A Response from Steve McKinzie

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In the September issue of ATG, Steve McKinzie presented a very well-written and carefully argued “case for getting rid of a celebrated book” — in this case, Michael A. Bellesiles’ infamous Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture. McKinzie’s indictment of the book itself is pretty much unassailable: he demonstrates that despite the book’s commercial success, and despite its status (now revoked) as a major award-winner, Arming America cannot in fact be considered a reliable source of information about the history of gun ownership in America. Bellesiles’ fabrication of data, his dishonest use of sources, and his statistical sleight of hand have all been carefully and exhaustively documented, as McKinzie points out. Libraries, to the degree that they consider it their primary role to provide good, accurate information to patrons, would do well to stop and think twice about adding such a book to their collections. McKinzie takes that logic one step further, exhorting libraries that acquired the book before its myriad failings were made public to remove it from their shelves.

McKinzie is careful in his recommendations: although he is deeply concerned about the “host of unwary readers” who may find in the stacks “a terribly misleading book that bases its arguments on fabricated data and deliberately misconstrued research,” he emphasizes at the same time that he is not suggesting “that as librarians we should buy and retain only those books whose analysis is thorough-going and scholarly.” His argument is focused more specifically on books which have been clearly demonstrated to be intellectually dishonest and factually misleading. Such books are not merely shoddy but actively harmful and, he says, should be “summarily jettisoned...from our collections.”

On its surface, such an argument would seem hard to refute. However, I suggest that it is built upon a mistaken premise about the purpose of libraries generally, and of academic libraries in particular.

I would argue that it is not the purpose of an academic library to provide its patrons with truth and truth alone. Instead, it is the library’s job — or, at least, one of its fundamentally important jobs — to help patrons solve their research problems. Obviously, most research problems are best solved by reference to accurate information: if you need to analyze trend data related to smoking in North America or learn about treatment options for a particular kind of cancer, biased and inaccurate sources will serve you poorly. However, it is also true that some kinds of research are served — and, in fact, can only be served — by recourse to inaccurate, unfounded, dishonestly presented, and poorly written articles and books.

At first blush, this argument may seem bizarre. But consider Adolf Hitler’s notorious screed Mein Kampf. By no intellectual, literary, or moral standard could Mein Kampf be considered a good book; it is poorly written, disastrously argued, and morally repugnant. And yet it is difficult to see how any comprehensive academic library could justify that book’s absence from the collection. Why? Because it is a centrally important document in the social and political history of the 20th century. Its importance lies not in the quality of its ideas, but in the fact that it provides a unique window into the mind of one of the century’s most disastrously influential people. In other words, there are good and important research questions that can be answered by recourse to that book, and in no other way. I would argue, in fact, that access to Mein Kampf is essential not only for students and researchers in particular, but also for society as a whole; without access to that book and its repulsive ideas, it would arguably be much easier for those (and make no mistake, they are out there) who would like to see Hitler’s image rehabilitated.

To be sure, Bellesiles’ book is no Mein Kampf, but the same principle applies. Arming America may be a very poor source of information about 18th-century American gun culture, but it is a highly valuable source of information about the modern American conversation about gun culture. Students and researchers studying the complexities and controversies of Second Amendment issues in modern times need access not only to the best arguments on both sides, but also to examples of dishonest and fallacious arguments. And this is especially so when those arguments have successfully influenced the national conversation. Bellesiles’ book has a place in library collections not because it is a good book, but precisely because it has been an influential and important bad book, and because it is bad in particularly instructive ways. An understanding of its content can contribute greatly to an understanding of the vigorous national discussion in which it played a significant part, and a command of that discussion generally is essential to an understanding of the Second Amendment itself.

This leaves one of McKinzie’s important concerns unaddressed, however: what can (or should) libraries do to warn patrons what they’re actually looking at when they pick up Arming America? There is no faulting McKinzie’s legitimate concerns in this regard. It’s one thing to say that bad and dishonest books can be pedagogically helpful, and another to simply present those books without comment to a potentially uncritical audience. As it turns out, McKinzie himself offers an example of how one library has addressed this problem, and I think it provides a good model: he mentions a library in North Carolina that “took the unorthodox but possibly effective technique of taping a popular review to the inside cover of the book.” While this exact method may raise eyebrows, it illustrates what I think is an approach well attuned to both library values and library purposes: using more speech to counter bad speech rather than cutting potentially useful bad speech from the collection.

Does my argument imply that librarians should go through their entire collections, making sure that every controversial book includes a pasted-in rebuttal, or that they should buy controversial books on all topics without regard to their intrinsic quality? Absolutely not. Nor do I believe that most libraries should (or possibly could) buy every high-quality book that is available on every controversial topic, in the interest of making sure that every side to every argument is represented. As to the first point, I’m arguing only that in some cases it may well be worthwhile both to own a book and to give patrons a heads-up about problems with it that may not be immediately apparent. Continued on page 34
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As to the second point, I’m arguing only that intrinsic quality should not be the only (or, in some cases, even the primary) criterion for acquisition. The primary criterion should be usefulness, and usefulness is determined by the library’s mission and the needs of its patrons. Bad books can be very useful indeed, and Arm ing America strikes me as an eminent example of such a book.

By providing Arm ing America to its patrons, does the library run a risk that they will come away from it with dangerously incorrect information? Absolutely. But this raises a deeper issue with which our profession has grappled for more than a hundred years. How do librarians we have no choice but to take that risk. The alternative is actually rather awful to contemplate.

Mr. Anderson makes his case eloquently and persuasively. In a spirit of friendly exchange, I counter briefly. In the final analysis, my recommendation to get rid of Arm ing America hinges on a simple distinction that bears repeating — a distinction about scholarly books that contain inaccuracies. Simply put, I draw a line. I suggest there is a huge difference between skewed historical analysis and deliberately falsified research — between a historian who may have a jaundiced perspective and one who knowingly chooses to deceive — between an honest scholar who misreads his data and dishonest one who deals in blatant misrepresentation of his sources. I charge that in every case, Arm ing America fails on the latter side of this line of distinction and consequently merits no place in a scholarly collection.

Let’s be candid. If any of us knew then what we know now about Arm ing America, would we have purchased the title? I think not. And there something else we should consider. If we eagerly discard older historical monographs and outdated research in the interests of saving precious shelf space, should we not also willingly jettison a title based on what we have learned about the utter dishonesty of its approach — indeed the utter dishonesty of the research on which it is based?

Don’t get me wrong. I appreciate Mr. Anderson’s analysis, and there is likely much on what we agree. But as for Arm ing America, I remain respectfully unconvinced. I still say throw it out. £

A Response from Steve McKinzie

by Steve McKinzie (Library Director, Corriher-Linn-Black Library, Catawba College, Salisbury, NC 28144; Phone: 704-637-4449) <smckinzi@catawba.edu>

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ATG Interviews Lotfi Belkhir

Founder and CEO of Kirtas Technologies

by Martha Whittaker (Director, Content Management, Gelman Library System, George Washington University) <mwhittaker@gelman.gwu.edu>

ATG: Let’s start by learning about your background leading up to the founding of Kirtas Technologies.

LB: I completed my PhD in physics in 1993, and in 1995 I left the academic community to join Xerox as a research scientist. My five-year career at Xerox spanned R&D, product development, corporate strategy and corporate ventures. I started the Automatic Book Scanner project while an executive at the Xerox Venture Lab in Palo Alto, CA in late 2000. In May 2001, I left Xerox with an exclusive license to the technology I developed, and started Kirtas in June 2001.

ATG: Your Website has the engaging tag line “Moving knowledge from books to bytes.” Tell us about Kirtas Technologies, Inc. — how was born and the path of its development.

LB: Kirtas owes its existence and its purpose to four global trends that are and will continue to affect our lives for many years to come: Digitization, Globalization, Knowledge-driven economy and the Internet. These trends are also intimately intertwined. On the other hand, back in 2000, while all forms of content, communication and entertainment were going digital, the accumulated knowledge of humankind from the last 1,000 years was still largely held captive in the analog world by the covers that bind it. I’m of course talking about the billions of books that lay on the library shelves of thousands of libraries around the world. The reason being that there was no technology available to enable the massive, rapid, high-quality and cost-effective conversion of all that content “from books to bytes.” So I set out to change that and develop that dearly needed solution. Started in June 2001, Kirtas went on to develop the first generation model, the BookScan APT 1200, which we launched in August 2004. Some of our earliest customers were Logo Bible Software, EBSCO, Northwestern University and Rochester Public Library. We also opened a service bureau to provide digitization services a few months earlier, and our earliest customers were Atypon, University of Michigan, as well as EBSCO Publishing.


LB: Today, Kirtas products are present in more than 30 countries with over 400 customers around the world. Our client list includes some of the most prestigious names in the academic, research, government, corporate, publishing and non-profit library world such as Yale U, Cornell U, Emory U, John Hopkins U, Emory U, Novartis, the Air Force, the United Nations Organization, the British Library, Cambridge University Press, Hong Kong U, Government of Canada, McGill U, Polytechnic Institute of St Petersburg, Yeltsin Presidential Library, and the list goes on.

ATG: Why are the terms “scanning” and “digitization” not to be used interchangeably?

LB: Scanning is usually understood as the process of capturing a digital image of a document, while digitization means the process of converting the content of that document into a readily usable digital file. While obviously digitization requires scanning as a first step, it also requires additional post-processing steps which, in the case of complex documents such as books, are usually far more challenging and technically sophisticated than the scanning step.

ATG: What do you mean when you talk about the “three pillars of digitization?”

LB: Kirtas introduced the concept of the “three pillars of digitization” to describe in more concrete terms how different digitization is from scanning, and what are the three fundamental components of digitization that in practice must be delivered by the digitization process in order to ensure the longevity, interoperability and the repurposing of the digitized assets.

ATG: How do you define “quality” as it is applied to digitization projects?

LB: Defining “quality digitization” has been a thorny issue for libraries since the “Making of America” project by Cornell University and U of Michigan. Too often it centers on DPI, output format, OCR accuracy, full color vs. bitonal, etc. Needless to say that with improving technology, these quality specifications have become a moving target. But
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Interview — Lotti Belkhir
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more importantly, none of these specifications really offer a true definition of quality that can become a standard “umbrella” definition from which a well thought-out and logical set of specifications will flow. Hence, quality today is still “in the eye of the beholder.”

At Kirtas, we define quality digitization as follows:

Quality Digitization is the creation of digital assets that: 1) can survive the passage of time; and 2) can be programmatically repurposed to meet the new and existing access needs of today and in the future.

We believe that from this high-level definition we are able to infer a complete set of detailed specifications that will meet the requirements of both digital preservation and multi-purpose access while leveraging our initial investment.

ATG: Please talk about what you refer to as the “cost and opportunity cost of digitization.”

LB: Digitization is often viewed as an expensive endeavor. So to respond to the increasing demand for electronic access by their patrons within the limitations of their ever-shrinking budget, libraries feel often forced to “cut corners” when it comes to quality. The common wisdom is that quality must be sacrificed for quantity when it comes to large-scale digitization because it’s assumed that quality digitization will involve a much higher cost. Our experience is that large-scale quality digitization when done within an efficient workflow, while not free, doesn’t cost that much more than its poor counterpart. In fact, on a “total cost” basis, the evidence points to the contrary. Furthermore, there’s an enormous long-term “opportunity” cost for not doing quality digitization, especially when it’s on a large scale. That opportunity cost includes the (i) perception that it’s a “done task” and hence eliminates any future financing opportunity to do it right, (ii) the detrimental impact on the institution’s reputation, (iii) the inability to repurpose that content down the road to adapt to the rapidly emerging formats (e.g., ePub for eBook reading devices), and needs of their patrons, (iv) the high error rate inherent to those low-quality digitization programs that makes them unsuitable for scholarly research. In short, I believe that the short-term gains (if any) of having poorly digitized collections are dwarfed by those long-term opportunity costs.

ATG: Why should librarians planning digitization projects be concerned with workflow, and what are the steps that should be a part of the planning process?

LB: Because digitization is so much more than scanning, the cost of the scanning tends to be a small part, usually between 10-15% of the total cost of digitization. This total cost must include not only the obvious costs of post-processing, but also that of prioritization, selection, pulling, inspection for rejects, file management, quality control, data entry, data storage, re-shelving, and so on. A well-designed and efficient workflow process is hence critical to achieve a large-scale, high-quality and cost-effective digitization program.

ATG: What should we be doing to insure interoperability and sustainability of our digitization projects?

LB: Interoperability requires common standards for image quality, image formats, and metadata. Sustainability on the other hand requires the kind of quality and file formats that lend themselves to a programmatic conversion to other formats and uses that we may or may not foresee today. To illustrate this key difference, let’s assume that a consortium of libraries agrees on a joint and distributed digitization program with an agreed upon and well-defined set of specifications about the image quality, image format, OCR accuracy level, and metadata output. As long as they all abide by those standards, then their separately digitized assets should be interoperable. On the other hand, they want to convert down the road their files to print-ready PDF’s for print-on-demand. Depending on how they agreed to process their images during their digitization program will determine whether they can programatically (and hence at low cost) convert those digital assets, or whether they would have to manually convert every book (and hence at a prohibitive cost). The same goes if they want to create an ePub file. The accuracy level of their OCR, and the level of completeness of their structural metadata will also determine whether a clean and usable ePub is possible programmatically or not. If the answer is no in both cases, then those digital assets, while interoperable are not sustainable and hence will become quickly obsolete.

