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If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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I want to begin in the days of yesterday when we actually thought that our mission in life was to build collections for all time. Do you remember the time when directors of libraries actually boasted about volume counts? As in, “We are the seventh biggest library in the ARL.” Or, “We now have 3,245,971 volumes in our libraries.” Do you hear much of that anymore? Maybe when the library passes a threshold, like its three millionth volume, or its five millionth volume. More often you hear the sentiment: “I just wish that we could outlaw volume counts.” I have heard directors of small libraries say this, and I have heard collection development librarians at major libraries say the same thing. Why? Because we no longer see ourselves as building lasting collections. Instead we want credit for our new document delivery initiatives, and we certainly want credit for our fulltext electronic journals online.

I have named the good old days after the movie, Field of Dreams. In the movie, the hero, relying on the mantra, “Build it, and they will come,” builds a baseball field in the middle of Iowa. When I saw the movie, the audience was moved to tears of rapture, followed by loud sniffing, when this baseball field in the middle of nowhere magically fills with people at the end of the movie. I was not so moved, but, then, I had not yet thought about the analogy with library collections. If I had, I would have been sobbing for joy along with my fellow moviegoers.

“Build it, and they will come.” In a world like that, what did collection development librarians think about? They thought about collection evaluation, and they developed a tool called the ARL/RLG Conspicuous so that every library could evaluate any of thousands of subject areas of theirs on a scale from one to five, minimal to comprehensive. They thought about balance; they tried to collect materials from the political left and the political right so that their readers could see all sides. They thought a lot about approval plans; how to obtain the books that they wanted both from the United States and from around the world.

My personal favorite from the old days was the topic of fund allocation: it engaged the best minds in collection development, and in its heyday we saw thousands of crazy allocation formulas flying around. It no longer seems to be a very popular topic. Finding the best allocation formulas

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the intellectual freedom implications of a bookstore being forced to turn over records of private citizens' book purchases to the government." AALL, will be a co-signatory of Barnes and Noble's motions to quash the special prosecutor's subpoena if necessary.

Some horrid news. Scott Eller, the wondrous, fantastic, awesome, CIS rep in the Southest is in critical conditon and a coma after a terrible car wreck down in Florida. I don't know what to say. At press time, Scott was still hanging on. He needs our prayers. Here is his address: St. Mary's Medical Center, 901 45th St., West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

Well the Wolters Kluwer and Reed Elsevier merger did NOT go through. This has been widely reported, but here's some more. Word is that Wolters Kluwer would have had to divest itself of some holdings and that their shareholders weren't too thrilled. So they went back to Reed Elsevier and asked to renegotiate some of the terms of the merger. This was unsuccessful.

Chuck Hamaker is alive and well and settled at UNC-C. Here is his office phone: 704-547-2825 and his email — <CAHAMAKE@newmail.unc.edu>

And I guess most of you heard about the acquisition of Random House by Bertelsman in late March. Widely reported, this acquisition will create the largest trade publisher in the U.S. (Bertelsman already owns Bantam Doubleday Dell). The industry seems to be split about whether this is good or bad.

And speaking of Bantam Doubleday Dell, the publishing giant has just started WaterBrook Press, a subsidiary that will focus exclusively on religious books, including fiction. This is reported in "Leap of Faith? Publishers Drawn To the Power of Christian Fiction," by Lisa Miller in the Wall Street Journal, January 20, 1998.

R.R. Bowker and Barnes & Noble have announced that Bowker's Books in Print database will be used by Barnes & Noble's retail stores and as the underlying database at Barnes & Noble's Internet bookstore. Barnes & Noble's Web site is at BarnesAndNoble.com.

And speaking of Barnes and Noble, the American Booksellers Association (ABA) has filed an antitrust lawsuit against the nationwide bookstore chains of Barnes & Noble Inc. and Borders Group, Inc. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on behalf of the ABA and more than twenty independent bookstores. See http://www.bookweb.org.

Our very own Christian Boissonnas, Central Technical Services, Cornell, is the recipient of the ALCCTS Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award for 1998. Bravo, Christian!

And there's more. The innovative Arnold Hirshon, Vice Provost for Information Resources at Lehigh University, is the 1998 recipient of the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award.

Crystal Ashton, a long-time and dear friend, is leaving Ameritech Library Services to pursue a new opportunity as the marketing director at a small computer company. Good luck, Crystal, and keep in touch!

