2009

If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch
Katina Strauch
kstrauch@comcast.net

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Recommended Citation
Strauch, Katina (2009) "If Rumors Were Horses," Against the Grain: Vol. 21: Iss. 6, Article 32.
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2377

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Pay-Per-View: Alternative or a Necessity in Today’s Economy

by Beth R. Bernhardt (Electronic Resources Librarian, Jackson Library, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, P. O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402; Phone: 336-256-1210) <beth.bernhardt@uncg.edu>

Wow, looking back I can’t believe my first talk on pay-per-view was back at the Charleston Conference in 2002. Back then, UNC Greensboro was one of the first schools to set up pay-per-view to provide access to articles from unsubscribed journals. We implemented pay-per-view because budget problems forced us to cancel high cost, low use science journals, and we needed an affordable alternative that allowed our active research faculty to have immediate access to those titles. Today’s budget cuts are forcing many schools into the same situation UNCG faced earlier in the decade, and librarians thinking more about purchasing just in time articles for patrons instead of subscribing to the journal.

To start this issue we have an article written by Patrick L. Carr, “Forcing the Moment to Its Crisis: Thoughts on Pay-Per-View and the Perpetual Access Ideal.” This article gives a great overall introduction to pay-per-view and why libraries are considering whether to leave the ideal of perpetual access for pay-per-view instead. He discusses why libraries are choosing this access model and the pros and cons for going this route. He concludes with a discussion on whether libraries should leave the perpetual access ideal for the access to an abundance of information.

Our next article “Getting our Feet Wet: One Library’s Experience with Transactional Access” by Ryan Weir and Ashley Ireland examines why Murray State decided to try a pay-per-option for their faculty. They discuss how a cut in their serials budget and lack of communication with departments on campus back in 2005 caused a public relations problem between the library and the faculty. To help fix this problem they researched several pay-per-view options and worked with the faculty to implement it across campus. This program has been successful and the librarians at Murray State want to encourage all publishers and vendors to provide more pay-per-view options in the future.

“Pay-Per-Use Article Delivery at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point” by Ashley Ireland continues on page 10.

If Rumors Were Horses

Happy New Year! Whew! What a whirlwind the past two months have been! This issue of Rumors is a mix of news that is exciting as well as bittersweet.

Yes! There was the 29th Charleston Conference where, despite the economy, we had 1029 registered attendees! Hooray! Many of the papers and powerpoints are loaded on the Conference Website! Can you believe that next year will be our 30th! Put these dates on your calendar immediately. Wednesday, November 3 through Saturday, November 6, 2010. Make reservations at the Francis Marion Hotel now! www.katina.info/conference

Moving right along, there are several big news items. The biggest Rumor this time for those of us in the book business is the sale of Blackwell Book Services (BNA US) to YBP/Baker & Taylor. Baker & Taylor Inc. has acquired Blackwell Book Services North America (BNA) and Blackwell’s Australia-based James Bennett Bookseller. Also as part of the deal, Blackwell U.K. will acquire Baker & Taylor’s Lindsay and Croft business in the U.K. In addition to the acquisitions, Baker & Taylor’s YBP Library Services and Blackwell U.K. have entered into a strategic sourcing agreement under which YBP Library Services will source all U.K.-published academic material from Blackwell U.K., and Blackwell U.K. will source all U.S.-published academic material from YBP Library Services. With this acquisition, Baker & Taylor’s YBP Library Services will continue to offer the collection development and workflow...
From Your (dog loving) Editor:

W e have a wonderful Jack Russell terrier named Cleo. We got her when my daughter was quite young. Back in those days, Cleo was into everything. She wouldn’t go to sleep unless we were all in bed, she guarded the house and sounded ferocious if anyone had the audacity to come to the door, she loved running outside and avoiding the authorities. But, alas, time has taken its toll on Cleo who will be 15 in August. She no longer jumps up and guards the house. She has cataracts and the only thing that will get her moving is dinnertime. Anyway, Cleo is why I broke my ankle recently. She has to be carried everywhere especially up and down stairs. And I was carrying her down stairs which I didn’t know were wet. Oops! I slipped. Thought it was just a sprain, but no sir. It was a big break!