ATG: You have a print-on-demand service KirtasBooks.com. What is the business model for this service and what distinguishes it from other POD?

LB: Kirtasbooks.com business model differentiates itself by the concept of “Comprehensive Access.” Every title we have on our one million-record database is available either on-demand, or already digitized. Comprehensive Access means that once digitized, that title is available for free online reading, as a case-bound or paperback POD, as a fully searchable download, or as part of a research collection using the best of breed technology from ebrary. Today, no other company in the world, whether it’s Amazon, Google, Ingram or others offer that kind of access model.

ATG: I know you recently announced a partnership with OCLC. Could you tell us more about that?

LB: Our exciting partnership with OCLC allow us to update Wordbeat records each time we digitize a title from our database of Digitize-on-Demand (DoD) records. That digitized title will then become visible, via a persistent hyperlink, to any OCLC member around the world.

ATG: What are some other big projects in the works that you can tell us about?

LB: All our projects center around the digitization and distribution of library content, with a key focus on quality in the sense of longevity, interoperability and sustainability. Based on our customers’ feedback, we continue to develop hardware and software products that on one end of the spectrum enable the conversion of special collections material, and on the other end of the spectrum enable the clean and painless repurposing of digitized material into emerging formats such as the ePub format.

ATG: In your opinion, who are the major digitization players now and what will the industry look like in five years?

LB: With Microsoft’s exit from this arena last year, the three other major players, besides Kirtas, are Google, Amazon and the Internet Archive. Google is by far the largest player today, although its output falls far short from qualifying as “digitization.” Amazon does a good job in its digitization of relatively recent and copyrighted material, but all its scanning is destructive. The Internet Archive has made commendable efforts in scanning manually over a half-million titles and making them available on its archive, but there again because of their narrow focus on scanning only and rudimentary quality control process, there will need to be extensive additional investment to make their scanned titles interoperable and repurposeable. I believe that five years from now, the industry will have finally settled on a thorough set of standards of digitization that will enable interoperable content to be accessed in multiple ways. I see new international partnerships forming between libraries, governments, and corporations forming around the preservation, access and sharing of information and knowledge in ways only possible through the digital media. I see new technologies emerging spurred by new opportunities that will be created and stimulated by all the digitized content. I see the Web 3.0 taking full shape and an unprecedented level of knowledge and information sharing taking place.

ATG: What message do you have for new people just entering the library and information services profession?

LB: With the information explosion and the increasing need for researching and accessing vast amounts of information, there’s also a commensurate need for a new breed of library services professionals that will adapt to the rapidly changing landscape. They must learn to leverage the latest technologies to enhance not only the quality of their services but also the efficiency with which they deliver those services. Indeed digitization, when done right, is one such enabler of quality and efficiency. However, the potential, digitization needs to be embraced and owned directly by the library community instead of other organizations who share neither its know-how, nor its agenda.

ATG: What one thing would you like readers of Against the Grain to think about when they think of Kirtas?

LB: A partner who’s passionately dedicated to “moving knowledge from books to bytes.”

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Close Encounters with the Droid

ATG: We heard you’re a new droid customer. How did that happen?

George Machovec: My five year old Motorola RAZR phone died on a Friday so I needed to get a new device ASAP. As a Verizon customer I was hoping that the iPhone would be released for that carrier but I had to get a new device immediately. I had been watching the Blackberry Storm 2 but the new Google OS looked intriguing and I liked the idea of getting a user interface that would be available across several carriers if I ever decided to change. Also, it seemed like the Google OS was targeting both business as well as personal/recreational use, something which I really wanted.

ATG: Which one did you buy?

GM: I got the Motorola Droid with the latest Google 2.0 OS.

ATG: What was your first reaction?

GM: Of course, I had been drooling over the iPhone for some time so I was hoping my purchase of the Droid would not let me down. I have to admit I was happily blown away with the Droid functionality and really enjoyed its simplicity and power.

ATG: How is it as a work phone?

GM: The phone functionality has been great. This was the main reason that I had not gone to AT&T for an iPhone. I live in Denver and do a lot of car travelling in the Rocky Mountains and southwest — some very rural areas once I get out of the Denver metro area. Verizon has great coverage and I did not want to lose the broad network that Verizon offers.

The Droid phone functionality is much nicer than my old RAZR. Since I sync with a Microsoft Exchange server at work I was immediately able to import my 500 or so contacts as well as calendar and email. This was a crucial requirement for me in the purchase of a new phone. I used to have a Dell PDA for syncing with Exchange but I stopped us-

ing it about a year ago because it was such a burden to use.

ATG: I’m sure you aren’t underwhelmed with features and apps. Overwhelmed?

GM: Droid currently has about 10,000 apps in their Market — some are free and some cost. This is about a tenth of what is now available for the Apple iPhone. But 10,000 is still a huge number and my guess is that there will be a large growth in available apps over the next year or so. I don’t feel app deprived and have found lots of very cool things. The only “killer” app that is missing is iTunes/iPod which, of course, is exclusive to Apple and gives them a huge edge. I guess I’ll just keep using my Nano for the foreseeable future.

I’m a news junkie so apps for BBC, the New York Times and CNN are among my favorite. But I’ve also downloaded apps for a free dictionary, Pandora (streaming music), The Weather Channel, WikiMobile, a PDF viewer, OpenTable (to make restaurant reservations) and a few others. One of the really cool apps I’ve downloaded allows me to take pictures with the five megapixel camera and turn the photo into a PDF. This is quite useful for old-school library work as well as other ways to share documents without faxing or photocopying.

One of the very powerful apps that is pre-installed with the Google 2.0 OS is a very powerful map function. Aside from getting Google Maps with its various layers it also has a build-in GPS (with built-in GPS satellite connectivity) with written as well as voice instructions when driving. A person no longer needs a dedicated GPS device. Google Latitude is also included which will pinpoint my position on a map and allow me to share it with my set of pre-approved friends. Maybe I’m getting old but this seems a bit creepy, almost stalker like. But I’m trying it out anyway.

One thing I’m trying to avoid is the “CrackBerry” syndrome with the mobile device controlling my personal and professional time. To avoid this problem, I’ve made the email notification on my Droid silent so that I only get notified for phone calls and text messages. I get dozens of emails every day (sometimes over a hundred) so I don’t want the phone buzzing every few minutes. I still like getting the emails in my Droid but I only use that device for emails on rare occasions. I would rather use my laptop where I can be more efficient.

I’ve only touched the surface of available apps but as I spend more time over the next few months I’m looking to find more.

ATG: Is the network up to the droid?

GM: The Verizon 3G network in Denver seems very robust and I’ve had no slowness or connectivity problems. But the Motorola droid also has built-in Wi-Fi so when I’m at home I sometimes use my home DSL Wi-Fi connection as it’s even faster.

ATG: How would it work, you think, doing IM reference?

GM: I think doing IM reference would be difficult unless one had short simple answers. Although there is both a screen keyboard as well as a small physical keyboard on the Motorola Droid, I would find it difficult to create long messages. Screen pushing would also be very difficult with the small form factor of the device. But I could see using a larger computer at the reference desk or in an office and then using a portable phone if one had to go elsewhere in the library for a quick follow-up.

ATG: Are your iPhone friends envious?

GM: I’ve had several of my iPhone friends comment on some of the cool features in the Droid, especially the GPS and Google-specific optimized functions. But I think once you get invested in an iPhone, Blackberry, Palm Pre or Google OS device there is a large incentive (in addition to the two-year required contract) to stay in an existing environment because of the investment (intellectual as well as financial) one makes in the apps.

ATG: What will you buy in two years — after your contract runs course?

GM: So far I’m very happy with my Droid phone. But it’s really hard to know where the main competitors will be in two years. I’ll decide then.

ATG: Any eBook experience with your device?

GM: I think the Google OS for portable devices will be a major player for not only Android phones but also other venues such as with the Nook who recently disclosed that Google was behind the scenes in their new reader. Interestingly, the Barnes and Noble eBook app is currently only available for iPhone, Blackberry and PC/Windows. I assume that they will release a Google OS version of their eBook reader for droid phones in the near future, but it isn’t available as of December 1, 2009 as far as I can tell. Microsoft appears to be the major loser with the new Google OS and other leading smart phones. They seem to have fumbled in the portable market.

by Dennis Brunning (E Humanities Development Librarian, Arizona State University) <dennis.brunning@gmail.com>
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ATG: Come again? YBP (Baker & Taylor) has just bought Blackwell Book Services in the US (Blackwell NA)? This is startling news! What will happen to the Blackwell offices in the US?

MK: Our top priority will be to work very closely with Blackwell staff to ensure that all Blackwell customers continue to receive the highest possible level of service while also beginning the process of transitioning accounts over to YBP systems as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. We have tremendous respect for the knowledge and professionalism of the Blackwell team, and will depend on their expertise as the transition goes forward. However, due to redundancies in the workforce and operations, over the course of the next 10 to 12 months, Blackwell’s Blackwood, NJ facility will be closed. Blackwell’s Lake Oswego, Oregon offices will remain open for a year or more, depending on business needs.

ATG: What will happen to the Blackwell sales reps et al. (John Laraway? Matt Nau? Etc.) When will we know who we will deal with?

MK: We are sensitive to the fact that Blackwell regional sales managers (RSM’s), like their YBP counterparts, have established close working relationships with the customers they serve. As noted above, we have great respect for the expertise and relationships that the Blackwell RSM’s have with the libraries they serve, so we will be working very closely with them to transition each library customer from the Blackwell system to YBP.

We are pleased that a number of Blackwell regional sales managers (RSM’s) will become part of the YBP sales team. During the transition period, we will also be evaluating sales territories to ensure that all customers are receiving the highest level of service possible. Customers will be notified of any changes in sales representation, if applicable, before January 1. In addition, Blackwell’s customer service staff will be retained in Oregon for an extended period of time. They will be instrumental in helping transition Blackwell customers to YBP based on their extensive knowledge of the Blackwell account structure, approval plan and systems.

ATG: What will happen to existing Blackwell approval plans? Firm orders?

MK: All Blackwell approval plans and firm order customers will be gradually transitioned to YBP and this will be done in close coordination with each library in a manner that respects existing library workflow processes. We have a great deal of experience transitioning Blackwell customers to our systems, and that expertise will only be multiplied with the help of the Blackwell customer service and sales teams.

ATG: The Blackwell and YBP thesauri are very different. How will Blackwell Profiles be incorporated into YBP? And isn’t this going to be a lot of extra work for already overworked acquisitions and collection development professionals? Will all approval plan profiles have to be redone really?

MK: Yes, the Blackwell and YBP approval profiling methodologies are quite different. However, YBP has significant experience converting Blackwell approval plans to YBP plans. Our experience shows that simply mapping out, or converting the Blackwell profiles without discussion in the library can take as long or longer then an actual session in the library and does not always yield optimal results. These sessions also allow us to develop a clearer understanding of the library’s collection objectives and, most importantly, the opportunity to engage in productive two-way dialogue that becomes the cornerstone of our future working relationship. Very recently, for example, one of my colleagues was in a library with a sales person converting a profile from another vendor. The selectors had arrived well prepared and seemed to enjoy the sessions. Their comments were positive. They had not reviewed their existing profile in a while, or they were new to their job and all felt it was a worthwhile exercise and not a lot of extra work at all.

Our goal today is the same as it was 35 years ago: to truly craft a precise profile that ensures that libraries receive materials (both print and electronic) that accurately match their current collection development objectives. Our plan is to begin converting approval plans over the coming weeks and Blackwell approval plan customers can expect to hear from both Blackwell and YBP sales representatives as they work together to help begin and facilitate this process. As noted above, YBP has a great deal of experience transitioning Blackwell customers to our systems, and that expertise will only be multiplied with the help of the Blackwell customer service and sales teams.

ATG: How many approval plans are there that need this type of attention?

MK: There are approximately 150 plans. ATG: This is bound to hurt competition in the book business. Comments? What changes will we see, especially in pricing?

MK: Actually, I would argue that this is probably the most competitive time in the history of book selling. While there still remain a good number of traditional academic library book sellers (Midwest, Coutts, Emery-Pratt, and others) for libraries to choose from, there is also significant competition from less traditional library book sellers including Amazon, Google, B&N, and other online aggregators such as Ebrary, EBL, NetLibrary, publisher direct content bundles (both print and electronic), print on demand (POD) options, and specialized out of print (OP) vendors to name but a few. With this level of competition will come competitive pricing.

ATG: What has Blackwell retained? The bookstores and Lindsay and Croft? Other?