The awesome Miriam Gilbert <Miriam.Gilbert@harpcarta.com> sends word of the sale on March 11 of Westview to Perseus Books, LLC from HarcourtCollins Publishers. I know that I sure see a lot of Westview books on our approval plan and know that Westview is a leading publisher of academic, professional, and reference books, as well as undergraduate and graduate texts in the social sciences and humanities. Westview Press/IconEditions are art history and art criticism titles for students and art enthusiasts. "The acquisition of Westview Press represents another critical step in the implementation of our overall strategy for the Perseus Books Group," said Perseus President and CEO Jack McKeown. "It is a pleasure to welcome Westview into the company of Basic Books, Civitas Books, Counterpoint, and Public Affairs." Founded in Boulder, Colorado, in 1975, Westview has grown beyond its Rocky Mountain roots, with satellite editorial offices in San Francisco and New York, and a marketing office in Oxford, England. But while the Boulder-based company continues to expand, the mission of the house remains the same: to publish, in the words of founder Frederick Praeger, "books that matter." The acquisition of Westview will add a new chapter to the rapidly unfolding story of Perseus Books. In September 1997, the company acquired Basic Books, one of the industry's most respected nonfiction imprints. In December 1997, Perseus Books announced a letter of intent to acquire the General Publishing Group of Addison Wesley Longman. As with other members of the Perseus Group, Westview will maintain separate publishing staffs, and work upon the core of Perseus Books' shared services, headquartered in New York. Trade sales, fulfillment, and distribution will still be handled by HarperCollins, which has a long-term distribution agreement with Perseus. Westview will continue to operate from its Boulder, Colorado offices. Perseus Books, L.L.C., is a subsidiary of Perseus Capital, L.L.C., which has interests in a number of media and technology ventures. Getting back to Miriam Gilbert, here's what she writes, "As far as we are concerned in Boulder, the sale marks a brilliant new chapter in the Westview story with opportunities for growth and expansion in the near and long term. Please call if you have any questions at all -- this is a subject my colleagues and I are ready to discuss with enthusiasm." And isn't it apparent that she's seen the laudatory New York Magazine article ("Can This Man Save Publishing?"") about Frank Pearl, the principal of Perseus Capital, Miriam says that it is available on their Web site: www.myrmag.com.

Publishers John Wiley & Sons, Inc., have announced an agreement with Microsoft to distribute the 1998 edition of Encarta Virtual Globe software with ten of Wiley's college-level geography textbooks, including DeBlij/Geography, Realms, Regions, and Concepts; Strahler/Introducing Physical Geography; Kuby/Human Geography in Action; and Blouet/Latin America and the Caribbean. Wiley began to offer textbooks together with Encarta Virtual Globe software in December, 1997. When acquired with a Wiley textbook, the software is available at a fraction of its estimated retail price.

This is quite a coincidence. About the same time Rick Heldrich (Chemistry Professor, College of Charleston) <heldrich@cofc.edu> sends word that in Chemical & Engineering News (November 24, 1997, p.14-13), there was an article on the merger of several excellent chemistry journals into two major journals. They are European Journal of Organic Chemistry and European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry. They have a Web site that is worth checking out — www.vechgroup.com/vech/journals/2446/index.html. Well, about that same time, I got a letter from the awesome Athena Michael of Wiley that William J. Pesce, COO of Wiley has now joined forces with the chemical societies of Belgium (SRC and KCVV), France (SFC) and Italy (SCI) — in addition to established partnerships with the German (GDCh) and Dutch (KNCV) societies — to expand the scope of its pan-European journal publishing program by merging six national journals into two new journals, EUROC and EURJIC. Wiley has developed the European program to accelerate the development of its European-based journals and to complement its US-based journal business. In doing this, says the press release, Wiley is reconfirming its commitment to the future of journals publishing. Two positive perspectives on the same thing.

Blackwell Science USA has been selected to publish The American Cancer Society's journal, Cancer Practice: A Multidisciplinary Journal of Cancer Care. This peer reviewed publication provides a forum for the exchange of practical knowledge among oncology nurses, social workers, physicians, and others associated with cancer patient care.