Still, as always, your loyal ATG crew plugged along. And what a great issue we have produced! Beth Bernhardt has collected articles on “pay-per-view,” a new purchasing model that we are all exploring. Articles are by Patrick Carr, Ryan Weir and Ashley Ireland, Mindy King and Aaron Nichols, and Douglas LeFrenier. We have an Under the Hood about Xan’s sabbatical in Europe, two items (an Op Ed and a Group Therapy) regarding the Armidg Americu book problem. Interviews are with Lotfi Belkhir, George Machovec, and Mark Kendall, People Profiles from Ashley Ireland, Ryan Weir, Mindy King, Aaron Nichols, Doug LaFrenier, and Jesse Holden, a Publisher’s Profile from World Scientific, a discussion of legal implications of reference books for publishers and consumers, a discussion about the Google Book Settlement 2.0, reports from the 2008 Charleston Conference and, of course, much, much more!

OOPS! Cleo wants to come upstairs! I have to figure out how to get her up here if my husband is not around. I am now exploring baby backpacks and carriers. Beats falling down the stairs, right?

Happy 2010 to you all! Thanks!

Love, Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Re “The Case for Saying Less,” I earned my MLS in 1984 at the ripe old age of 43. Since then my membership in ALA has been an on-again/off-again adventure. I have long believed that ALA tends on occasion to wander from its mission of focusing on library-related issues. The action that my membership in Against the Grain, Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 22 — 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Events</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Ad Reservation</th>
<th>Camera-Ready</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report, PLA</td>
<td>Feb 2010</td>
<td>01/04/10</td>
<td>01/18/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLA, SLA, Book Expo</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>02/10/10</td>
<td>02/26/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Annual</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>03/24/10</td>
<td>04/12/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Publishing</td>
<td>September 2010</td>
<td>06/30/10</td>
<td>07/21/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Conference</td>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>08/11/10</td>
<td>09/01/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Midwinter</td>
<td>Dec. 2010/Jan. 2011</td>
<td>10/30/10</td>
<td>11/10/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892; USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29455; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472. 

RSUMS from page 1

services — print and electronic approval plans, firm and rush orders, continuations and technical services. Additional services that were previously unique to one provider, such as Blackwell’s Table of Contents Catalog Enrichment Service or YBP Library Services’ GOBI3 bibliographic service, will soon be offered to all customers. ATG interviewed Mark Kendall on its ATG NewsChannel days after the proposal was announced. The interview is still up on our Website and is also printed in this issue, p.40. www.blackwell.com/ www.against-the-grain.com/

According to the Portland Business Journal (Tuesday, December 8), Baker & Taylor, Inc., is closing the Lake Oswego offices of Blackwell North America and laying off 139 workers. The first round of layoffs will begin February 7 and there will be another round a month later. Meanwhile, the Lake Oswego office will remain open for a year as the transition takes place. www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2009/12/07/daily17.html

The sale of Blackwell North America to YBP is a startling event for many of us. Bob Nardini expresses it eloquently as usual in his column in this issue, p.73. And watch these pages for more coverage of this historic event. I understand that our long-time friends John Laraway and David Swords will be either retiring or looking for other employment.

The upbeat Robin Champieux <robin.champieux@eblib.com> has been named Vice President of Business Development at EBL — Ebook library. Robin will be leading EBLs presence in North America, working closely with academic libraries and vendor partners. She says she is ecstatic about the work she’ll be doing, especially the opportunity to explore, contribute to, and study the outcomes of
Back in 2002 I approached LaFrenier journal content in a timely manner. Their pay-per-view program has been successful in providing access to more
library loan. Their pay-per-view program has that they valued the speed of delivery for pay-
and switched them over to the pay-per-view
how they targeted high cost, low use journals
AIP provides pay-per-view for all types of customers. In his article “Pay-Per-View at the American Institute of Physics” Doug talks about how AIP
financial transactions and then started an ar-
ticle bundle program through deposit accounts. He also mentions how allowing Google to
crawl their information has made their content more prominent and doubled their article sales.
Doug also mentions that there is another pay-
per-view company that has started a 24 hour rental service for articles called Deep Dyve.
Everyone needs to keep an eye on this company because it could be a significant player in research in the future.
As you will see from these articles, pay-
per-view is something that is needed in today’s economy for all types of libraries and publish-
ers. Since 2001 UNC Greensboro has been a strong supporter of pay-per-view and we will continue to advocate that more publishers and vendors provide this type of alternative access to their content.
Chinese Scholars? Just learned that ProQuest plans to expand its presence in East Asia and has appointed the magnificent Boe to lead the effort. Boe Horton has been named Senior Vice President and Managing Director, East Asia Pacific, and will relocate to Hong Kong during 2010. Mr. Horton will develop ProQuest’s East Asia Pacific strategy, leading sales and operations for the region. He will also be responsible for establishing joint ventures, partnerships, and licensing agreements, as well as identifying new digital products and services for both Asian and Western markets. Boe’s research is in addition to his role leading ProQuest’s Research Solutions Group — composed of Serials Solutions, RefWorks-COS and Dissertations. Prior to this role, Mr. Horton headed strategy and integration during the merger of ProQuest Information and Learning and CSA. He is also former Chief Operating Officer and General Manager for both CSA and Bowker.