MK: Blackwell’s United Kingdom office will continue to operate separately. This includes incorporating Lindsay and Croft into their existing Oxford business as well as continuing to operate their retail book stores, YBP Library Services and Blackwell Ltd. have entered into a reciprocal supply agreement under which Blackwell will supply U.K. published academic books to YBP and, in turn, YBP will supply U.S. published academic books to Blackwell.

ATG: What will be the name of the new company? Who will be in charge? This applies to both Blackwell and YBP/B&T?

MK: Blackwell customers will transition to YBP Library Services, which will replace the Blackwell name in the parts of the world YBP will serve (North and South America, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim). The Blackwell name will be retained in the United Kingdom which includes the Lindsay and Croft business. Blackwell will serve libraries in Europe and Africa. The Blackwell retail business in the U.K. will also remain intact. Blackwell will be under the management of CEO Andrew Hutchings and YBP, Baker and Taylor’s academic division, is led by George Coe, President of B&T’s Library and Education division.

ATG: Why are you not retaining the Blackwell name? You retained the YBP name.

MK: The Blackwell name will be retained by the UK based Blackwell business. This includes the library service business that will support libraries in Europe and Africa as well as the Blackwell retail business.

ATG: If prepayments have been made to Blackwell will they be transferred to YBP?

MK: Prepayments and/or deposit accounts with Blackwell will be transferred to YBP once a library’s account is transitioned to YBP.

ATG: Can you be more specific about how this transition will be managed? It’s effective December 9? My heavens, its Dec. 11 now!

MK: For the time being, it will be “business as usual.” We are now entering an approximately 45-60 day period where we will be undertaking the necessary internal work to prepare for the customer account transitions. Blackwell and YBP operational and sales/service staffs will be working closely in planning each step of the transition. In the continued on page 42
PARKER LIBRARY on the web

Parker on the Web is an interactive, web-based workspace featuring the manuscripts of the world-famous Parker Library at Corpus Christi College.

Parker on the Web is the product of a partnership between Corpus Christi College of Cambridge University and Stanford University. HARRASSOWITZ has the pleasure to announce that Version 1.0 is now available for purchase.

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weeks and months ahead, all ordering and approval systems and customer support tools will be integrated into a single customer interface which will be GOBI. We will be conducting a "gap analysis" between GOBI and Collection Manager which will result in us incorporating the best features from each service into GOBI. Once that is completed, and after all customers are converted to YBP systems, Collection Manager will be retired. Customer updates regarding the transition planning will be issued frequently.

ATG: Can you tell us about the purchase? How much money or other securities, whatever were involved?

MK: As this was a transaction between two private organizations, we are regrettably unable to disclose any financial aspects of the agreement.

ATG: Where does James Bennett fit into this transaction?

MK: James Bennett Booksellers becomes part of Baker and Taylor. There will be no changes in the James Bennett operation at this time, except a pre-planned move to a larger facility in Australia to accommodate its growth. James Bennett will keep its name.

ATG: Will YBP offer new services that previously were unique to Blackwell?

MK: Yes. Services that were previously unique to one provider, such as Blackwell's Table of Contents Catalog Enrichment Service, will soon be offered to YBP customers. By combining mutual best practices and resources of both organizations, YBP will provide an even greater level of customer service and support to our customers.

ATG: Will YBP expand their services in any way or hire new personnel? How long has this been in the works?

MK: During the past few years, employment has grown steadily at YBP (including several members of our management team returning to YBP) as we worked to appropriately increase our staff, now at its highest level ever, to meet the needs of our growing volume of business and to offer the increasingly complex new range of services our customers require. With this recent transaction, we are poised to increase our staff size once again to meet the needs of our current, and new, customers. As to how this acquisition came together, both parties have long held mutual respect for one another and acknowledged within the past year that combining our resources would provide a stronger base of resources and capabilities for both organizations to serve libraries worldwide. In fact, the combined organizations create synergies that neither organization could offer on their own. We have noted but one example of a new service offering in response to the previous question.

ATG: Thanks, Mark, for your timely responses!

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From the Reference Desk

by Tom Gilson (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Sage Reference adds another title to its collection of encyclopedias that draw their strength from a multidisciplinary approach. The Encyclopedia of Human Relationships (2009, 978-1412958462, $425) edited by Harry T. Reis and Susan Sprecher is a three-volume set that focuses on the research and theory related to what is collectively known as relationship science. Intimate relationships like those between spouses and among family members are discussed as well as those among co-workers, neighbors and professional associates.

The disciplines drawn from are more diverse than one might initially think. Core fields like psychology, sociology and communications are well represented but so are others less obvious like neuroscience, anthropology, legal studies and physiology. Articles focus on a rich variety of topics including cognitive and communication processes, health and biology, social context, the role of individual personality and broader emotional and psychological processes. A number of entries also discuss what the editors categorize as the "dark side of relationships." Following on this theme there are articles on topics like abuse and violence, bereavement, bullying, incest, loneliness, hostility, rejection, revenge and shyness. Rounding out the coverage there are articles that focus on the theoretical underpinnings of relationship science as well as specific methodologies employed in its study.

The articles are academic and grounded in scholarship being, for the most part, intended for undergraduates and graduate students as well as a professional audience. However, needed definitions and explanations are provided throughout enabling interested lay readers to easily comprehend and benefit from the contents of the set. The organization of the three volumes lends itself to ease of use. The articles are alphabetically arranged with a full list of all entries in the front of each volume. There is also a reader's guide that groups the articles under eighteen related categories while each article has a list of "see also" references. Helpful bibliographies are provided for each entry and a thorough and comprehensive index provides access to information at the volume and page level.

All in all, the Encyclopedia of Human Relationships is a well conceived and professionally produced reference that covers relationship science more comprehensively than either The Cambridge Handbook of Personal Relationships (2006, 0-521-47524-4, $90) or the dated Encyclopedia of Relationships Across the Lifespan (Greenwood, 1996, 978-0313295768, $165). It will primarily appeal to academic libraries but large public libraries with demand for information on relationships will also find it a valuable addition.

Another Sage publication possessing similar positive qualities is the Encyclopedia of Medical Decision Making (2009, 978-1-4129-5372-6, $375). Edited by Michael W. Kattan and Mark E. Cowan, this two-volume set draws on the expertise of contributors from fields as disparate as econometrics, psychology, and ethics to create a collection of some 300 articles discussing numerous relevant topics.

The approach is both normative and descriptive in that articles "investigate the processes and technology by which optimal medical decisions should be made," as well as describe the way such decisions are made under real life pressures and limitations. Much of the encyclopedia is made up of articles that cover scientific and analytical topics falling under categories like biostatistics and clinical epidemiology, decision analysis and mathematical models, health outcomes and measurement and the impact or utility of the possible outcomes. On the more descriptive side there are essays that discuss subjects like cultural issues, the level of trust in the healthcare system, the types of decisions faced by the patients as well as by their proxies, the quality of data being used, medical errors, patient rights, and religious factors.

The main audience for this set is students, scholars and professionals. While every attempt is made to make the articles accessible to the informed lay reader the more technical articles will require careful reading. Entries on topics like analysis of covariance, decision trees, net benefit regression and test treatment threshold entail time and effort to assimilate the formulas, graphs and charts used to explain these concepts and methods. But the results are worth the effort to gain an understanding of these important topics. Naturally, each article has "see also" references to related articles as well as lists of further readings. A useful general index rounds out the set providing direct access to specifics.

Encyclopedia of Medical Decision Making is a serious work that illuminates important concerns. There is nothing else quite like it in the reference literature with its authoritative focus on both the analytical and real world elements of medical decision making. This set will be of particular value in health science and hospital libraries. Larger academic libraries may also want to give it strong consideration. Given the specific nature of its coverage these libraries may prefer placing it in circulating collections.
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IEEE Information Driving Innovation
Greenwood has also published two titles that have been on this reviewer’s list for awhile.

**Latino America: A State by State Encyclopedia** (2008, 978-0-313-34116-8, $175) is edited by Mark Overmyer-Velázquez the Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Connecticut. As the title implies, this reference provides information about the state by state impacts of America’s ever growing Latino/a population. For the purposes of this work that encompasses descendents and new immigrants from Mexico, South America and the Caribbean.

The two volumes are arranged alphabetically by state and also include the District of Columbia. Each entry starts with a chronology that gives the reader a time frame often from the earliest evidence of Spanish exploration to the current day population growth phenomena. The chronology is followed by a narrative historical overview that includes discussion of the resulting social, political and economic changes including tensions and adjustments. A list of notable Latino/as is also provided as is a section on specific cultural contributions. Each essay ends with a list of notes and a bibliography. Researchers will find that the sources in the bibliographies are fairly diverse and include books, articles, dissertations and web sites. All entries are signed and there is a list of contributors along with their academic affiliations at the end of volume two. There is also an appendix of state by state census statistics for Latino/a population from 1970 – 2000. Some figures for other years as far back as 1870 are also listed but given the lack of relevant census data, these are spotty and incomplete. A useful general index completes the set.

**Latino America: A State by State Encyclopedia** is a fascinating and valuable reference work. It sheds light on the growing influence and impact of the fastest growing minority in America. Whether discussing Alaska, where Latino/as are 5.2% of the state’s population or New Mexico, where Latino/as are the ethnic majority, editor Overmyer-Velázquez and his contributors are adept in using research coupled with statistics to reflect the historic and current impacts of fastest growing minority population in America. Although grounded in scholarship and edited and authored by academics this work should have broad appeal and will be of equal use to high school students, undergraduates and the general reader. Larger libraries where there is strong demand (and equally strong budgets) may want to place the print edition in circulation and use the ebook version for reference. The electronic edition is available from ABC-CLIO who has the license to all Greenwood titles. The Website is at http://ebooks.abc-clio.com.

The next title is the **Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History, 1900 to the Present** which is divided into sections and covers 1950 to the present. Each volume includes its own chronology of world and fashion events and then is divided into two large parts entitled the Social Significance of Dress and Fashion and the Fashion Industry. These large parts start with overview essays and then are divided into chapters which are in turn subdivided into time periods. For example, in the Social Significance part of volume one there is a chapter entitled Arts and Entertainment which is divided into sections for each decade covered i.e., the 1900’s, the 1910’s, etc. The same goes for the Fashion Industry part. There are individual chapters devoted to Women’s, Men’s and Children’s fashions with individual sections covering each decade.

While this arrangement takes a bit of getting use to, the information in this set is worth the effort. Fashion does not occur in a vacuum. It is both an expression and a result of the time in which it occurs. Readers can get a solid sense of fashion in the context of the time that produces it by exploring these books. However, the proper use of this set will require some time and work on the reader’s part to make many of the relevant connections. Admittedly, this arrangement is not the type that enables one to access specific facts easily. However, the general indexes contained in both volumes are a great help in this regard. For example, looking for information on men’s sportswear, I was clearly directed to the specific volumes and pages containing the relevant information. As additional value added features, each volume has its own glossary and resource guide listing books, films and videos, museums, organizations, special collections and Websites. They are also illustrated with both black and white as well as color photos.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History, 1900 to the Present is another work that will be useful to a wide range of readers from public library patrons to high school students to college undergraduates. As such, it is also another one of those works that is equally suitable for circulating collections and those subscribers to Greenwood’s Daily Life Online database may have access to it electronically. For information about the electronic version of this work you can call 805-968-1911 or email <sales@abc-clio.com>.

(As mentioned above, according to a list of titles on the ABC-CLIO Website, this set is the first of a projected series. The other two titles Clothing through American History: The Federal Era through Antebellum, 1786-1860 and Clothing through American History: The Civil War through the Gilded Age, 1861-1899 will be published in 2010 and are single volumes.)
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SETTING THE STANDARD
I recently requested a review copy of this book to give to our Head of Circulation because we’ve been working together lately on a long-term weeding project and I know that shelving is the bane of her existence these days. We have a number of very overcrowded areas in our general stacks that are in desperate need of “distilling” as I like to say.

Will this book be of any use to her? — Most assuredly. It’s a compact, no-nonsense volume with plenty of good advice. Its weakness for our (academic library) purpose is that it is decidedly geared toward the public library environment. However, that does not stop it from being useful in any library setting if you can substitute your classification system (LC or something else) when you hit the references to Dewey, and mentally interchange “student assistant” (or whoever makes up your temporary workforce) when the author refers to “library pages.”

As the title indicates, this book is focused on the management aspects of supervising those individuals who shelve books in libraries. Because this population tends to be made up of individuals who are usually working part-time hours for modest wages, with high turn-over rates, the challenges of supervising and training are considerable. However, the author does an excellent job of addressing all aspects of the project — from advertising for help through disciplinary issues and firing with dignity. The strongest takeaways are in the training sections, which is information I was hoping to find. I also found Tunstall’s method for moving large sections of materials to be a sound and logical process. Having experienced complete building move with professional movers, I understand her sentiments concerning the effectiveness of such services. The author offers a “do-it-yourself” system that can work and may save your library thousands of dollars both in labor and clean up costs.