Community of Science, Inc. (COS) has announced that it has entered into a strategic alliance with McK Print Group, a national printer and composer of scientific journals. The two companies are jointly promoting and selling their services — including McK's typesetting/SGML and printing services and COS' automated Web-based journal publishing technologies — to the scientific community.

Is more information necessarily more valuable than less information?

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Benaud’s book *Outsourcing in Academic Libraries* is getting ready to be published by Libraries Unlimited. You’ll remember their excellent article in *ATG*, November 1997 (p. 1, 16, 18). That article has apparently generated many phone calls to both Sever and Libraries Unlimited, not to mention the *ATG* SoHo, wanting to know when the book will be out. For more information, try Libraries Unlimited at 800-237-6124.

The vivacious Marcie Kingsley (Head, Serials Resources Department, Western Michigan University) <kingsley@wmich.edu> sends word that she doesn’t know whether WMU is part of a new trend or not. Whereas in 1991, Marcie was busy joining together the separate monographic-acquisitions and serials departments — now they are dividing up again. The complexities of the electronic environment for serials is something they couldn’t have envisioned in the early ‘90s. So — ta da — Marcie is happy to report that Donna Heady, who was Head of Acquisitions at Kenyon College, has been hired to be Head of the re-formed Monographic Acquisitions Dept. Marcie is Head of the Serial Resources Dept. where they try to manage the electronic resources. Since they are busy getting ready for migrating to a Voyager system, Marcie says that Donna came just in time! And, there’s more. Donna and Marcie are both coming November 5-7 to the 1998 Charleston Conference! Is it on your calendar?

**Britannica Online** celebrated March’s Women in American History through a special Website http://women.eb.com. This Britannica Online Spotlight takes you on a tour through the accomplishments of American women from colonial times to the present. I found it way cool!

Recently heard from Deborah K. Jensen (Serials Librarian, Boston Athenaeum) <jensen@bostonathenaeum.org>. Can you imagine that she and Anthea Harrison have not been getting their *ATG*s in the mail and they even attended the 1997 Charleston Conference! I tell you, I just don’t get it. Sometimes the mail goes haywire! Anyway, yes, you get a sub to *ATG* if you attend the CC so I hope that Deborah and Anthea have gotten their copies by now.

Jim Vickery (The British Library) (did you read his article in the February *ATG*?) “The Legal Deposit of Electronic Publications,” pp. 36-38, (49) sent me the latest of NAG News with a glowing report of the 1997 Charleston Conference. It was so eloquent and he captured the conference atmosphere perfectly. Thank you, Jim!

And, speaking of Jim Vickery (above), Eileen Hiller <e.m.hiller@hud.ac.uk> is editor of NAG News and she wrote because she heard about the CC from Jim and also from Diane Kerr (that wonderful woman from Dawsoms). Anyway, Eileen is interested in exchanging experience, information and even newsletter items. The first thing that she wanted to do was reprint the *ATG* interview done by Judy Luther with Tim Collins (EBSO) (*ATG*, v.9#3, June 1997, pp.36-37). We thought that was a pretty great idea.

And speaking of the Tim Collins interview, it was great to hear from Paula Farley Jackson (Vice President, Operations, SIRS, Inc.) http://www.sirs.com the other day. I have met her several times at the Independent Reference Publishers Group meetings before ALA. Anyway, Paula says that she liked that very same Tim Collins interview very much. Have you read it?

And speaking of Jim Vickery again — all roads lead to Jim Vickery! — I got an email with a name from the past when Keith Renwick <K.Renwick@umist.ac.uk> wrote to tell me that he had read Jim’s write up on the CC in the NAG News. Imagine that Keith had never seen his article in *ATG* (v.9#4, September 1996, pp.1-3 “The Art of Requiring CD-ROM Technology”) (what are we all going to do about international distribution, all you people out there?) who is taking early re-continued on page 12.

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**Call for Ideas/Papers/Speakers/etc.**


**Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition**

*If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating the lively lunches or simulation rooms, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We’ll probably like it...* The Planning Directors for the 1998 Charleston Conference include Barbara Dean (Arlington County Public Library), Robin Lent (U. of New Hampshire), Heather Miller (SUNY-Albany), Katina Strauch (College of Charleston) and Judy Webster (University of Tennessee).

Send ideas by June 30, 1998, to Barbara Dean, Technical Operations Center, 4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly, VA 22021. Phone (703)222-3139; fax (703)222-3135. Internet: <bdean@leo.vsla.edu>.

