President, HyperLaw, Inc., P.O. Box 1176, New York, NY 10023 <sugarman@hyperlaw.com>.

Rita Gulstad <rgulstad@cmcc3.cmcc.edu> has promised ATG an article on MORENET, the state of Missouri’s fulltext database project. Watch for it in an upcoming issue!

Ron Ray <ray@uop.cs.uop.edu> sends word of the upcoming Feather River Institute, May 16-19, 1996. The Preliminary Program is titled — “Death and Rebirth in Library Acquisitions” and speakers include such well-knowns as Karen Schmidt (U. of Illinois), Dan Halloran (Academic Book Center), Mike Markwith (Swets), Tom Leonhardt (U. of Okla.), Joyce Ogburn (Old Dominion), and many others. Looks like a great program to me.

Besides working at the U. of Akron library and also at the U. of Akron Press, Julie Gammon <RIJAG@VM1.CC.UAKRON.EDU> is also president of NASIG! Julie writes that she can’t attend the Academy for Scholarly Publishing’s second conference because she will be attending UKSG in England as NASIG’s President at that same time!

Heard from John von Knorringer <HvK@aol.com> who is his usual upbeat self. He is one of the speakers at the upcoming Academy for Scholarly Publishing Conference.

Barbara Lamm (The New York Law Publishing Company, 345 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010; phone: (800) 888-8300 or (212)779-9200) <blamm@jexxtra.com> sends this info: The New York and National Law Journals are now available for the first time on CD-ROM in a full-text, fully-indexed, searchable database. You can access the contents of both newspapers — editorial, columns, decisions, and legal notices and can search them by author, date or keyword. Search results can be printed or sent to a word-processing file. The software even tracks time spent on each project, simplifying law firm billing. The contents of this CD-ROM are not available from any other legal database or online service and are an extremely useful (and inexpensive) archive. To find out more visit the online catalog at <http://www.ljx.lawcatiat.org> or go directly to the New York and National Law Journal CD-ROM web page <http://www.ljx.com/COOP/pages/nljnylj-cd.html>.

The 1996 North American Serials Interest Group registration forms for the 11th Annual NASIG conference have been mailed. This year’s theme is “Pioneering New Serials Frontiers: From Petroglyphs to Cyberserials” and it will be held June 20th-23rd, 1996 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Registration deadline is May 20th, 1996. The conference registration and brochure will be mailed on the 1996 conference home page <http://www.unnm.edu/~nasig>. For further information, contact Ruth Haest, NASIG Registrar at 505-277-7218, Fax: 505-277-4446, Internet: <nasig@umn.edu>. (Email preferred.)

Heard from Sharon Cline McKay <mckay@bnamf.blackwell.com> the other day. As of March 11, she has accepted the job of Technical Sales Manager – North America with Blackwell’s Periodicals. She’ll be working with Tina Feick and the North American sales staff providing technical sales support. Sharon says this change will bring her back into the world of serials, EDI and CD-ROMs and that she will be coming to the next Charleston Conference. Great to hear from you Sharon! Sharon’s address is 9712 S. Altamont Drive; Sandy, Utah 84092. Phone 801-942-9500. Fax 801-942-9501.

This news is from serialslast. As an introductory offer, Nucleic Acids Research Online (Oxford University Press) will be available to anyone who is from an institution that has a subscription to the 1996 print version free of charge until December 1996. For more information, contact Richard Gedye <gedye@oup.co.uk> World Wide Web site: <http://www.oup.co.uk>.

Gillian Debreceny <debrecz.lis@mhs.unc.edu>, UNC-CH, SILS Librarian, sends word that the SILS Library now has a house page. It can be accessed through the School of Information and Library Science’s home page, or it may be reached at <http://ils.unc.edu/library>. It contains, among other interesting features, an index to Master’s Papers as well as a listing of the new books that have been received in the Library during the past month.

Ann Okerson (Associate University Librarian, Yale University) <Ann.Okerson@yale.edu> sends word that a significant number of law journals are available in excerpt or in whole via the Internet, many dealing with copyright. NewJour List Address (to subscribe): <NewJour@ccat.sas.upenn.edu> is a good source for this information. The URL is <http://gort.ucsd.edu/newjour>.