There are a couple of topics that I do not find in this book for which I expected to see at least some mention. One is the proper handling of books and materials while shelving. There is essentially no coverage of this aspect at all. Emphasis is solely on the ability of shelvers to place books in correct order. Granted, there are plenty of good guides showing techniques for proper handling while shelving, so it’s not that there is any lack of information available, but I would have assumed it would have been at least mentioned along the way. Another discussion I would have liked to have seen included is how shelvers can assist library staff who are involved in weeding projects. The author notes that shelves should not be allowed to get overfull, but then does not follow through with how that might be avoided (i.e., weeding). Related to that, there is not much coverage of the topic of short-term shifting which is commonly required, especially in libraries where space is at a premium and the weeding can’t be done regularly for whatever reason.

Aside from these minor shortcomings, I find the book readable, practical, and laced with a sense of humor. The examples of tests skills for candidate screening are excellent and can be easily adapted by any type of library. There is an index and an appendix with examples of personnel forms and other useful materials. There is also an accompanying web site for the book embedded within the ALA Editions Website, although this author is not (yet) utilizing it. (All it says at this writing is “Coming soon …”)

While many of the resources libraries provide these days for their readers are electronic, as long as we have physical materials on shelves, we will need to take care of those shelves the old-fashioned way. This book is therefore a welcome addition to the Circulation Supervisor’s reference shelf.

Column Editor: Debbie Vaughn (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor’s Note: On occasion, this column shares reviews on books highlighting library personnel issues. Library shelvers, however, have never been in the Monographic Musings spotlight — that is, until now. Eleanor I. Cook, Assistant Director for Collections and Technical Services and librarian extraordinary at East Carolina University’s Joyner Library, is no stranger to leadership or to workplace literature. She co-authored the book Conflict Management for Libraries (see the September 2005 issue of ATG) and has authored a number of articles on best practices in technical services. She’s also no stranger to ATG; you might recognize her name from her stellar column, Drinking From the Fire Hose. Many thanks to Eleanor for adding her knowledge to Monographic Musings. Seasons greetings and happy reading, everyone! — DV


Reviewed by Eleanor I. Cook (East Carolina University)

Something to Think About — Power Weeding!

How are things going in your neck of the woods? We are still in the throes of the economic depression/recession/or whatever the politically correct word is today. We are watching every penny and I mean squeezing it pretty hard. We have cut titles, and I mean squeezing it pretty hard. We have cut titles, perhaps some we should have done earlier. We are being done for us. Since I protect the collection as a mother would her children, I find this action a little more satisfying and less guilt-ridden.

My energies today are being spent on verifying the existence of serial titles and trying to find missing items to fill our holes in the collection. Both are very frustrating! Remember, I wrote about my haunted computer? Well, it has been acting up today. Just as I get to the point of verifying a fact about a title, the computer crashes before I can hit the print button. It seems others on campus have been having similar problems, so I am a little more at ease with it. This is still annoying to lose everything when you are just at the point of printing or saving the material. A co-worker just told me she had finally completed a long contents note when her machine crashed erasing everything. I sure am glad they don’t give us hammeras as standard equipment or there would be no computers left standing. Give me some physical work to do, please! On these frustrating days, we take breaks by walking around the building. It is so nice that the temperature is lower these days, so we can walk.

When you have piles of frustration, everything seems to go wrong. One co-worker found herself in a pool of coffee this morning as the cord to her warmer was wrapped around her chair leg as she whirled the chair around to the desk, everything came crashing down. Luckily, the maid wasn’t too far away and managed to save the day. I think there is a rule that at holiday times stuff just doesn’t work right! Do you have the same problems? How has your week been? Not to leave you in too much of a negative bent, let us realize that things can and do go well! I was at the beach a couple of weeks ago and out in the Ocean waves. I feel that much good will come of the upheaval and force us to evolve our collections into leaner and stronger information packages for our patrons. We will find new ways to achieve better results and begin newer and better workflows for the future. Perhaps it will open our thoughts to more creative solutions. Is that something to think about? You betcha’!

H

Column Editor: Mary E. (Tinker) Massey (Serials Librarian, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University) <masse36e@erau.edu>

46 Against the Grain / December 2009 - January 2010

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Hybrid learning is now the single-greatest trend in education today due to the numerous educational advantages when both traditional classroom learning and e-learning are implemented collectively. This Handbook of Research collects emerging research and pedagogies related to the convergence of teaching and learning methods, providing researchers, scholars, students, and professionals access to the latest knowledge related to hybrid learning.


This book discusses eclectic accounts of case studies in different contexts of e-learning, providing critical insights for practitioners and executives concerned with the management of knowledge, information, and organizational development in various types of work environments and learning communities.


This book identifies the role and function of shared contact behavior of youth on the Web. With expert international contributions, this publication provides a deep understanding on various issues of adolescent Internet use with an emphasis on diverse aspects of social and cognitive development, communication characteristics, and modes of communication.


Not only are traditional images like drawings, blueprints, and photos widely used in e-learning, but also many new graphics have become useful learning aids. This publication offers useful methods for creating digital imagery as well as leading pedagogical theories and research on the implementation of inherited images, featuring applied, hands-on strategies related to capturing and authoring tools used to acquire and create graphics.

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- LAB Creations concept + design, printing and design consultant

Vital statistics

- Founded in 1981
- Over 200 employees
- 11 offices worldwide
- 120 journals published annually, all digitized to vol. 1
- 500 books published annually, majority available as e-books and in print
- 6,000 books on backlist

History and brief description of publishing program

World Scientific was founded in 1982, primarily as a Physics and Mathematics publisher. While the company continues to have a very strong program in these two subjects, we have since expanded the publishing program into other subject areas, including Engineering, Computer Science, Economics and Finance, Medical and Life Sciences, Nanotechnology and others. Currently, nearly half of the 120 journals are in Physics and Mathematics. Our editors and authors include renowned scientists and several Nobel Laureates.

Nobel Lectures, 1901-2000. Among the company’s notable successes was its being awarded the exclusive rights in 1991 by the Nobel Foundation to publish (in English) the entire series of the Nobel lectures from 1971 to 1990 and to distribute them worldwide. Subsequently, World Scientific again obtained the rights to publish the complete series of Nobel lectures delivered from 1901 to 2000.

Electronic Publications

e-Journals — All journals have been digitized to volume 1 and are available in both print and electronic versions. Subscriptions to current e-journals include access to volumes back to 2001. Archives with content through year 2000 are available either as a onetime purchase or by annual subscription.

Worldscinet.com, our journal Website provides many services to the academic and professional communities, including:

- Free table-of-contents email alerts on new journal issues
- Latest journal-specific news
- Free online sample articles, feature articles
- Advanced search functions

e-Books — Our platform at ebooks.worldscinet.com was launched in 2006 to link researchers worldwide with our high-quality book content on an electronic platform.

We offer more than 500,000 pages of content with over 300 titles added annually. Both front and backlists are available. Libraries can choose from a selection of models to suit their budget and requirements. Multi-site arrangements can be made to ensure that all campuses gain quick and efficient access to the electronic book holdings. We understand industry trends as well as library requirements and have developed a product to meet these needs.
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February 2009, 668 pp., 7x10, EAN 978-1-85109-988-7, $195.00

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Every year large numbers of reference books are published. It is inevitable that some of these books will contain factual or other types of errors. The existence of errors brings up a number of legal issues, both for publishers and for customers. This article will attempt to answer some of the questions related to erroneous reference books, including:

- Are books considered “goods” under the Uniform Commercial Code?
- Do publishers owe any legal duties to their customers?
- What legal remedies are available to consumers?
- Are there legal risks faced by consumers and libraries?
- Why is it a bad business model to sell defective intellectual property?

The release of the 6th edition of the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association turned into a nightmare of bad publicity. The manual was released with a large number of errors, mostly in the examples (which are the parts that most students use). Luckily the publisher took their responsibilities seriously and replaced the defective works with a corrected 2nd printing. However, this incident brought to the forefront the question of legal implications for defective reference works.

Generally, it is fairly easy for librarians to escape legal liability if a client claims that he or she was harmed by the information in a book or a database. After all, librarians didn’t create the erroneous information. As I pointed out in chapter 8 of my book The Law of Libraries and Archives, there have been no cases involving this type of liability. In fact, a similar case from a video store found that there was no liability for defective information in videos.

Interestingly, however, the courts have tended to see books, videos, and other forms of intellectual property as being “goods” in the same fashion as automobiles, widgets, or other forms of tangible property. There is no doubt that a book or video constitutes intellectual property. But does it also constitute a good? Under Article 2 § 105 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), goods are defined as being “all things (including specially manufactured goods) which are movable at the time of identification to the contract for sale other than the money in which the price is to be paid, investment securities (Article 8) and things in action.” By this definition, books would indeed be considered goods.

The main U.S. case involving the provision of information is Brocklesby v. Jeppesen. The court ruled that maps are goods, although the case was decided using product liability rather than contract law. Jeppesen was a company that published maps for the aviation industry. Their maps were based on FAA data, which was released in chart form. The company sold a map that failed to show a mountain. The original mistake was in the FAA data, but Jeppesen was found to be liable under a products liability theory. The court found that the charts were mass-produced, and emphasized that “Jeppesen had a duty to test its product and to warn users of its dangers.” This case established a precedent for using products liability law to deal with defective intellectual property.

Do Publishers Owe Any Legal Duties to their Customers?

This may appear to be a loaded question for publishers, chipping away at their normal business model. However, an objective analysis shows that any transaction, particularly in terms of sales, does involve some duties, including warranties.

There are two types of warranties. Express warranties consist of bargains included in contracts as the result of negotiation. An example would be the purchase of a new car which comes with a five-year, 50,000-mile warranty. This express warranty is included in the contract — in writing — and can be legally enforced. On the other hand, the legal system itself attaches a series of implied warranties to all sales of goods.

There are several types of warranties which are implied by law. It is possible for these to be limited or disclaimed by the seller. However, this must be expressly done in an unambiguous manner. If the seller does not disclaim or limit implied warranties, they are still applicable. Warranties implied by law include:

- Warranty of Title. The seller promises that (a) the title conveyed shall be good, and its transfer rightful; and (b) the goods shall be delivered free from any security interest or other lien or encumbrance of which the buyer at the time of contracting has no knowledge.

- Warranty of Merchantability. The seller promises that the goods are indeed what the contract specifies they are to be; “are of fair average quality within the description...are fit for the ordinary purposes for which such goods are used; and...conform to the promise or affirmations of fact made on the container or label if any.”

- Warranty of Fitness for Particular Purpose. “Where the seller at the time of contracting has reason to know any particular purpose for which the goods are required and that the buyer is relying on the seller’s skill or judgment to select or furnish suitable goods, there is unless excluded or modified under the next section an implied warranty that the goods shall be fit for such purpose.”

Publishers do indeed owe duties to their customers. However, goods can be sold with the implied warranties excluded. In order to exclude the warranty of merchantability, the UCC requires that the limitation language specifically mention “merchantability” as being excluded. The UCC is even more strict with regard to the warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. In order to limit fitness, the exclusion

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Developed with the guidance of a board of librarians, representing both academic and public institutions, this new edition reflects the intuitive search needs of today's library consumer—drawing on an enhanced index that provides cross-references between articles that expand the utility and user-friendliness of this practical, yet thorough reference.

Extensive coverage includes:
- Biological psychology and neuroscience
- DSM diagnoses and psychopathological conditions
- Psychological and psychopharmacological treatment methods
- Psychological tests, scales, and assessment methods
- Developmental processes
- Research methods and statistical procedures
- Psychological societies and organizations
- Psychology from around the world
- Biographical entries on over 600 influential psychologists

The Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology is expansive and contemporary in scope:
- Over 1,700 entries, more than 90% new or revised
- Over 500 entirely new entries
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must be in writing and be conspicuous.\textsuperscript{11} Yet a statement that goods are being sold “as is” does act to limit all implied warranties. (I’ll discuss later whether that is a wise business decision.)

Although selling a good “as is” allows the seller to disclaim warranties, this does not let sellers off the hook for \textit{deliberate} errors. For example, suppose company X publishes auto repair guides. X also owns company Y, which sells automobile tires. In its guide for the 2002 Subaru Outback, X tells consumers that the only tires that fit the vehicle are made by company Y—even though X knows that many other companies make matching tires. This is not an honest error or oversight; rather, it is fraud. In this situation the consumer, the Federal Trade Commission, and/or state Attorneys General could sue X for fraudulent and deceptive trade practices.

Applying these principles to reference books, it is clear that a book falls within the definition of a good under the UCC. Therefore, the warranties of title, merchantability, and fitness for a particular purpose would apply, unless publishers specifically disclaim them. As long as the goods were not sold “as is,” consumers who purchase a defective reference product file breach of warranty lawsuits under the Uniform Commercial Code.

This is a matter of state law, and would properly be filed in state courts. The rules of each state vary on how class actions are construed, but in some states it might be possible to certify all purchasers of a defective work as a class. This would allow one trial to determine the outcome for all potential plaintiffs. However, the amount of damages that could be recovered by each plaintiff would be limited to the purchase price of the good (plus applicable shipping.)