**FUTURE CHARLESTON CONFERENCE DATES:**

November 5-7, 1998 • November 4-6, 1999 • November 2-4, 2000

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tirement from UMIST Library and Information Service in Manchester, England, in September, 1998. But Keith isn’t really retiring; he’s taking on a post as UK Sales Manager with Everests. You should all remember Keith’s article in ATG, and maybe there will be a second article about changing from one side of the fence to another.

More email. Ginny Downes (Samford Univ. Law Library) <vcdownes@samford.edu> says they want to subscribe to ATG! Hoory!

The fabulous Robin Lent <rsleint@christa.unh.edu> is on her way to England and she is going to interview Jeremy Lloyd (Blackwell’s) for ATG. I can’t wait to read the interview!

Speaking of Blackwell’s—did a fantastic interview with Jim Rose at ALA Midwinter. Hopefully, that will be in the June, 1998 issue, coming up.

This is from digilibras@sunsite.berkeley.edu. If you conduct a book sale and if you haven’t seen the BOOK SALES Website, be sure to visit it at http://www.book-sales-in-america.com/. BOOK SALES has been recommended by The New York Times Book Review, Booklist, American Libraries, Midwest Book Review, and FOLUSA News. The site has been in existence for approximately a year and this year, they are going to issue a quarterly subscription in regional editions which will hopefully make it easier to have all book sales listed. If you want to talk to a person, try Helen Oram (BOOK SALES, PO Box 452, Hudson, MA 01749; Tel: 978-562-3400; Fax: 978-562-1233).<publisher@Book-Sales-in-America.com>.

Well, I remember her from way back when—remember the article Joan Griffith wrote for ATG in 1995 with Rebecca Bauerschmidt (“HTML or How to Be the Duke of URL,” ATG, June 1995, v.7#3, pp.31-32). Back then, she was at the University of New Mexico and we were still talking about gophers. Anyway, Joan <joan.griffith@harrassowitz2.wien.uenet.de> is now with Harrassowitz and is planning a paper for the Charleston Conference 1998, perhaps about aggregator services, partnerships, and new directions. She says she is bringing Friedemann Wiegel, one of the owners of Harrassowitz that I believe we spoke about in ATG’s Knut Dorn interview (ATG, v.7#1, February 1995, pp.26-34) as well as Bob Reed, retired from the University of New Hampshire. Bob, I want you to know that I still have that Battle of the Bulge t-shirt that you gave me when he was a student at Charleston University near Charleston!

Speaking of which, we need to get Peter Stevens (Univ. of WA) <stevens@u.washington.edu> in Charleston in 1998. Peter was talking on Acqnet the other day about credit cards and their use in acquisitions departments. Actually, we at the College of Charleston are expecting a credit card momentarily.

The Library Corporation’s Integrated Automation System (Library Solutions) is now contracted for installation by seventy-six libraries. The most recent additions include: Bullitt County Public Library (KY); Roselle Public Library District (IL); Culpeper County Library (VA); Ruidoso Public Library (NM); Marshall Public Library (TX); Sauk Valley Community College (IL); Newton County Public Library (GA); Washington Theological Union (DC). Library Solutions utilizes the Windows NT operating system, Intel compatible hardware, an Oracle database and Internet linkage. Library Solutions has recently been selected for use in international markets including the Libraries Division of the West Indies and the University of Malawi.

This information is from Claire Fund (College of Charleston) <fundc@cofc.edu>. The Charleston Group, a publisher of scholarly journals, has given its 1997 Award for Electronic Journals to The European Molecular Biology Organization Journal, which is published twice a month by Oxford University Press. Here’s the address of the journal which costs $1000 per year and includes electronic access — http://www.embj.org. And speaking of Claire Fund, she recently sent word that the Wall Street Journal wants everybody to be librarians! The article (12/9/97, B1) is titled “Contributors to Pools of Company Know-How Are Valued Employees,” and is by Hal Lancaster <blancast@wsj.com>. “If people take the time to enhance their own knowledge base and expertise, they will find their career prospects and potential broadening significantly.” Corporate interest in knowledge management is increasing with its investment in intellectual capital. “You have to budget the time you spend pursuing intellectual capital. Those who do this effectively advance faster.” Employees must also add to a company’s knowledge base — contributions are beginning to be added to companies’ appraisal and compensation systems. Employees also need to be good writers and librarians — categorizing, describing, and tagging knowledge — so that others can find and use it.