You’ve probably all heard about GOBI (a successor to YBP’s FOLIO service). Yankee Book Peddler, Inc. (YBP) recently introduced this new online service, accessible via the World Wide Web. GOBI (Global Online Bibliographic Information) is an online, interactive bibliographic information service providing collection development and acquisitions support to customers worldwide. This fully integrated US/UK database of over 1.4 million academic and scholarly titles provides access to the integrated databases and online services of YBP and W.H. Everetts & Sons of London. GOBI is available through the homepages of both YBP and Everetts. Customers must first register which makes it possible to provide customer specific data displays and reports. Registration forms are available through the web <http://www.ybp.com> or by sending an email request to <service@ybp.com>.

Sally C. Tseng <sctse@ucledu> sends word that Jean L. Hiorns, Acting CONSER Operations Coordinator, Serial Record Division, Library of Congress is the winner of the 1996 Bowker/Urlich’s Serials Librarianship Award. As a winner Jean will be featured and profiled in an issue of Library Resources & Technical

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Services (LRTS) and honored at the ALCTS Membership Meeting during the ALA Annual Conference in New York in July 1996. This is an incredible accomplishment. Congratulations, Jean!

We have several features in this issue on CD-ROMs and CD-ROM technology. Also wanted by the Feb 28th about Nancy Stanley’s recent article on “Purchasing Electronic Resources” which appeared in Acquisitions Librarian (no.13/14), 1995, pp. 153-163. Guide to Selecting and Acquiring CD-ROMs, Software and Other Electronic Publications by Stephen Bosch, Patricia Promis and Chris Sugnet (ALCTS publication, Acquisitions Guidelines no.9, 1994) is another good source which has an extensive bibliography.

A moderated listerv, DOCDEL-L, has been created to promote discussion of document delivery. To sign up for this list: address email to LISTPROC@WWW.EBSCODOC.COM; leave the subject line blank; in the body of the message write: SUBSCRIBE DOCDEL-L YourName. For further information, contact: Tim Strickland List Manager, DOCDEL-L <stricklan@ebscodoc.com> DOCDEL-L is managed by EBSCODoc.

Got a great article from the British Library’s Jim Vickery <Jim.Vickery@london.british-library.ac.uk> about NAG, the National Acquisitions Group in England. We ran out of room in this issue but look for it in June!

Interviewed Freerk Lankhof (JIB) <lankhof@sol.com> in San Antonio. In between eating french fries with mayonnaise (that’s the way they do it in Amsterdam), he told me some interesting things. Watch for the interview in an upcoming issue of ATG.

Recently got an email from Sarah Vickery (Maxwell Air Force Base <svickery@max1.au.af.mil>). She says ATG is so popular that they have decided to bind it and they even want back issues. Yes, backfiles of ATG are available. I have copies of all of them even — back to March 1989, the month we started. Sometimes they are xerographs, but what the hey.

Speaking of xerographs, Harald Joa (Scandinavian University Press <hjo@scup.no>) wrote to say that he wanted **his own** subscription to ATG rather than making xerographs. How about you? Don’t you need your own subscription?

Joe Raker (Boston Public Library) <jraiker@bpl.org> wrote a fabulous paper on multicultural acquisitions (see page 28). And read his library profile, this issue, page 70.

This issue of ATG (Cases of Note, page 38) discusses the Michigan Document Services, Inc. (MDS) case which has caused much discussion in front and back rooms. This press release comes from CNI-copyright. In a rare instance of partnership, authors and publishers, who frequently face off in angry disputes about who owns what, this week joined forces to call for the overturn of a federal court decision permitting unrestricted photocopying of portions of books and articles for university “course packs” without payment to copyright holders. Authors’ organizations representing tens of thousands of writers filed a “friend of the court” brief in support of publishers seeking a rehearing of what the authors termed a “dangerous” copyright decision handed down February 12 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The authors took particular issue with the court’s finding, in a 2-to-1 decision, that the standard practice of paying for licenses to make such photocopies is not an incentive for authors to write. The organizations involved are three national writers’ groups — the Authors Guild, the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA), and the Text and Academic Authors Association (TAAA) continued on page 14

<http://www.spidergraphics.com/atg>

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

Against the Grain used to be published five times a year. The editors are always working on an issue! Readers have asked for a sixth issue, however, so in response to those requests, we are going to publish a **sixth** issue this year.

The focus of the sixth issue will be on the year's work. We need writers to provide their own recapitations of 1996. We need viewpoints from publishers, book jobbers, subscription agents, librarians, consultants, retired persons, any of us in the ever-expanding information industry. What were the issues of 1996? What were the trends? What conferences did you attend and what did you learn from them, about them? Which of our colleagues have contributed to our world, making it better, more provocative, happier? 1996 is still a new year. By announcing our intentions early, we know that you will have much food for thought all year long!