By the way, note that a lawsuit in federal court would probably not be available for most defective reference works. Although the concept of “diversity jurisdiction” allows a case to be filed in federal court if the parties live in different states, the amount in controversy must be higher than $75,000 for an individual party or $5,000,000 for a class action.\textsuperscript{12} I doubt that there would be many defective reference works which would make it over that threshold. For example, recovery on the APA Publication Manual would have only constituted $17 per copy plus shipping costs.

**Are There Legal Risks Faced by Consumers?**

The first reaction of a consumer, when faced with a defective product, is to organize a boycott: call your friends, tell your colleagues, and start a movement. This seems to be a natural reaction to a perceived problem. However, if not done properly, consumers may face a risk of running afoul of antitrust law. An organized boycott is not necessarily illegal, but it can cross the lines established by the Sherman Antitrust Act. In situations where a restraint has (or is intended to have) “an effect upon prices in the market or otherwise to deprive purchasers or consumers of advantages that they derive from free competition,”\textsuperscript{13} the law considers boycotts to be “concerted refusals to deal.”\textsuperscript{14}

The Sherman Antitrust Act was adopted in 1890,\textsuperscript{15} and makes agreements or boycotts in restraint of trade illegal. The statute reads as follows:

Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is declared to be illegal. Every person who shall make any contract or engage in any combination or conspiracy hereby declared to be illegal shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding $100,000,000 if a corporation, or, if any other person, $1,000,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding 10 years, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

The key to proving an illegal combination in restraint of trade is that (1) there is an agreement among the players, and (2) this agreement causes an effect on the price or market for goods. It is for this reason that libraries cannot decide that they are going to band together and refuse to subscribe to any journals from publisher X until the cost is lowered. Library consortia are legal because they do not have the power to ban their members from subscribing to particular products. They are free to ask for discounts, but not to prevent their members from subscribing if a discount is refused. There is a tension between antitrust laws and the Free Speech clause of the First Amendment. Suggesting that a product not be used falls within free speech. However, libraries and librarians can in fact violate antitrust law by agreeing together not to purchase (or license) a particular product.

The recent brouhaha over subscription increases at Scientific American is a good example of how to stay within the law. On October 13, 2009, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported that 50 college library directors had sent a letter of protest to the Nature Publishing Group.\textsuperscript{16} As the cost of Scientific American rose from $39.99 to $299 ($1,500 for online subscriptions), many libraries have had to cancel their subscriptions. The letter to the publisher stated that the price increase “hinders our ability to meet the information needs of our library users,” especially in a serious recession when libraries are cutting budgets.\textsuperscript{17} However, the letter does not threaten to cancel subscriptions. Rather, the letter states that this price increase “[is] likely to result in many libraries canceling subscriptions, thus threatening the future of a historically important magazine.”\textsuperscript{18} Those who sign the letter are free to cancel or to retain their subscriptions, so it does not constitute a “concerted refusal to deal.” Rather, it is a free speech-based warning to the publisher that their actions may result in some libraries canceling their subscriptions.

The APA snafu provides another good example of action that is legal. Once the APA realized the magnitude of the problem, they agreed to replace the defective copies. Before that announcement, however, John Foubert, a counseling professor at Oklahoma State University, created a Facebook group to persuade APA to make their consumers whole.

Dr. Foubert wrote a series of principles about the APA Publication Manual which were posted online, distributed by email, and discussed in Inside Higher Ed and the Chronicle of Higher Education.\textsuperscript{19} (Full disclosure: I was a member of the Facebook group and passed along information to a number of library discussion lists.)\textsuperscript{20} The Foubert Principles read as follows:

1. We agree to cease all purchases of the APA publication manual, present and future, until APA agrees to refund the purchase price of the first printing of the 6th edition or exchange copies for the corrected second printing to all those who purchased the first edition.

2. If we teach and if we use APA format to be used for assignments in our classes, we will continue to use the 5th edition guidelines until this issue is resolved.

3. We encourage academic journals to use a format other than the APA 6th edition until this issue is resolved.

The Foubert Principles are clear, fair, and avoid violating antitrust law. Instead of dropping the APA entirely, consumers would simply continue to use the previous edition. Since consumers are always free to use older editions instead of “upgrading,” this type of action is not a violation of antitrust law. With the collapse of Microsoft’s debacle with Windows Vista, and how many people simply remained on XP) The Foubert Principles are forward-looking, and do not go beyond the time when the dispute is resolved. In fact, they anticipate “upgrades” once the issue is taken care of. These principles provide a good model for future disputes over defective reference works.

**Why It Is a Bad Business Model to Sell Reference Works “As Is”**

As noted above, publishers can avoid liability for defective reference works by selling their goods “as is.” However, I believe that this would not necessarily be a wise business decision. Use of reference works (both print and online) has diminished substantially. Many students prefer the ease of Wikipedia and other online sources. Even as distinguished a publication as the Times of London Online has stated that not allowing students to use Wikipedia “reveals a Ludlow-like snobbery towards Wikipedia that is becoming ever harder to justify as the site itself improves.”\textsuperscript{21}

It is the reputation of quality and reliability that keeps reference publishers in business. They are able to provide something that Wikipedia doesn’t — namely, an indication that their work is reliable. Suppose a publisher put clear notices on their works (as the UCC requires) stating that “This work is sold ‘as is,’” and no guarantees are made as to the accuracy of the work.” Who is going to purchase a work that the publisher will not warrant is accurate? Collection development money is
better on works from a company that is willing to guarantee its products. Otherwise, I can just tell everyone to log onto Wikipedia for free.

Of course, minor errors do not make a reference work defective. (It was the fact that there were 80 pages with errors that made the APA Publication Manual a real problem.) While guaranteeing the quality of a reference work sounds like a potential issue for publishers, in reality this is what distinguishes reference materials from the open Internet. Therefore, I strongly believe that it is in a publisher’s best interest to guarantee their work, admit their errors, and fix problems that arise. The APA has done just that with its second printing. Rather than being a sign of weakness, this is a sign of the true strength of reference publishing, and the real reason why libraries and individuals continue to buy reference works in the digital age.

**Disclaimers:** Please note that I am dealing with legal matters in a general way, and am not commenting on the laws of a particular jurisdiction. I think I got all the errors, but forgive me if you find a mistake. While the information in this article is correct as of the date of publication, new cases are decided every day. At this time I am only actively licensed in Kentucky, and inactive in Ohio. I am not intending to establish an attorney-client relationship — even if we discuss the article via email. If you have a legal issue, do yourself a favor and consult the lawyer for your company, school board, municipality, university, etc. Both you and your counsel will be glad you did. — BC

**Questions & Answers — Copyright Column**

**QUESTION:** What criteria are used to determine whether an organization is a nonprofit educational institution as part of the fair use exception? Does a not-for-profit community based teaching hospital meet the criteria?

**ANSWER:** The Copyright Act contains no criteria for determining what constitutes a nonprofit educational institution, but the common understanding among most lawyers is that the status is determined by how the institution is organized under the U.S. tax code. The institution described is a hospital and not a school but it does have a teaching “piece.” This means that the reproduction of copyrighted items for general patient care, etc., is treated just as if it were in a non-teaching nonprofit hospital. Any copying done for classes, however, would be treated under the nonprofit educational exceptions in the Act, but only that activity.

**QUESTION:** A state agency library often has attorneys general (AG) who argue cases on behalf of the agency. Sometimes they need a copy of an industry standard for their case. They want a copy of the entire standard which can cost from $40.00 to over $200.00 for each depending on who created them (American Ladder Institute, American Society of Safety Engineers, etc.). May the library reproduce them for the AG? If not, then is it permissible to check out the library’s copy of the standard to the AG and let them do what they will as long as the library gets its copy back? Is there any exception to copyright law that allows attorneys to make photocopies for court cases without the restrictions of copyright?

**ANSWER:** According to Nimmer on Copyright, if the material is going to be introduced into evidence in a court proceeding, reproducing it for this purpose is fair use. But if the standard is used only for preparation for the trial and will not be introduced into evidence, it is infringement to reproduce the entire standard. If the AG staff reproduces the standard it still may be infringement, but the agency library has avoided liability. The state has not, however.

**QUESTION:** A librarian has created a children’s promotional video that uses the song by The Jacksons from 1978 called “Blame It on the Boogie.” The video will be used only for non-profit purposes. Is there

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**Endnotes**

2. id.
4. See my discussion of the duty of care owed to clients by the information professional on pages 194-196.
5. www.unc.edu/~unclng/gasaway.htm
17. id.
18. id.

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**Legally Speaking from page 52**
any problem with playing the video on the local Government Channel?

**ANSWER:** Many people would respond that this should be fair use and it should be! Unfortunately, it likely is not. If the librarian simply played the video for classes in a non-profit educational institution as part of instruction, there would be little problem. To perform the video even on cable television, the library needs a license in order to use the Jacksons recording. In fact, the library needs both a performance license and a synchronization license (for synchronizing the video with the music). Both the underlying musical composition and the sound recording are still under copyright.

**QUESTION:** An audio engineer maintains a Website that many engineers worldwide use as a reference concerning audio issues. The now defunct audio trade publication Record Engineer & Producer was a treasure trove of information about analog recording. People often ask about finding back issues which would be useful to help educate today’s digital savvy but analog ignorant audio engineers. Someone has now offered 22 years of back issues to the Website owner. May the Website owner scan some of the various articles from this magazine for the Website? Or could he make articles available to folks who request them on an individual basis? The magazine ceased publication in the early 1990s.

**ANSWER:** The first determination deals with the publication dates of the magazine. Issues published before 1964 are very likely in the public domain. If they are in the public domain, then digitizing those articles for the Website would be no problem. Before 1964, publishers had to register the issues and then received 28 years of copyright protection. At the end of that 28 year period, the copyright could have been renewed for an additional 28 years. But many publishers of small magazines did not renew their copyrights which meant that the issues for that year passed into the public domain. Thus, determining whether the issues were registered initially and then whether they were renewed for copyright is necessary to make the determination about whether pre-1964 works are still under copyright.

Issues published between 1964 and 1977 still had to be registered for copyright. But Congress automatically gave them an additional 95 years of copyright protection through a series of amendments to the Copyright Act and no renewal of copyright was required. So, the answer to the question about digitizing articles from the journals is dependent on the copyright status of those issues.

Even if the issues of the defunct magazine are still under copyright, there might not be anyone around to complain about any infringement activity. The Website owner may just decide to take a chance and make them available online, but it would be infringement. If there is no one around to enforce the rights, however, the potential benefit in making the articles available may lead the Website owner to take that chance. If the Website owner takes this view, it might be useful to include a disclaimer on the Website that asks the copyright owner to come forward and volunteers to remove the item from the Web if the owner objects.

It probably would be fair use to provide single copies of articles to individuals who request them occasionally, but even libraries that do this have a number of restrictions including that the reproduction and distribution may not be systematic.

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**Biz of Acq - Things to Consider When Planning Section Programming**

by Sylvia McAphee, M.L.I.S., AHIP (Serials Librarian, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, LHL 240A-1700 University Blvd., 1530 3rd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0013; Phone: 205-934-2299; Fax: 205-934-3545) <smcaphee@uab.edu>

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I t is more than likely that an acquisitions librarian will have the opportunity to plan a program for a section of a national library association during the course of their career, but few have experience or background in doing this. It is important to plan ahead and pinpoint how to successfully plan an event where all participating parties will learn and grow from the experience, including the planner(s).

The first thing to consider when planning an event is what subjects will be covered and what the process will be to select them. If this was a section program for a national library association, topics could be gathered from members of that section at the annual section business meeting or via solicitation of that section’s listserv. The members will most likely suggest “hot topics” dealing with current new job trend. They are usually very good with questions and answers, and can provide a wealth of knowledge to their listeners. The program planner can usually find out about good potential speakers via word of mouth or by remembering a speech or talk someone gave at another organization’s program or training session. Some organizations keep a list of potential speakers that can be quite helpful in choosing the right candidates to speak at a continued on page 55

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
function. It is very important to note that some speakers want honoraria for their labors. This can be a monetary set fee or some prefer all of their travel expenses paid for by the group that is hosting them. Other speakers will accept a token of appreciation for their presentations. It is always a good rule of thumb to offer some token of appreciation even if the speaker does not require or ask about honoraria. Always plan well ahead for speakers who are very popular or well known in certain fields. Some presenters are booked a year in advance, depending on their subject area. Also, if the dates can be adjusted to accommodate the perfect speaker, then this should be done if possible. This will aid in getting the right speaker for a program and ease the planning process. Panel discussions are also a very good vehicle for program planning.

Panel discussions are usually formed by having several speakers present on a topic of interest or accept questions from the audience on a given topic or topics. The panelists can come from various backgrounds and have varying experience levels, depending on how the program guidelines are set up. When working with a panel, it is crucial that all panelists are on the same page about what is expected of them. If one panelist does something very different, like doing a power point presentation when the other panelists were told they did not have to do one, then this could cause hard feelings and change the dynamic of the discussion. This is something that should be covered in great detail so that all of the panelists are clear about what is expected of them and how much time each will have to present their side of the topic. If more than one planner is overseeing the panel, make sure that they are on the same page and deliver the same information to the panelists. It is also a good rule of thumb to have some questions ready to ask the panelists in case the audience does not have any or is reluctant to respond during the question and answer period of the program. Even though all three vehicles are good to use in planning a program alone, any of them can be used in combination to fit a program’s theme or time schedule.