Recently heard from Ruth Hodges (South Carolina State) <rhodges@scssu.sc.edu>. She was doing some research on journal deselection. Sound familiar? I tell you, it’s hard not to run into ideas on the Internet. Here’s one that was interesting that I ran across the other day. The SSRN (Social Science Research Network)Top Ten Hits (de-

What is needed is a diversity in services offered — a need for separating content from technology. Library users don’t really want multiple interfaces; they want the convenience of central delivery. — Conversation with Bill Soszansky, “What Do Mergers Do For Libraries?” ATG, February, 1998, p.31.

search engines will assemble lists of resources that better match the users’ needs. A group of 33 academic institutions in South Korea have joined forces to license online journals from Academic Press’ International Digital Electronic Access Library (IDEAL). With Seoul National University as the lead institution, these universities have formed KUCED, the Korean University Consortium for Electronic Databases.
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Within the terms of a single license, all 328,000 faculty, students, and employees of the institutions now have fulltext online access to all 186 peer-reviewed journals covering more than thirty major disciplines. For further information, contact Chrysanne Lowe at 619-699-6824.

Information Today, Inc. (Medford, New Jersey) has announced that it has acquired the abstracts publication and database known as Information Science Abstracts from Documenta tion Abstracts, Inc. (DAI), beginning with the August 1998 issue. Information Science Abstracts is a monthly abstracts journal and database which covers library and information science publications from worldwide sources. Approximately 8,000 abstracts are added each year to the database, which dates back to 1966. The database will continue to be available as a printed abstracts journal as well as electronically through Dialog and SilverPlatter Information. Information Today is also studying the feasibility of additional distribution platforms. For further information, phone 609-654-4309 or go to www.infotoday.com.

The state of Alabama has chosen Brodart Automation’s LePac NET to provide Internet access to ALICAT, their union bibliographic catalog. The ALICAT database contains 7.6 million holdings and a union list of 88,000 serials holdings. LePac NET offers users access to ALICAT 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Okay. I have messed up so many times I can’t count them. But the most recent screw up (as of this writing; there may be more later in this issue ...) is with the incredibly patient and awesome Tom Leonhardt’s email address. We have printed it wrong in these pages a couple of times. Here it is now, write it down and don’t add letters, like I did! <leonhart@oit.edu> is the right address. See, his real name has a “d” in it, but the email address doesn’t! Something about number of letters. You can’t tell computers anything!

The College of Charleston Library just received the proceedings of a SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network) conference on digitizing projects for libraries and archives. It includes case studies and case studies from Emory, UNC-Chapel Hill and UT- Knoxville. The title is “To scan or not to scan.”

Remember me, asked Dave Mitchell (Business Manager, Guilford Publications) <dmitch@guilford.com> in a recent email. Dave says he didn’t come to the Charleston Conference this past year, but he still wants to get Against the Grain and he sends us his greetings and best wishes.

Got a nice note from Gita Gunatilleke (Victoria U., NZ) <Gita.Gunatilleke@vuw.ac.nz> who says that she really enjoyed her visit to the states and to the 1997 Charleston Conference especially. Besides coming to Charleston (“a beautiful city with such warmth”), she visited Niagara Falls, Washington, and San Francisco, and that’s not all. We have a few of her contributions — coming up! Paul Harwood <pHarwood@swets.nl > works for Swets Subscription Service in the UK and is also Marketing Officer for the United Kingdom Serials Group. He was wondering if ATG and UKSG could exchange Web site links and Table of Contents. We are looking forward to doing so.

The incredibly supportive and wonderful Gary Gerald (Ambassador) <abi@CLASS.ORG> writes that his daughter’s Bat Mitzvah is over... sadly. Philip Hallman and Stuart Grinell from Ambassador were both there as well as the whole family and it was a wonderful celebration. I’ve been to a couple of Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and they are truly incredible. Congratulations, Gary!