Tom Leonard has agreed to edit the sixth issue of Against the Grain — but we all need your help. Ideas, submissions, whatever should be sent to Tom at com@libdm.lib.uknokn.edu; fax (405/325-7550); USPS: University of Oklahoma, Bizzell Memorial Library, 401 W. Brooks, Norman, OK 73019-0528. Or you can even send them to Katina strachuk@cofc.edu; fax (803-732-3356), USPS: 171 Moultrie St., Citadel Station, Charleston, SC 29409. You will be reminded in each 1996 issue of ATG that your contributions are needed. We expect our usual columnists to provide material, preferably with this 1996 wrap-up spin on the text, but the main thing is to submit something. For those of you who have been quiet, now's your time to speak up!

If this works — and it will! — you will have one more good ATG to read a year, and it will spur us to be more reflective about what we do during the year. Where are we going? What is happening all around us? Writing is a great exercise. Studies show that using our brains actually causes them to grow. And remember, publishers and editors may add value to a publication, but the intrinsic worth of any magazine comes from the writers. Please contribute no matter how much you may have given at the office.

Thank you.
an appreciation for what keeps a service provider (for profit or not) financially healthy, so that we are able to discern that a company is in distress before we have to make panic decisions about whether to continue to do business with it?

The Opportunity
Positions in the information industry require additional business training that sometimes runs contrary to the acculturation process in library school. A degree that would provide graduates with a background in computers and telecommunication applications, libraries and the organization of information, and basic business training in economics, marketing and management would open a world of opportunity in both the profit and non-profit sectors. We would have the benefits of more business-like decision making on the purchasing side, and of more library-like selling on the vendor side. Communication could only improve, and the products and services we need in libraries would be that much more likely to make it to market. Librarians are trained to be responsive, service-oriented professionals. Those librarians working in the vendor community would understand the needs, concerns, and orientation of their library-based peers, and have the capability to convey that understanding to their parent organizations. Librarians who purchase from such vendors know that those companies have a special commitment to the library marketplace.

General Benefits
The benefits of expanding the curriculum of library education are many. Among these are the following:
- Librarians working in traditional academic, public and school libraries would have a better understanding of their vendors. They would be better prepared to express their expectations to vendors and negotiate for products. Librarians working in corporations would be able to explain the value of the information center in terms that upper management would understand.
- Graduates working for non-profit professional associations (MLA, SLA, ALA) would understand how to generate the revenue needed to implement the goals of the organizations. Graduates working for private industry would bring a market focus to organizations that would increase the value of the publications, products and services offered to our market.
- The job market for MLS holders would be more flexible, and offer more options for new graduates. The better salaries offered by most vendors might also help to raise the overall compensation packages for beginning librarians.
- Vendors would be able to hire new sales/marketing professionals who would require little or no training in the nature of library marketplace issues.
- Even librarians who choose not to go into the for-profit sector would have exposure to marketing and economics courses in their graduate library school curricula. This would make them better buyers — more aware of the issues and economics affecting our marketplace. And it would prepare them to convey those issues to their funding agencies, be it the city council or the university administration.

"[Is it possible that we do ourselves a disservice as a profession when we neglect the 'business' side of the business?"

"[Are] library schools . . . preparing graduates to work in libraries, rather than the information industry?"

The Future
Today, we find ourselves part of an information industry, strongly affected by new technology. The information business is growing fast and changing in ways we had never imagined. It’s time to assess the opportunities that exist, as they are a sure indicator of the trends for the future. The information industry is the most exciting place to be in this century. Librarians have the opportunity to provide services of a truly invaluable nature to our fellows. If we broaden our understanding of the dynamics at work throughout the industry, we will be able to contribute our expertise and build on our heritage rather than become specialists in a limited portion of the market.

Rumors
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Corrie Marsh is a pistol. She’s become Southeastern Rep (VA, NC, SC, FL, and GA) for Ovid Technologies. Corrie will stay at 8182 Bell Creek Rd.; Mechanicsville, VA 23111; phone (804) 730-6444; fax (804) 730-4990. <cmmarsh@ovid.com> or <cmmarsh@richmond.inf.net> Congrats, Corrie!

Tove Rosado writes a wonderful note to us Charleston Conference types. She has retired and is now spending 2-3 months in her native Denmark. Keep smiling, Tove, but don’t forget all your friends back here in the good old U.S. of A.