It is quite likely that the papers that are submitted to a program planner do not fit the theme of the conference or do not fit with what the purpose of the program might be. A panel discussion might have more flair if it followed a phenomenal guest speaker who got the audience engaged and ready to hear feedback on what was previously presented to them. What if the perfect program was derailed because the guest speaker is overbooked or has unexpected schedule changes? This can cause a planner to combine resources in an effort to salvage a program or make it even more useful to the audience. The whole purpose of planning and presenting a program is for the attendees to get the most useful information possible. Changing or combining the vehicles for that program is the best way to effectively offer wisdom and knowledge for the attendees.

There is always the possibility that something might happen to thwart program planning. Even at best, the unexpected can take planners by surprise. A speaker can get sick or decide that they cannot attend a program and cancel. There are ways to remedy these stalemates, but it is always good to have a plan b. Check to see if someone else is available to step in and take over the speaking allotment. If a paper cannot be presented, then the other presenters can speak longer or there can be a longer question and answer period. Or, the membership can turn in questions that the presenters will have responses for at the program. This can aid in dealing with unexpected travesties. In dealing with AV and equipment, make sure that all of the rooms are in working order and that all the microphones work. It is a good rule of thumb to bring a laptop just in case someone has technical issues and cannot use their own. Also, be very aware about costs associated with Internet connections at hotels and business conference centers. It can break the bank! Also, PowerPoint slides can be made to alleviate the costs of the Internet. The planner(s) should go at least 20 minutes or more before the program to make sure that the speakers have what they need and have all their questions answered. Reassure the speakers that they will do a great job and that everything will go as planned. The speakers are relying on the planners to make sure that they have
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In the wake of a tidal wave of objections filed to the original Google Settlement in the last few months leading up to the "fairness hearing" that was planned for October 7, the parties to the agreement prevailed on Judge Denny Chin to allow them time to revise it and submit a new version by November 9. They missed that deadline but made an extended deadline, presenting Google 2.0 to the court in literally the 11th hour of Friday the 13th.

Objections had come from many quarters, ranging from private citizens to companies like Amazon.com to foreign governments, but among the most compelling were those presented on behalf of the academic community, by the U.S. Justice Department, and by Register of Copyrights Mary Beth Peters.

UC-Berkeley law professor Pamela Samuelson was a leading voice among academics, writing of the "audacity" of the Settlement for her Huffington Post blog on August 10 and challenging it on both anti-trust and representational grounds (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pamela-samuelson/the-audacity-of-the-google-book-search-settlement-26144.html). Much of her argument was repeated at greater length in a very articulate and persuasive letter dated August 13 and signed jointly by 21 faculty leaders from the University of California, who "constitute the entire membership of the Academic Council, the executive body of the Academic Senate, and the chair of the Academic Senate’s Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication (http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/uc-professors-seek-changer-to-google-books-deal/). They grouped their concerns under three main headings: “Risks of Price Gouging and Unduly Restrictive Terms”; “Support for Open Access Preferences”; and “Privacy and Academic Freedom Issues.” The letter makes a particularly compelling statement about how the Settlement takes no account of the interests that academic authors have that are different from those of members of the Authors Guild, which took upon itself the role of representing the entire class of authors. “Specifically, we are concerned that the Authors Guild negotiators likely prioritized maximizing profits over maximizing public access to knowledge, while academic authors would have reversed those priorities. We note that the scholarly books written by academic authors constitute a much more substantial part of the Book Search corpus than the Authors Guild members’ books.” I think the same point could be made by university presses about how well the Association of American Publishers represented their interests in negotiating the Settlement. Our priorities, too, are different from those of McGraw-Hill, Pearson, et al.

The Justice Department, while recognizing the significant public benefit that the Settlement could bring from its “potential to breathe life into millions of works that are now effectively off limits to the public,” also took the Settlement to task for its inadequacy of class representation, but focused attention on the disadvantaged positions of foreign rightsholders and authors of out-of-print books (http://searchengineland.com/department-of-justice-files-objections-to-google-book-search-settlement-26144). The Settlement’s provisions allowing Google to negotiate with the Book Rights Registry (BRR) for new derivative uses of out-of-print titles and paying unclaimed funds to rightsholders who had opted in to the Settlement prompted this objection in the Department’s brief: “There are serious reasons to doubt that class representatives who are fully protected from future uncertainties created by a settlement agreement and who will benefit in the future from the works of others can adequately represent the interests of those who are not fully protected, and whose rights may be compromised as a result.” The Department also raised two main questions about anti-trust implications of the Settlement: “First, through collective action, the Proposed Settlement Agreement appears to give book publishers the power to restrict price competition. Second, as a result of the Proposed Settlement, other digital distributors may be effectively precluded from competing with Google in the sale of digital library products and other derivative products to come.”

Finally, in a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on September 10, Mary Beth Peters characterized the Settlement as “not really a settlement at all, in as much as settlements resolve acts that have happened in the past and were at issue in the underlying infringement suits. Instead, the so-called settlement would create mechanisms by which Google could continue to scan with impunity, well into the future, and … create yet additional commercial products without the prior consent of rights holders. For example, the settlement allows Google to reproduce, display and distribute the books of copyright owners without prior consent, provided Google and the plaintiffs deem the works to be ‘out-of-print’ through a definition negotiated by them for purposes of the settlement documents. Although Google is a commercial entity, … the settlement absolves Google of the need to search for the rights holders or obtain their prior consent and provides a complete release from liability. In contrast to the scanning and snippets originally at issue, none of these new acts could be reasonably alleged to be fair use.” Because the settlement, in effect, “is tantamount to creating a private compulsory license through the judiciary,” it is “the view of the Copyright Office [that] the settlement proposed by the parties would encroach on the responsibility for copyright policy that traditionally has been the domain of Congress [and] we are greatly concerned by the parties’ end run around legislative process and prerogatives. … Moreover, the settlement would inappropriately interfere with the on-going efforts of Congress to enact orphan works legislation in a manner that takes into account the concerns of all stakeholders as well as the United States’ international obligations.” (For a link to the full testimony, see http://laboratorium.net/archive/2009/09/10/gbs_marybeth_peters_written_testimony.) The Settlement, in short, serves as an insurance policy for Google to pursue its project of digitizing what Dan Clancy, Engineering Director for Google Book Search, has estimated to be “between 80 and 100 million books in the world” free of any liability for the vast majority of those books, which are out of print. No other commercial competitor of Google would have such sweeping legal protection to conduct its business, which a compulsory license approved by Congress would create for all.

The Amended Settlement Agreement (ASA) takes significant steps in responding to many, though not all, of the objections raised. For academic authors who are rightsholders and opt in to the Settlement, it provides the opportunity to set prices at zero or to use Creative Commons licenses for designating kinds of uses that require no payment or permission. While the Settlement, in restricting its geographical scope to include only works registered in the U.S. or published in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, provides for representation on the BRR board of an author and publisher from each of these three foreign countries, there is no guarantee that any academic author or publisher will hold such a seat.

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everything they need to perform at their best. It is important that the planners do all that is in their power to make this expectation a reality. Planners need to give themselves some time to relax and quench any qualms they might have about the programming. If this is done, all of the hard work and effort will lead to a fulfilling and successful program that all attendees will enjoy and appreciate! 💥

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The Justice Department’s concerns about representation were also met by the ASA with a partial response. Works published in non-English-speaking countries were taken off the table with a stroke of the pen. That change solved one major problem but created others. It significantly limits the potential value of the Google Book Search database by excluding millions of works published outside the four countries. (One wonders about the omission of New Zealand, which is the home to several university presses at the universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Victoria, and New Zealand. Is this another indication of the lack of academic representation in the Settlement?) It also exposes Google potentially to suits by authors and publishers in other countries for the original scanning of their books from the participating libraries. Google’s argument about “fair use” has no obvious basis in the laws of these foreign countries as it does under U.S. copyright law, and it could be legally challenging for Google to prevail in their courts.

With regard to authors of out-of-print books, the ASA tweaks the definition of what is “commercially available” in a variety of ways and, most significantly, creates a new “Unclaimed Works Fiduciary” (UWF) to assume some of the responsibilities in representing these authors’ interests that were originally assigned to the BRR. But, as Randal Picker of the University of Chicago Law School points out in his perceptive working paper titled “Assessing Competition Issues in the Amended Google Book Search Settlement” posted on November 16 (http://ssrn.com/abstract=1507172), the UWF only offers a partial solution: “The UWF mechanism enables separate representation of those interests. But the settling parties have limited the role of the UWF to merely stepping into the shoes of the registry in some circumstances. They could have broadened the role for the UWF to have the UWF step into the shoes of the rightsholders of unclaimed books instead. Had that been the focus, the UWF would then be an elegant solution to the going forward problem of how to license the orphan works.”

In addition to providing this new mode of representation, the ASA also specifies different uses of unclaimed funds: none will go to other rightsholders, but instead a portion can be used after five years to help the BRR cover the cost of locating rightsholders and what is left over after ten years may be distributed by the BRR to charities focused on improving literacy with the approval of the court and in consultation with participating libraries.

The ASA deals with anti-trust issues in a number of ways. Perhaps most crucially, it accepts that the court’s approval of the Settlement will not result in automatic immunity for it from anti-trust challenges in the future. It thus postpones resolution of whether or not pricing provisions will prove to have anti-competitive effects in the marketplace. That change responds to fears about monopolistic power in part. Another change in this direction is the excision of the much criticized “most favored nation” clause that would have guaranteed Google the same terms as offered to any possible competitor by the BRR. Still other changes speak to fears of price-fixing and foster more flexibility: the pricing algorithm used to set default prices for the consumer purchase of books will be controlled by Google alone, not as previously in conjunction with the BRR and rightsholders; Google may discount book prices at its discretion and will allow other companies like Amazon.com to sell access to the Book Search titles for consumer purchase as well; Google and rightsholders may negotiate a different split of revenues for any title included in any of the authorized programs from the 37/63 designated in the original Settlement. On the other hand, the virtual monopoly that the Settlement provides to Google as a sole-source provider for out-of-print books remains unchanged despite the addition of the UWF to the BRR as a potential licensor to third parties “to the extent permitted by law.” As Randal Picker observes: “My understanding is that Google does not believe that that provision actually enables either the registry or the UWF to license the works to third parties and that they instead believe that legislation would be required by Congress to make that operative. Be very clear: the settlement agreement is giving Google rights directly to use the orphan works. Google is not getting rights to the extent permitted by other law.”

So, how does this ASA meet the needs of academic libraries and university presses? Libraries, which are not direct parties to the Settlement, could have broadened the role for the registry in some circumstances. They could have negotiated a different split of revenues for any title included in any of the authorized programs from the 37/63 designated in the original Settlement. On the other hand, the virtual monopoly that the Settlement provides to Google as a sole-source provider for out-of-print books remains unchanged despite the addition of the UWF to the BRR as a potential licensor to third parties “to the extent permitted by law.”

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From the University Presses
from page 57

ment but are obviously affected in many seri-
ous ways by it, have not gained much with the
changes made. Little was done in response to
calls about privacy beyond a clause that
holds Google responsible for not sharing
personally identifiable information about users
with the BRR “abstain valid legal process.”
The BRR board will still not have anyone on
it representing libraries. Concerns about price-
gouging were not directly addressed and, to
the extent they are connected with price-fixing
worries, were partially alleviated but mainly
delayed to resolution at some future time. The
scope of content has been further restricted by
the redefinition of “book,” which now excludes
any work that contains more than 20% of
pages containing musical notation as well as
books reproduced in microform, comic books,
calendars, and compilations of periodicals.
Illustrated books are even further disadvantaged
by the ASA’s excluding children’s book illustra-
tions from the definition of “insert.” Maybe
the most significant step forward for libraries
(but only public, not academic libraries) is that
the BRR e-book authorization allows additional
public-access terminals beyond the one per
building originally provided.