www.proquest.com/

Speaking of ProQuest, had lots of fun and enlightenment talking to Rod Gauvin, Senior Vice President, ProQuest during the 2009 Charleston Conference. ProQuest was the main Gala Conference Reception Sponsor and as we all remember much fun was had by all (weren’t the shrimp and grits awesome!). Anyway, Rod and ProQuest continue to expand the famous ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

continued on page 30

Pay-Per-View at the American Institute of Physics: One Scholarly Publisher’s Experience with “The Article Economy”

by Douglas LaFrenier (Director, Publication Sales & Market Development, American Institute of Physics, 2 Huntington Quadrangle, Melville, NY 11747) <dlafrenier@aip.org>

Despite all the talk of the “article economy,” sales of single articles are a minor revenue source for scholarly publishers, who continue to rely on subscriptions and consortia deals for the vast majority of their income. (Publishers in some disciplines can count advertising as another source of revenue.) Yet the purchase of single articles obviously serves the needs of a significant number of users: My organization, the American Institute of Physics (AIP), for example, with a total article database of about 400,000 papers, sold an average of 560 articles per month from our Website in 2008. And that does not include articles sold through third-party document delivery services, such as Infotrieve, CISTI, and the British Library.

AIP, as it happens, was one of the first two publishers to enable anyone with a credit card to buy any article online, back in April 1998. The American Chemical Society was the other, and ACS beat us to the punch by a matter of hours. (We lost the bragging rights that come with the first press release!) Since AIP’s online platform, Scitation, hosts many other not-for-profit society publishers, we enabled each of them to enter the online single-article marketplace as well. “E-commerce” was the heady talk of the day (this was before the dot.com bust around 2001), and publishers were pleased to have this new revenue stream from direct sales, though many undoubtedly expected more robust results.

In retrospect, the low number of direct article sales was partly due to the fact that we were still focused on “availability” and had not yet discovered “discoverability.” It took Google to teach us that.

Google is so much part of publishing DNA these days that it’s hard to remember how much resistance it met with originally. Publishers debated about allowing Google spiders to crawl our Websites for content — indeed, many publishers were still trying to build “portals” or “gateways” to corner online traffic in their disciplines. Why wouldn’t our users come directly to us for our content? Google was a game-changer if only because it caused a lot of us to rethink this strategy, and forced us — even the Society publishers whose brands are virtually synonymous with their subject matter, such as ACS or IEEE or the American Physical Society — to realize we were not the center of our universe. Once we permitted Google to index our content in 2003, the “Google effect” was plain to see: Before Google, our article sales were about $2500 a month; after Google indexed our content, sales rose fairly immediately. Continued on page 28
Against the Grain / December 2009 - January 2010  

Pay Per View at AIP  
from page 28

• Because AOD deposit accounts allow the firm to pay only for the articles its research actually uses, there is a “just-in-time” dynamic with great appeal to the productivity needs of the modern company. (The academic model, by contrast, is “just in case”: A large corpus of material is made available just in case a researcher may need it.)

With regard to this last point, it is worth pointing out that a product like AIP Articles On Demand is great for a company with moderate research needs. But no company with heavy research activity will find a better bargain than a straightforward subscription, because subscriptions offer the best price-per-download rate for high-use organizations.

Indeed, this is part of the reason we tend to be wary of offering article-bundle products like AOD to academic institutions. The need to maximize the serials budget makes the price of even the biggest AOD bundle look far more affordable than a typical AIP journal subscription. Many librarians will be drawn to what seems like a lower-cost version of the same content. But it can quickly become apparent in many institutions that the download activity will require that an AOD bundle be replenished several times a year to keep up with researchers’ needs, so the “value” of the bundle can disappear very quickly.

What Future do We See for Products Like AIP Articles On Demand?  
Will We Offer it to Academic Institutions as well as Corporations?

The broader answer is that AIP already practices differential pricing. We tier our journal prices according to the research levels of our subscribers, so that smaller, less research-intensive institutions pay less than bigger, more research-intensive institutions. Academic institutions with consortia licenses to AIP content pay differently than single-site subscribers. Institutions in emerging economies pay little, or nothing, to access AIP content. We want to offer our content in whatever way best suits the needs, interests, and budgets of our customers. While we do fear cannibalizing our bread-and-butter subscriptions by offering an article-bundle product to academia, we are also — librarians and publishers alike — moving to more evidence-based metrics of price and performance. COUNTER is the key initiative here, but measures of quality (whether Impact Factor or eigenvalues or h-indexes or the next new thing) will matter, too. It is not hard to imagine the near-future, when an information provider and an information consumer will together find an optimal way to deliver content not for the cheapest price, but for the best value. Subscriptions, site licenses, customer-owned-and-operated archives, author- or funder-paid open access, article-based deposit accounts — all of these options will be part of the menu of access models available to the librarian in the brave new world that is right around the corner.