Gordon Graham, Editor of LOGOS, and an incredibly patient man, writes that LOGOS — celebrating its seventh year of publication — is planning a special single-theme issue in 1996 on "The book in the United States today." Gordon — who has been trying to get a Charleston Conference paper out of Judy Webster and me for over a year — has sent a list of the twenty in-depth articles to be written by Sandra Whisler, Hendrik Edelman, Mary Somerville, Dick Abel, Steve Mason, Judy Holovjak, Eric Newman, Donald Lamon, and Pieter Bolman to name just a few. I am looking forward to reading it. Here’s the address — 5 Beechwood Drive, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3DH, UK, phone and fax 01628-477577.

In response to demand for a secure menuing system for public access PCs, CARL Corporation has released Everybody’s Menu Builder™, a menu management system derived from CARL’s popular Everybody’s Catalog graphical interface. Everybody’s Menu Builder™ software helps libraries organize all of their PC-based information resources (CD ROM databases, Web Browsers and other third party applications) from a single interface. Everybody’s Menu Builder™ uses colorful icons and large, legible buttons to facilitate navigation. Similar information resources may be grouped under hierarchical headings. Everybody’s Menu Builder™ also enhances security at public workstations. User access is limited to the resources the library defines for inclusion in the Menu Builder’s window. As users launch and exit applications or databases they always return to the Menu Builder. A password is required to gain access to Windows or DOS. Windows "system keys" are also disabled, preventing savvy users from breaking out of the Everybody’s Menu Builder environment. Everybody’s Menu Builder is ideal for use by non-CARL libraries, or by CARL libraries which have Windows PC environments but have not yet implemented Everybody’s Catalog. For more information, contact the address below.

<http://www.spidergraphics.com/atg>
Book Pricing Update


by Celia Scher Wagner (Blackwell) (WAGNER@BNAMF.BLACKWELL.COM)

If you are reading this column you probably spend your days with books, in one way or another. Maybe you spend your day (or your budget) thinking in terms of Library of Congress classifications. But do you ever get to show off your knowledge, or amaze your friends? Here at last is your chance! Sharpen your pencil, and

Test Your Knowledge — or Your Intuition —
About Academic Publishing and Pricing!

Consider the universe of new academic monographs published by Trade, Scholarly, Science/Technology/Medicine (S/T/M) and University Presses. Consider the Broad Library of Congress classes (A - Reference, B - Philosophy and Religion, etc...). Then answer the following questions.

1) In which three LC classes are the most new academic monographs published? (Hint: If you added the three together, they would account for half of all new academic titles.)

2) In which two LC classes does the average monograph cost the most? (Hint: One class appears as an answer in this and the previous question.)

3) What portion of all new academic monographs are published by University Presses? ___ 10-15% ___ 25-30% ___ 40-45%

4) In which three broad Library of Congress classes do University Press publications account for more than half of all new academic titles? (Hint: One of these classes sees fewer than 100 new titles a year.)

5) In which LC classes do University Presses publish the smallest percentage of the universe? (Hint: These will come as no surprise.)

6) Publishers sometimes offer new titles simultaneously in both cloth and paper bindings. How often are new titles published simultaneously in cloth and paper? Does this vary between University Presses and other presses? How often: ___ Does it vary by type of publisher: ___

7) If your library bought all new academic monographs, choosing cloth bindings whenever they were available, what would the average academic monograph cost?

8) How much would the average University Press title cost?

9) Libraries have traditionally preferred to buy clothbound editions of new titles, when both cloth and paper were available. In recent years, some libraries have reversed that policy, asking for “paper-preferred” whenever simultaneous cloth and paper editions were available. If your library bought paper-preferred in all cases where both formats were published simultaneously, how much of the budget would you save? ___ 8% ___ 17% ___ 32%

10) Buying paper-preferred would cut the budget by a different amount, according to the subject area in question. Spending in Z - Library science, for instance, would only drop 2%, while spending in U - Military science, would drop 8%. In which LC class would spending show the largest percentage drop?

11) If you bought paper-preferred University Press titles whenever both editions were available, how much of your University Press budget would you save? Which LC class would see the largest percentage drop? ___ 8% ___ 17% ___ 32% class:

12) Suppose your library decided to switch from the traditional cloth-preferred to a paper-preferred collection development policy. Would your total dollar savings be higher on University Press titles, or on non-University Press titles?

13) In which subject areas would you save the most, and the least, on simultaneous cloth/paper editions?