For university presses, undoubtedly the
most salient change is the introduction of the
possibility of negotiating the 37/63 revenue
split for every title in every program. Con-
comitant with this benefit, of course, is the
additional transaction costs that any publisher
will incur in negotiating with Google title by
title. Also at play here is what Google will
decide to do with its publisher partners whose
contracts will now all need to have an adden-
dum that will permit Google to move ahead
with its Google Editions program, which will
run parallel to the Book Search program and
be based on agreements signed with the current
partners that choose to expand their dealings
with Google in this way. Ian Paul of PC
World, in announcing this new initiative in a
blog on October 16 (and congratulating Google
for eschewing DRM so that the books supplied
through its program can be read on many
different types of devices, not just dedicated
eBook readers), noted: “Under Google’s pay-
ment scheme, publishers will receive about 63
percent of the gross sales, and Google will keep
the remaining 37 percent. Google also hopes
to offer Editions titles through other online
book retailers. In this scenario, online retailers
would get 55 percent of revenues minus a small
fee paid to Google, and publishers would get 45
percent. Google may also create deals to sell
Google Editions books directly through a book
publisher’s website now free to do so but that
details have not been announced for how that scenario would work” (http://www.pcworld.com/article/173789/
google_ editions_embraces_universal_ebook_format.html). Now that the 37/63 split has
been made open for negotiation in the ASA,
one wonders how publishers will react to a non-
negotiable split for Google Editions. The split is peculiar to begin with as it relates to no tra-
ditional standard in book publishing. Whence
did it come? According to Ken Auletta in his
new book about Google, this split is traceable
to Google’s experience with linked Website
advertising, where Google’s share includes a
15% administrative charge and makes it total
about 37%. This transposition of a revenue-
sharing model from one domain to an entirely
different one is questionable at best and seems
purely arbitrary. TheGoogle-related issues
powerfully on publishers of all kinds seems equally arbitrary. So, too, the 45/55 split between publishers and
online retailers. That mimics what is standard
for trade-book publishing, but hardly repre-
sents well the main business that university
presses conduct, where “short” discounts of
20% to 25% for monographs and textbooks are
more common. It will be interesting to see
how prices evaluate the pros and cons of
working with Google through either the
Settlement arrangement or the partner program;
perhaps some will experiment with both. The
Settlement imposes significant extra costs on
presses in burdening them with requirements
to negotiate with individual authors over such
matters as display percentages, and it also
deducts an administrative fee that might be
as much as 20% or 25% from the 63% of the
gross that is due publishers, leaving them in
effect with not much greater a share of the
overall income than Google gets. Much will
depend, therefore, on whether Google decides
to be flexible at all with the 37/63 split in the
partner program. Uncertainty also exists for
the pricing algorithm that the ASA now mandates
Google alone to define and control. Accord-
ing to the Memorandum of Law submitted by
the parties to the court on November 13, “the Pricing Algorithm will be designed to simulate
how a Rightsholder would unilaterally price its
Book in a competitive market.” (Links to this
Memorandum and other ASA documents may
be found here: http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/
law_librarian_blog/2009/11/amended-google-book-settlement-filed.html.) Well,
how do rightsholders determine what price to
charge? In the eBook world, in fact, this is not
an easy question to answer. Many publishers
are struggling with it now, and some are even
inclined to set the price for a book differently
depending on what kind of platform offers it for
sale and what the features of that platform are.
(For a very suggestive discussion of this ques-
tion in relation to the introduction of the Kindle
2 Reader, see the comments by Tony San-
filippo, Sales and Marketing Director at Penn
State University Press, on the Press’s blog
here: http://psupress.blogspot.com/2009/04/
kindle-2.html.) If this kind of variable pricing
by device and feature becomes prevalent, it will
pose a huge challenge to Google in making
its pricing algorithm truly reflective of what is
happening in the marketplace.

Google 2.0 is unquestionably an improve-
ment on Google 1.0 in many respects, and the
purely artificial nature of the stories has been
exposed by the sudden after-the-final
fairness hearing now scheduled for February
18 now seem much better than before. But,
besides the loose ends and only partly satisfac-
tory solutions identified above, the Settlement
still leaves much to be desired in other respects.
Although it is good to have some funding expi-
ringly aimed at helping identify and locate the
rightsholders of unclaimed, including orphan,
works through the redirection on monies not
claimed by rightsholders, publishers in general
and university presses in particular continue to
face the daunting challenge of knowing what
rights they actually have. As Mike Shatzkin
observed in his blog about “A serious issue for
big publishers” on April 14, “they are largely
in the dark as to what rights are owned by whom.
The
ASP-related issues primarily revolve around
whether the rights to an inactive book (or, in
the settlement lingo, what they would call
‘not commercially available’) have reverted
to the author or are still held by the publisher.
Publishers also have problems with books on
which they unambiguously have the rights to
print and sell copies. What they don’t know,
without looking at the original contract, is
whether the language in it gives them a shot
at an eBook, a print-on-demand edition, or
allows them to include some of the material
in that book in an electronic database. Even
looking at the contract might not tell them if
they have the rights to use artwork that is in the
com/blog/a-serious-issue-for-big-publishers).
Some commercial publishers face an additional
challenge that university presses fortunately do
not have to worry about: companies that once
were independent have merged, sometimes
several times over, and tracking the disposi-
tion of rights across various stages of merger
can be a major obstacle to clarity about who
now holds what rights. But university presses
have the same problems commercial publishers
do with rights reversion and old contracts not
containing any or inadequate language about
electronic rights.
The BRR plays a central role in the whole
Settlement scheme, yet it is faced with an
enormous challenge of creating a sophisticated
technical infrastructure to record rights claims
and process payments to Google, rightsholders,
and potential third-party licensees. As one who
has witnessed the growth of the Copyright
Clearance Center as a member of its board of
directors for nearly twenty years, I have a
special appreciation for what is required to be
successful in this kind of business. It requires
an organization nimble on its feet, always
seeking new ways to serve its customers better,
and a large and dedicated staff who have the
public interest at heart. The CCC is now over
thirty years old, but the BRR is expected to get
up to speed almost overnight by comparison.
Related to this is the sorry state of the metadata
that publishers have so far had to work with
gaining ready to claim books in the Google
database. One can only hope that the BRR
will be able to make marked improvements in
the metadata once it is off and running with a
full staff. Otherwise, publishers will continue
to be burdened with yet another type of heavy
transaction cost in just getting their books
properly set up in the system.

Finally, there is the continuing concern
about content, not only that the Book Search
database will ill serve the needs of people who
want to access illustrated works such as art
history books but also that the quality of the
content it can deliver is not high. Numerous
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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
critiques have displayed the results of the often erratic nature of the scanning that Google contractors have performed, complete with smudges, misaligned pages, and even pages containing images of the scanners’ thumbs. But the problems go beyond simple quality of reproduction. There is a serious concern about metadata here, too, from a scholar’s point of view. As Geoffrey Nunberg so devastatingly catalogued in his article for The Chronicle of Higher Education (August 31) titled “Google’s Book Search: A Disaster for Scholars,” the current metadata “are a train wreck: a mishmash wrapped in a mess, wrapped in a muddle, wrapped in a mess.” Nunberg’s survey covers errors in dates, problems with classification, and mismatches of titles and texts. I particularly sympathize with his critique of Google’s decision to use BISAC codes to classify books. “Why,” he wonders, would Google “want to use those headings in the first place”? As Nunberg notes, “The BISAC scheme is well-suited for a chain bookstore or a small public library, where consumers or patrons browse for books on shelves. But it’s of little use when you’re flying blind in a library with several million titles, including scholarly works, foreign works, and vast quantities of books from earlier periods. For example, the BISAC Juvenile Nonfiction subject heading has almost 300 subheadings, like New Baby, Skateboarding, and Deer, but it’s of little use when you’re studying Verlaine or Babel.”

R I P E: Submitted Anonymously. In the September 2009 issue of Against the Grain was an article by Steve McKenzie of Catawba College entitled “The case for getting rid of a celebrated book.” It’s a discussion of the discredited title Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture by Michael Beller. The case for removing such a book from the library’s collection. Although I understand McKenzie’s argument, I am personally confused as to what our responsibility is in such matters. I would like to hear from other librarians but would like to remain anonymous. Can you help me?

R E S P O N S E: Submitted by Linwood DeLong (Collections Coordinator, University of Winnipeg Library, Winnipeg, MB, Canada) I am a Canadian and therefore possibly not totally qualified to weigh in on this one, but because it is an intriguing topic, I will do my best.

To me, the issue should be first and foremost, the quality of the books in our collection. If we discovered that a history book about any topic was full of factual errors, based on faulty research, citing phantom sources, etc. then we would remove the book for those reasons. We remove many old books because they contain outdated information — a book about the U.S. that refers the “48 states and their capitals” would disappear from our shelves, unless it were a famous travel book, such as De Toqueville’s accounts of his travels.

Books that take a controversial stand — we had a recent, highly publicized case in Canada about a book published by McGill Queen’s University Press that took a very controversial stand about native peoples’ issues — are different. Our library, probably many libraries, bought the book, because it presented this viewpoint and would enable students to study the articulation of the viewpoint and respond to it. At the far end of this spectrum are completely nonsensical books (we all see promotions for self-published books) that are so un-scholarly that they are not useful at all in our collections. We don’t buy those.

We probably have some books in our collection that deny that the Armenian genocide ever occurred. Many of us would dispute this, but propaganda material (if it is clearly understood to be so) can still be useful, again for study and research purposes.

I’m starting to stray a bit from the topic. If we had Arming America in our collection, or a book about a medical topic in which the results were demonstrated to be false because of the use of phantom data or the deliberate misuse of existing data, I would argue for the removal of the book from our collection.

I guess that I am trying to draw a line between factual inaccuracies, misrepresentation of data, etc. and controversial opinions. It appears, from what I saw in the email on COLDV-L, that Arming America is of the first type.

I enjoy collecting developments problems or challenges and would be pleased to respond to others, if you think that my response is useful.

R E S P O N S E: Submitted by Sarah Tusa (Associate Professor, Coordinator of Collection Development & Acquisitions, Mary & John Gray Library, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX) First of all, I must admit that I am not familiar with the details of the complaints against the author’s research conduct or methodology, but it would seem that the validity of the information presented in the book was very probably tainted by the improper research and invalid presentation of the research results, then that book is very similar to an outdated edition of any other book. If the author were to produce a revised (and corrected) edition, we would definitely withdraw the original edition. Some larger, more comprehensive (probably ARL) libraries might make the argument to keep the original, tautened edition as a part of publishing history. However, I personally would be tempted to withdraw the Arming America book even without the prospect of getting a new, revised edition, for the same reason that we withdraw out-of-date medical books: We at least attempt to minimize the amount of outdated or invalid and/or discredited information that our students can get their hands on in our library.

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I don’t consider it censorship, if the errors in research and in the end product are documented. As an integral part of a teaching institution, the library has a responsibility to try to provide the most valid and up-to-date information possible. If we had the space to keep such a book, I suspect that we would put a note in one of the 500 fields of the marc record to cite the documented grievance against the book and place a similar note inside the front cover. To allow this book to be published and then to award it before discovering the problems with the research makes me wonder about the due diligence of those involved in the publishing and then the awards process. However, a book with discredited information does not really have a place in our library, as far as I am concerned. I would, however, take into consideration the extent to which the validity of the information is compromised — and hope that there are reviews to guide in that determination.

RESPONSE:
Submitted by Meris Mandernach
(Collection Management Librarian/ Chemistry Liaison, JMU Libraries & Educational Technologies, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA)

I think that a discredited book would likely get more use in a library collection due to the hype around the situation. I think that if it falls within the guidelines of the weeding policy then it could be removed, but if not, then it could become a teaching moment and used as an example during instruction of what constitutes scholarly misconduct.

RESPONSE:
Submitted by Paul Metz
(Asst. to the Dean for Special Projects, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA)

The question you posed on COLLDV-L never came up quite that directly in my 20 years as head of collection development at Virginia Tech, but for what’s worth here’s some of what I did, and some of what I think I would or would not have done, when/if such issues arose: Fatwa vs. S. Rushdie, we put The Satanic Verses on Reserve for its own protection “room temperature confusion” (if you remember the cold fusion controversy out of Utah), Soviet-style Lamarckian evolution (hopelessly wrong), other discredited science — we never went looking for it because we weren’t going to pull it from the stacks even if we found it. You have to trust your readers, and I think that in the case you cited in your note that’s what I would do — in other words, nothing.

Errata slips sent by the publishers of (usually) scientific journals — we were happy to tip them into the issues, though I’m sure we always followed through and did so.

One of the most interesting issues for me was gift items. I didn’t mind having the very occasional book saying that global warming was all wrong, the occasional DVD from Scientology, the occasional item arguing against any gun regulation, because I think there’s a place for all views even if I find them nutso. But I was cautious and took only the occasional representative piece because I know that in these debates, one side is always much better funded than the other and so to take gifts too much actually feeds a bias... just as the rich right in this country has very cleverly done by founding and underwriting innumerable “objective think tanks” like the CATO Institute.

RESPONSE:
Submitted Anonymously.

This sort of question came up in my library some years ago regarding a book by Louis Farrakhan. My opinion is that however a librarian may find a book reprehensible, and even if the material therein is considered or proven false, a decision must be made on the basis of the importance of the title for research and teaching. There are many books in the library based on incorrect or deliberately misleading research. Mein Kampf comes to mind. I think as a university library these materials must be made available to established scholars and budding learners. Learning critical thinking and reading is part of the education process. In the case you cite, it appears that the history prize was taken away, which seems right for that body, however it is up to the librarian to decide the importance of the book for his collection. In this case since it is a controversial book I would keep it in the collection.

By the way we kept the Farrakhan book despite the demands of a member of the university community.

RESPONSE:
Submitted by John P. Abbott, MS
MSLS (Coordinator, Collection Management University Library, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC)

I thank Mr. McKinzie for raising the issue and opening an interesting discussion.