Is Deep Dyve Another Game-changer?

As I was writing this article, Deep Dyve announced a pay-per-view service that will charge only 99 cents an article for a 24-hour “rental.” This has been called an “iTunes-like” model, but users cannot download or save the article — it literally is “pay per view,” since the only thing the buyer can do is read the article onscreen. Deep Dyve also offers $9.99 per month and $19.99 per month subscriber plans with more user rights than the 99 cents per article option. But it is clearly the 99 cents price point that has attracted everyone’s attention. Publishers’ single-article fees tend to be high enough not to undermine the value of a subscription. But such formulations derive from the print era, when single-article sales were all done by third parties and were hard for a publisher to regulate or monitor. The article economy in the days of print was thus largely an “invisible” economy, which published fees were far more successfully tracked, the new Deep Dyve model offers an experiment that many publishers will want to join. If Deep Dyve can get enough publishers involved to achieve the same kind of comprehensive service that Amazon provides for books, it could become an enormously significant player. Sure, we’re all nervous about cannibalizing subscriptions — but in a moment of huge economic uncertainty for our traditional revenue streams, experiments like this may be the only way to find new and sustainable business models.

I don’t think I told y’all about seeing the gorgeous Kathy Ray at the Acquisitions Conference in Oxford, England last year! Did I? Kathy was one of the excellent speakers at this Conference and I discovered that she is married to Ron Ray once of University of the Pacific! Ron has left libraries and is now working in IT and he and Kathy are located in beautiful, exotic Sarjah in the United Arab Emirates. Talk about glamorous!

And, guess who else has traveled to foreign parts? The industrious Joseph J. Brainin has continued on page 61

Doug LaFrenier

BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Massachusetts as an “Army brat” and grew up on Army bases around the country. I attended 10 schools in the 12 grades.  
FAMILY: I’m married and we have four cats.  
PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I started out as a copywriter of book jackets for Macmillian. Worked for McGraw-Hill and Scientific American, and had my own freelance copywriting business for several years.  
IN MY SPARE TIME: We spend weekends at our house in the Catskills, which I’ve been fixing up for years.  
FAVORITE BOOKS: A recent one is Cloud Atlas.  
GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Retire.  
HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: A very mixed “economy” of subscription-based and OA research content. Best subscription-based journals will continue to attract high quality authors but the sheer volume of research will require more non-traditional publishing. Peer review will still be important.

Rumors  
from page 26

Prior to joining ProQuest, Rod worked for the Thomson Corporation for ten years and has held a variety of sales, marketing and publishing positions with Addison Wesley, Prentice Hall, and W.H. Freeman. He received his BA degree in political science from Assumption College, in Worcester, Massachusetts. I also found out that Rod was born in Canada but has Louisiana roots as well. What you don’t learn from people when you have time to listen!

Director, Publication Sales & Market Development  
American Institute of Physics  
Two Huntington Quadrangle, Melville, NY 11747  
Phone: (516) 576-2411 • Fax: (516) 576-2374  
<dlafrenier@aip.org>
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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.

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.

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!

continued on page 62
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 different things, and the opinion of you 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 the Blue Bicycle Books I discovered Ivo Andrić’s book The Bridge on the Drina. Andrić was a professor of modern languages at the University of Belgrade in the mid-20th century. His novel of the same name (published in 1961) received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1961.

The Bridge on the Drina is a novel about the Bosnian War in 1914 and the beginning of World War I. The novel follows the events of one family in the Bosnian town of Visegrad, which is where the bridge that gives the novel its title is located.

Andrić’s novel is considered a masterpiece of Bosnian literature and is widely regarded as one of the greatest works of modern literature. It is a powerful and moving account of the suffering and destruction caused by the war, as well as a reflection on the nature of humanity and what it means to be human.

The novel tells the story of the Drina River and the bridge that spans it, and it is through this bridge that the characters are forced to confront the realities of war and the human cost of conflict. Andrić’s use of language is beautiful and poetic, and his descriptions of the river and the bridge are evocative and haunting.

Andrić’s novel is a powerful reminder of the human cost of war and the importance of peace and reconciliation. It is a necessary read for anyone interested in Bosnian literature or the history of the Balkans.

