September 1990

Bit by Bit

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“How to” use a collection assessment project to win faculty support of a serials cancellation project and, furthermore, educate faculty as to the need for balance and restraint in the area of serials.

“How to” find information on what publishers, especially serials publishers, are doing and why.

Considerations of “how to” use and evaluate Out of Print/Antiquarian and firm order vendors.

And lest you feel any remorse at not having attended the conference, Genaway & Associates are planning a full-blown proceedings. Contact them for further information:

Genaway & Associates, Inc.; 530 West Regency Circle; P.O. Box 477; Canfield, Ohio 44406. Phone (215) 533-2194.

== BIT BY BIT ==

by Joyce Ogburn (Penn State University) and Roy Heinz (Washington Research Library Consortium)

This is a new column which will address technical issues including networking, consortia activities, electronic resources, and access. We welcome contributions. Please send your ideas, comments, and suggestions to either:

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This column is on EDUCOM - The Electronic Connection for computing and technology. This non-profit consortium comprises approximately 600 members committed to the use and management of information technology in higher education. Founded in 1964 at the University of Michigan by five medical school deans, EDUCOM was intended to foster the sharing of computing and technical expertise among medical schools. In 1965 EDUCOM’s charter was broadened to encompass all institutions of higher education. Last fall EDUCOM celebrated 25 years of service to higher education in managing technology to assist the education and research process. Attendees at EDUCOM meetings include teaching faculty, librarians, administrators, directors of computing centers, and others who serve higher education information needs. Among the interests of EDUCOM’s...

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constituents are intellectual property rights, licensing, and electronic information resources. Two major goals of EDUCOM include: 1) to create an instruction and research electronic network to link scholars around the world, and 2) to infuse computing into higher education curriculum in the U.S. To meet these goals EDUCOM has developed its Software Initiative (recently renamed Educational Uses of Information Technology), which is aimed specifically at expanding uses of information technology in teaching and learning process. The Educational Uses of Software sponsors three major resources: 1) EDUCOM/NCRPTAL Distinguished Software Collection (EDSC), 2) Academic Software Catalog (ASC), and 3) EDUCOM Selected Software List (ESSL), a subset of ASC.

Bet You Missed It
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Washington federal court and asked that the ACS “be ordered to provide full access at reasonable rates to its database of chemical information.” Simplistically speaking, it seems to a matter of when the data belongs to and how much should be paid for the access. And since some of the database was developed with federal monies, it gets more and more complicated. This is a useful description (if legalese ever allows that) of the two sides. More to come.

In the Wall Street Journal June 29, 1990, p.B1, there’s an article about the Walt Disney Co. and how they’re starting a children’s publishing company instead of giving the books they produce to other publishers. And the competition is nervous. Lauren Wohl is to be the director of marketing. Wohl was a librarian in a previous life.

EDUCOM’s accomplishments include developing (with ADAPSO, the computer software and services industry association) a code on ethical use of software, publishing materials on software management, collection and use, and creating an awards program for outstanding instructional software. In March 1990, EDUCOM joined with ARL and CAUSE (the Association for the Management of Information Technology in Higher Education) to form the new Coalition for Networked Information to explore the potential uses of the proposed NREN (National Research and Education Network). The group will attempt to identify public policy issues and to assign priorities among information resources slated for NREN.

EDUCOM’s publications include:

Using Software: A Guide to

Wall Street Journal, June 27, 1990, p.B4, or B5. “U.K. Publisher Posts Profit of $298.3 Million for Year.” This one’s brief and about Maxwell Communication Corp. This pretax profit was reported as “below analysts’ expectations.”

From the Newsletter on Serials Pricing, No. 25, August 8, 1990:

1991 Prices for European Journals by Chuck Hamaker

Although they held off as long as they could, the major European publishers have this week set exchange rates for their 1991 subscriptions. Because the dollar had been so weak much of this season, the traditional July 1 setting was delayed. Elsevier set their rates last Wednesday, the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, when the dollar reached its second lowest level since World War II. For 1991, Elsevier’s rate is 1.78 guilders to the U.S. dollar, about 23 percent below last year’s level. Overall, according to Elsevier, this will mean an average increase in their list of about 35% in U.S. dollars.

Springer-Verlag waited until this week to set rates, and it looks as if they will be at 1.56 DM to the U.S. dollar. Combined with their planned increases, this means an overall dollar increase for Springer’s European titles of 23 to 24%. Individual titles may be above or below these general rates of course, but overall these increases are the worst we have seen in any single year this decade.

For those of you interested, Elsevier Sequoia titles will be available through New York and most subscription agencies with an exchange rate of 1.35 Swiss francs or 28% more than last year (plus “inflation”); British titles from Elsevier will use a pound

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Oops!!

[I certainly hope this doesn’t become a regular feature!]

Rose gardens not withstanding, I never promised y’all I was a journal publisher! Since I began doing Against the Grain (which I love, don’t get me wrong), my life has become even more hectic than it ever was. And I’ve learned that “it just ain’t easy.”

Anyway, I have to eat crow about the “Day in the Life” piece written by Jonathan Waring in the last issue of Against the Grain (v.2 # 3, p.3). There are some omissions in the text. These are especially relevant to our European colleagues who happen to know all about the landscape, beaches, etc. All I can say is that I goofed and I’m sorry. When Ann Landers goofs she says that she’ll take lashings by wet noodles. How about if I offer to do penance with a mildewed book? A tattle tape strip? A sheet of barcodes from missing books? Sorry, Jonathan. I’ll try to do better next time.

Here are the sentences as they should have read:

(pg.3, middle column, last sentence of first paragraph): These establishments are being handed over to their local borough councils which have variety of political hues and there is much uncertainty regarding future funding.

From Your Editor

Just a few things. First, this issue is slightly late because I was away on vacation and at the IFLA conference in Stockholm. IFLA was very interesting and there was a wonderfully controversial day’s meeting between publishers, vendors, and librarians regarding journal and book pricing. Speakers included Knut Dorn (Harrassowitz), Jolanda von Hagen (Springer-Verlag), Dr. Rolf Griebel (Universitats-bibliothek Erlangen-Nurnberg), and others. A report is forthcoming.

Also, there is still room in the Charleston Conference. Remember, it’s November 8-10, 1990, here in Charleston. If you want information and can’t get me, call Dorinda Harmon at (803)792-5822 or (803)792-5329.

Also, for those of you who may be trying to communicate with me via BITNET, it’s not that I’m ignoring you, I’m just not getting the messages through our computer. We are still trying to get a better tie in into the system (we don’t have a node down here, apparently). I’m sorry.

Til the next issue, over and out....