My view is retain it and forget about it. The postmodern library does not pretend to arbitrate absolute quality or accuracy in the materials it holds. If librarians understood deeply the areas in which we collect, we would know that there are thousands of books our shelves containing false or erroneous content. Almost every book I read in an area I understand well contains significant errors due either to typos, poor editing, or insufficient research. By McKinzie’s standard, we would block access to almost all Websites because they are inaccurate and knowingly inaccurate. Students today, after a life of Web-searching, are deeply skeptical and are unlikely to be significantly misled by Bellesiles’ book unless it is the only work they consult for their pro/con Eng 101 paper.

Out of date health works and other works that clearly put a reader in known danger deserve examination for we/d on the basis of content, but little else. Books are w/d everyday for lack of use or poor condition, but much rarely on a judgment about the scholarly quality of content.

Other books offer more significant challenges, e.g., The Anarchist’s Cookbook flapped a decade ago. Here some of the “recipes” were rumored to blow up someone who cooked them. Here the danger was much more real. William Powell, the author, has publicly repudiated the book on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Anarchist-Cookbook-William-Powell/dp/0974458902/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1258038076&sr=1-1. A quick look at WorldCat indicates that 100s of libraries still hold the book.

Any danger, lack of quality, or betrayal of the scholarly enterprise by Bellesiles’ book seems trivial in comparison.

RESPONSE:
Submitted by Jack G. Montgomery
(Associate Professor, Coordinator, Collection Services, Western Kentucky University Libraries, Bowling Green, KY)

This is a familiar topic for me. My friend and colleague, John Bud, conducted his own research of Medline from 1966 to August 1997 and revealed that 235 articles had been retracted, 86 of which were deemed to be due to misconduct. It was alarming to learn, however, that these 235 articles had been cited 2034 times even after the retraction notice had appeared. This issue speaks to long-term, largely irreparable problems with the whole process of academic research and ethical standards.

As to this book, my thoughts and suggestions are as follows: I did not remove the discredited book from the shelves as, even as a fraudulent piece of scholarship. It could be an object of study for research on academic fraud. I did however, glue a disclaimer inside the book stating the issue but also stating that the book is retained for historical purposes and warning the patron to use this material at their own risk. Here is a sample label that was placed across from the title page of Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture.

“Attention: Discredited Research! Please be aware that this book and the research contained within it has been discredited and the research declared fraudulent by the peer-review process. We are retaining this title in our library for historical purposes only. Use this book at your own risk! WKU Libraries.”

RESPONSE:
Submitted by Douglas Black
(Collection Development Librarian, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI)

While McKinzie does have a point regarding responsibility for our collections, I’d say his argument presents a false dichotomy between avoiding censorship and maintaining our integrity. As knowledge advances and cultural perspectives develop and change, it’s worthwhile recording not only the honest errors arising from what simply had yet to be learned but also the hype and blind allegiances arising from human nature. While Bellesiles’ intellectual fraud doesn’t rise to the level of Polkemic texts or Mein Kampf, I think the general principle still applies.

The fact that Arming America is unreliable gives it some value as part of the cultural debate surrounding its topic. From that perspective, it’s reasonably good material for continued on page 61
The science of service.

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Eastern Book Company
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Group Therapy
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studying American political/cultural history. Alerting readers to the book’s history and current status, perhaps by taping or tipping in a respected review, or the publisher’s press release announcing the prize rescission (like errata), makes good sense. We routinely try to publicize our collections and let potential users know what great materials we have available; likewise, added information about individual items can enhance their value. I think that’s a more balanced approach to this particular dilemma than deaccessioning the book as if it had never appeared. The fact is that it did appear and has had some influence — both as it was intended and in how scholarly research is received — and librarians do have a role to play in recording those events as part of the human record. So much for a short comment... I’m looking forward to the compiled responses!

RESPONSE:

Submitted by Christy J. Wrenn
(Director of Library Services, Centenary College of Louisiana, Magale Library, Shreveport, LA)

As well as I remember, our good friend Oprah Winfrey was in this same pickle once when she interviewed John Frey regarding his book “A Million Little Pieces.” Boy was her face RED after the interview! However, her endorsement turned it into one of the top selling books of 2005, but she felt conned by the author. That book was not pulled from bookstore or library shelves.

This is the same type of situation with Steve McKinzie at Catawba College. Mr. McKinzie felt that he had to become one of the Library Police and save a college student(s) from ever reading this book, or using it as a reference in a term paper. According to him, this book did not stack up or was not written in a way that someone else thought that the book should have been written.

I have been in the librarianship field for 35 years, and the last time I heard, there was still a human right called “Intellectual Freedom” that said we could read what we wanted to read. The part of libraries and librarians is to make available materials for patrons to read, not be judge because of award activity or people groups to pull materials from shelves. When we do this we are taking the “Critical Thinking” development away from our young developing college minds that have not yet encountered all those GOOD or BAD things out in the world yet.

Rumors
from page 30

been appointed Director of the Libraries at KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology). He assumed his duties in September 2009. KAUST is an international, graduate-level research university dedicated to inspiring a new age of scientific achievement. The University is set to open in September 2009 with degrees in 11 fields of study. The core campus is located on more than 36 square kilometers along the Red Sea at Thuwal — about 80 kilometers north of Saudi Arabia’s second largest city, Jeddah. www.kaust.edu.sa/

My son Raymond went to West Point many years ago so I was interested to read that Bryn Geffert, library director and associate professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, has been named Amherst College’s new librarian of the college. Geffert will start work at Amherst on Jan. 21, 2010. Particularly interested in research instruction, in librarians’ efforts to guide the changes afoot in academic publishing and in facilitating the digitization of special collections, Geffert was the “unanimous and enthusiastic choice of the search committee,” according to Amherst Dean of the Faculty Gregory S. Call. Geffert became the director of West Point’s library in 2008 and went on to help open and oversee the institution’s new library. A high school basketball and football official, Geffert also enjoys cross-country skiing and running and expressed delight about moving to a state “that enjoys good snowfalls and the Boston Marathon.” And I would say that’s a good thing! www.amherst.edu/

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Booklover — Bridges

Column Editor: Donna Jacobs (Research Specialist, Transgenic Mouse Core Facility, MUSC, Charleston, SC 29425) <jacobsdf@musc.edu>

Bridges are powerful both as structures and symbols. They connect us, as the 37 bridges across the Seine connect the city of Paris. Bridges can also isolate us. Any of the 231 bridges that cross the Mississippi River will facilitate a journey between East and West, but they cannot take us to the world of Mark Twain. The river was his world, not a muddy wet obstacle to bypass.

Bridge the Gap. Build a Bridge and get over it. Cross that Bridge when I come to it. Bridging Time. Bridge over Troubled Waters. Water under the Bridge. These common sayings have become part of our everyday speech, often quite directly, things, and the opposite. For overuse is ever present. For I'm sure I will find these words coming out of my mouth sooner than later. A Google search on “bridge definition” further expanded this train of thought beyond where I wanted to contemplate.

Yet on a recent trip to Blue Bicycle Books I discovered Ivo Andric’s book The Bridge on the Drina in hand. The alphabetically organized fiction section of the store with my Nobel Literature Laureate List in hand. The Bridge on the Drina is part of what is known as the Bosnian Trilogy written while Andric was living quietly in Belgrade during World War II. His Nobel Prize recognition came in 1961. Soon my thoughts on building bridges, words about bridges and this column were colliding. As I touched the edge of the binding to remove the book from the shelf my mind began to wander to the Cooper River Bridges. I was completely fascinated with the recent construction of the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. cable stay bridge in North America. I also watched the complicated orchestrated destruction of the two previous bridges that spanned the Cooper River that separates the peninsula of Charleston from Mount Pleasant and points North. The life of the Lowcountry has been forever changed by these bridges.

Could I relate these current events with Andric’s book? Maybe Yes. Maybe No. Yes in the simplistic view that a bridge was constructed to connect communities divided by a river. No because Andric’s book spans 400 years of history and was described by William H. McNeill in his Introduction as “one of the most perceptive, resonant, and well-wrought works of fiction written in the twentieth century... No better introduction to the study of Balkan and Ottoman history exists, nor do I know of any work of fiction that more persuasively introduces the reader to a civilization other than our own.”

Many newcomers entering the Lowcountry via the Cooper River Bridge may indeed feel they have dropped into a whole new civilization. Yet, in Yugoslavia, the history of the Ottoman Empire, the complexities created by the different ethnic and religious groups, and the clash of East and West in the area create a civilization that is distinct, sometime mysterious — maybe not too unlike our Lowcountry. The two sides of the Cooper River have been connected for less than 100 years. Andric’s village, the Visegrad, became connected through the bridge over the Drina to the Bank of the Seine in the 16th century. “For this great stone bridge, a rare structure of unique beauty, such as many richer and busier towns do not possess (“There are only two others such as his in the whole Empire,” they used to say in olden times) was the one real and permanent crossing in the whole middle and upper course of the Drina and an indispensable link on the road between Bosnia and Serbia and further, beyond Serbia, with other parts of the Turkish Empire, all the way to Stambul.”

Andric provides an historical account of how the bridge was built over the mighty green waters of the Drina as a legacy for the Grand Vezir Mehmed Pasha of Sokolovići. Each chapter spans time toward the twentieth century with the intimacies of fictional characters and individual tales providing us a window into the flow of life, conflict, and belief along the Drina. We experience the torture, fear, and even death of the workers who toiled for five years to build the 11 bridge arches from stone, the sensations of the river’s energy as first pedestrians traverse the bridge, and the assassination of the Grand Vezir just as his bridge was replacing the Drina ferry.

Almost every time period embraces a story around the kapia, a structure in the middle of the bridge that is considered to be the heart of the bridge. “So, on the kapia, between the skies, the river and the hills, generation after generation learnt not to mistrust overmuch what the troubled waters had borne away. They entered there into the unconscious philosophy of the town; that life was an incomprehensible marvel, since it was incessantly wasted and spent, yet none the less it lasted and endured ‘like the bridge on the Drina’.” Scholars refer to the kapia to rest and argue the issues of the day. Decapitated heads of Serbian intruders were displayed in warning along the kapia. Wedding processions stopped along the kapia. Dressed in her wedding garments Fata, distraught with the arrangement to be wed to better her family’s status, counted on this moment as she gave herself to the Drina rather than her arranged husband. Austrian soldiers marched across the bridge and a young soldier found himself bedeviled and trapped by the subtle glance of a young Turkish girl near the kapia. The town grew at the base of the bridge. Vendors, inns, taverns, brothels, “Lotte’s Hotel” and their influence were wrought by the bridge on the village. The railroad introduced a new form of connection and thus “The great stone bridge which according to the ideas and the pious intentions of the Grand Vezir from Sokolovići was meant to link the two parts of the Empire, and “for the love of God” make easier the passage from West to East and from East to West was in fact cut off from both East and West and abandoned like a stranded ship or deserted shrine.” Ultimately the bridge succumbs to relentless bombing during World War I. The description of the destruction is intimate and personal as seen through the eyes of Alihodja while experiencing the demise of his shop. At the end only the kapia is seen by Alihodja and not the seventh pier of the bridge, just the green energy of the Drina.

Finally another attempt to “bridge time” or “bridge the gap.” “We will build greater rivers and deeper abysses. We will build not more, greater and better bridges, not to link foreign centers with conquered lands but to link our own lands with the rest of the world.” This somewhat prophetic and timeless quote challenges the reader to embrace the future by understanding the past. Social structure, religion, cultures and technology are just a few subjects that fall in this challenge. I've always thought that the imminence of the future. In the twenty-first century, digital photography, blogging and Websites are modern tools for recording an important event in history. This is illustrated in two photo Websites, http://oldcooperriverbridge.org/ and http://oldcooperriverbridge.org/ developed by Frank Starmer chronicling the “building and unbuilding” of the Cooper River Bridges. Unlike Andric’s book which used Nobel worthy words of fiction to convey an understanding of a region’s history based around a bridge. I accept the challenge proposed by a student espousing to his peers on the kapia, although as I write this column on my laptop with the Internet open in the background I still find myself touching the book, rereading passages and contemplating the Balkan history. I have to reflect on Andric’s words: “Everything appeared as an exciting new game on that ancient bridge, which shone in the moonlight of those July nights, clean, young and unalterable, strong and lovely in its perfection, stronger than all that time might bring and men imagine or do.” At this point I don’t believe I can build a technology bridge and just get over it — not yet.

Rumors from page 61

I know that a lot of people don’t agree with me, but, what the hey, what are opinions for? I saw that the Special Libraries Association (SLA) announced the results of its association-wide vote on a new name. Voting in record numbers, SLA members failed to approve a proposal to change the organization’s name to the Association for Strategic Knowledge Professionals. 50 percent of those members eligible to vote participated in the referendum, with 2,071 voting yes and 3,225 voting no. It recalled an article in ATG many years ago (see v.12/#6 and v.8/#1) by Lucretia McClure, a famous medical librarian, when she defended the use of the “I” word and decried the tendency by many associations, schools, etc. to change it! Was talking to Lucretia the other day and she is alive and well and still of the same opinion!

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