Booklover — Bridges

Column Editor: Donna Jacobs (Research Specialist, Transgenic Mouse Core Facility, MUSC, Charleston, SC 29425) <jacobsd@musc.edu>
Innovation Session 2 — Saturday, November 8, 2008

Bridging the Google Gap — Presented by Darrell Gunter, Moderator (Chief Marketing Officer, Collexis Holdings, Inc.); Dennis Brunning (Electronic Resources Manager, Arizona State University); Sue Polanka (Head, Reference and Instruction, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University); Steve Leicht (COO, Collexis Holdings, Inc.); Mark Hyer (Vice President, Science and Technology Publishing, ProQuest)

Reported by: Ramune K. Kubiluis (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <kubiluis@northwestern.edu>

Each speaker shared insights on Gunter’s posed questions: what users require and what currently is innovative. Leicht: Sometimes innovation only requires one little step, and the challenge is to use tools better. The “Google gap” won’t be bridged, since we won’t see the bridge. Faculty communities require: social networking applications, expert and institutional profiles, access to publications faculty wrote in the course of their careers. Brunning: The IR enhances a relationship of researchers with librarians, the library has a role in licensed content, publishing management includes dollars, enhance beyond the property, go beyond the search, leverage meta-data. Hyer: Need enhanced abstract records and access to tables and figures (information isn’t always in captions); keep company careers.

Innovation Session 3— Saturday, November 8, 2008

Using Blog Technology to Get Their Attention — Presented by Audrey Powers (Associate Librarian, Research Services & Collections, University of South Florida); Cheryl McCoy (University of South Florida); Gina Clifford (Webmaster, Tampa Campus Library, University of South Florida); Sue Polanka (Head, Reference and Instruction, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University) (Note: Listed speaker. Phil Flynn (Engineering Librarian, Wright State University) did not present.)

Reported by: Cordelia Wilson (SLS Student, University of South Carolina) <Williams29209@aol.com>

Polanka shared her experiences in starting, maintaining, and marketing her blog No Shelf Required, www.libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired/.

Hyde Park Corner Sound-Off — Presented by Chuck Hamaker (UNC-Charlotte) and Katina Strauch (College of Charleston)

Reported by: Ramune K. Kubiluis (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <kubiluis@northwestern.edu>

In this annual Charleston Conference session, Hamaker and Strauch involved sound-off session attendees in a 2008 conference recap (until hotel employees began re-arranging chairs for another event). Speakers identified themselves, voiced opinions. “Lively Lunches” were proclaimed to be lively again and even a “not a morning person” enjoyed the “Beasty Breakfast.” New “dine-arounds” and “vendor chats” received mixed reviews, but votes to “try again next year.” Conference sessions organized by subject “threads” received a thumbs-up. Of interest: what is the (plenary/concurrent session) selection process “behind the scenes?” The first plenary session (by Derek Law) “set the tone”; other plenaries were deemed to be “good, but not exciting or provocative.” Some decreed: too much duplication and concurrent sessions overlap. First-timers enjoyed small group discussions on practical matters, specifics. Trends and “hot in 2008” topics: re-surfacing of pure matters, specifics. Trends and “hot in 2008” topics: re-surfacing of pure

This concludes the reports we received from the 2008 Charleston Conference. Thanks again to all of the conference attendees who volunteered to become reporters, providing highlights of so many conference sessions. For information about the 2009 Charleston Conference visit the Charleston Conference Website at www.katina.info/conference.

Rumors from page 62

Speaking of names from the past, got an email from the incredibly awesome Karen Hunter just the other day! I had just asked the he-keeps-up-with-everything-and-everybody Chuck Hamaker what Karen was up to and lo and behold comes this email! Magic! Turns out that Karen wanted a copy of an article she wrote in the February 1997 Against the Grain called “Things That Keep Me Awake At Night.” The article was based on a presentation she made at the Charleston Conference in November 7, 1996. And, twelve years later, it is incredibly accurate. Karen has promised to update her nightmares for a future issue of ATG and believe me I will hold her to it! I am also trying to pin her down to speak at the 30th Charleston Conference next November. If you see her, be sure and remind her that we are all waiting for her to come back!

I am sure that I have left Rumors out!! If I have write me and remind me. And also be sure and check the ATG NewsChannel which has many more Announcements and Rumors than we can put in the print edition. www.against-the-grain.com/

I am sorry to say that, thanks to my ankle, I will not be in Boston at ALA Midwinter. Y’all have fun without me! In the meantime, much love to you all and HAPPY NEW YEAR!