___ Humanities ___ Social Science ___ Science

14) Essay question: In his Against the Grain article, “Paperbacks on Approval” (v.7, no.3, June, 1995, p.16), John M. Haar of Vanderbilt University reported an 18.8% savings by buying paper-preferred. Mr. Haar writes, “My study was admittedly quick and dirty and included a small sample.” What could skew a small sample of titles to make them show a higher, or lower, percentage of savings than the universe of publishing would suggest? answers on page 47

Rumors

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mation, please contact Nathan Frick at CARL Corporation <nfrick@carl.org> or 303-758-3030.

The 1996 Electrical and Electronics Trades Directory (commonly referred to as “The Blue Book”), published by Peter Peregrinus Ltd., an associate company of the UK’s Institution of Electrical Engineers, is now available on CD-ROM ($180) in addition to the printed version ($140). For more info, contact: IEEE/INSPICE, IEEE Operations Center, 445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331.

And there’s more, The IEEE has announced the release of a new full-image, CD-ROM database called the IEEE/IEEE Electronic Library (IEL). This is the core collection of published information in electrical and electronic engineering and computer science. If you want more info, try the address above or Jennifer Bol at <j bol@ieee.org>

As many of you will remember, the prestigious medical journal, The Lancet, was acquired by Elsevier in 1991. This journal, whose current editor is the 33-year-old Dr. Richard Horton, plans to launch a CD-ROM product in the first quarter of 1996. This will combine a fully searchable archive of the last three years of content of the journal with hypertext links to EMBASE references. Also projected are a number of similarly structured subsidiary Lancet CD products dedicated to individual medical specialties such as cardiology, oncology, and infectious diseases. For further information, contact David Gilbertson at <d.gilbertson@elsevier.co.uk>

The other day I was sitting in the doctor’s office with my daughter (who has been bitten by colds, fever, etc., etc.) (In fact, if we have another winter like this I think I will move to Hawaii. And assassinate the groundhog!) Anyway, I was just sitting, perusing a magazine called Family Life when what should stare up at me but Ken Kister’s byline! This was the October 1995 issue and Ken was giving advice to parents about some atlases worth buying for their kids. Like wow! Even the

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Back Talk
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ditions, URL address maintenance, and preservation functions. Our shelves may be digital, but the work of filling them and keeping them filled continues to be complicated and important. Job security for the information professional is assured.

Last any of this be interpreted as negative toward the brave new digital world or that I am pining for the good old days when books were books and journals were a fiscal disaster, that is not my intent. I am enthused about the superior access that will be afforded by digital monographs and periodicals, by the whole new educational opportunities that multimedia will provide, and by the expanded use our special collections will receive. My purpose is to simply point out that from the vantage point of someone who is already involved to a fairly significant degree in the acquisition of digital materials, this new paradigm does not do away with the need for librarians — it demands them.

On the other hand, while our future is assured, we can’t just expect to do everything the same. We have to focus on the enduring nature of the functions librarians have always performed: selection from the universe of publication that which is useful and affordable, working with information providers to secure access to the needed material, providing bibliographic access so that you can find what you want when you want it, providing the setting where materials can be used effectively, training people how to find what they need and how to use it when they find it, preserving today’s acquisitions for tomorrow’s researchers, planning and budgeting, and dealing with the politics of the supporting institutions so that capital, material, and personnel resources are available to make all of this work. We have work before us. Break up your funeral flower arrangements into nice bouquets for your desks and get back to work.

Rumors
from page 44

doctor was awed that I knew an author in his magazine!

I just had an idea for a new ATG column — Arguments I Have Known. The editor would be — ta da — Lyman Newlin! The man is amazing! Now he even has an email account <broadwater@ag.net> Read his reminiscences of women he has known (and arguments he has had) in Papa Lyman, this issue, page 67.

Corrections from the Last ATG (v.8#1, p. 31
- Lucretia McClure <LMCL@db1.cc.rochester.edu> says there are a few typos in her Op Ed (v.8#1. p.31). I am sorry, y’all. Now when I look at them I can’t explain “what idiot” would have made these mistakes! Here goes. A sentence is left out in the second paragraph: “Medical literature is full of literary treasures as well as elegantly-described science. Librarians had the pleasure of introducing these works to readers and helping students on their way to becoming physicians.” And — in the fifth paragraph, five lines from the bottom the sentence should read, “scientists who will chart” (rather than check) And — top paragraph of second column, gleaned and gathered (rather than gleaned and fathered). And, last line of that same paragraph should say, “read and study” instead of “ready and study.” There you have it. To paraphrase Edna St. Vincent Millay: The person who edits a journal appears before the public with her typos exposed...