From Science (28 November 1997) — A coalition of 15 Dutch scientific research libraries has adopted a set of principles aimed at bolstering their position in negotiations with publishers over electronic journals. The principles stipulate that libraries that subscribe to a print version of a journal should not have to pay more than an additional 7.5% for electronic access to that same journal, and that libraries should not pay more than 80% of the print rate to subscribe exclusively to the electronic version. A group of German librarians who helped draw up the principles are expec ted to sign on as part of the coalition, and it’s hoped that many European libraries will follow suit. “We’ve been talking about a ‘journal crisis’ for years,” says one of the Dutch librarians. “It looks like it’s finally arrived. We’re fed up.”

Chris Hamel-Smith <chamel@info chan.COM> sent this to eni-copyright @eni.org when there was a question about copyright information from various countries. Hieros Games — http://www.hg.org and a search on “intellectual property” will take you to a very large collection of international IP links, including links to copyright legislation in many jurisdictions.

Speaking of international copyright, I got a thorny question from a gentleman here in Charleston who wanted some information about a German publisher and copyright. Thanks to Knut Dorn (Harrassowitz) <kdorn@harrassowitz.co.de> I was able to answer the question. Thanks, Knut!

More on international copyright info from cni-copyright. Louise Szente (Librarian, Article Services, Gold Fields Library and Information Services Technikon SA, Private Bag X90, FLORIDA, 1710) <lszente@isamail. rsa.ac.za> sends word that there is an organization called SACFO (South African Copyright Forum). The homepage URL: http://www.pgw.org/sacfo/.

Picked up the mail the other day (sadly it does not come to our door) and what should appear, but a NEW journal from Jeffrey Kitay of Lingua Franca fame — remember we interviewed him in ATG way back in 1995 (ATG, v.54, No.3, January 1993, no.34-35, 45). Anyway, this new journal is called University Business and has quotes in the very first issue from our very own Barbara von Walthle (Associate Vice President for Libraries, SUNY-Buffalo) <bvw@acsa. buffalo.edu> (and also sister of Kathy Kettnerman, UNC Press) who was one of the keynote speakers at the 1997 Charleston Conference. I just so happen that ATG is in the process of interviewing Barbara for an upcoming issue! Did you see the recent article in Searcher (January 1998, pp.25-30) by the wonderful Anne Dixon (Institute of Physics Publishing) <annex.dixon@ipublishing.co.uk>? You probably know that following their successful collaboration on HyperCite technology, The Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and Institute of Physics Publishing (IoPP) have announced that IoPP is a re-seller of the full INSPEC database and archive. Offering an unlimited usage license to academic sites initially, the INSPEC database will also use HyperCite technology to link from the INSPEC database to IoPP journals online and, via the IoPP cited references, to other publishers, back into the INSPEC database, to preprint databases, and to other important online physics resources. This will allow scientists and information professionals to embark upon electronic “information trails”, following cited and citing references forwards and backwards in time. Furthermore the annual price of this service, $27,500 (UK, plus VAT) of $45,000 (rest of world) is highly competitive with offerings of the database alone; access to the fulltext of Institute of Physics Publishing’s journals is available to Institute of Physics Publishing’s print journal subscribers. The INSPEC database has records going back to 1969 and Institute of Physics Publishing’s fulltext goes back to January 1, 1993. When polled a whopping 81% of IoPP’s Electronic Journal customers who replied stated that they would be interested in accessing INSPEC through IoPP’s Web site (http://www.ioyp.org).

Well this issue has our first installment of Who Owns Who (see p.52) by Mary Brandt Jensen (Director of the Law Library, U. of Mississippi, University, MS) <mjensen @olenius.edu>. Mary says she can edit and monitor the legal stuff, but she needs some continued on page 16

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
people to check out her information on non-legal publishers. How about it?

Cheryl Mahan (U. of Florida)<cmahan@pegasus.cc.ufl.edu> plans to come to the Charleston Conference in 1998! Hooray! How about you? November 5-7, Charleston, SC.

Is there a significant cost savings in the administration of pricing for a Consortium? Is that why JSTOR doesn’t have Consortial pricing? (See ATG interview with Kevin Guthrie, ATG, v.9#2, April 1997, pp.31.) These and other issues were under discussion by Tony Ferguson (Columbia)<ferguson@columbia.edu> and Alan M. Edelson <amedelson@topnet.net> on <liblicense-l@lists.yale.edu> in February.

Over the law-lib listserv, we have learned from Janice Henderson <j henderson@eblawlaw.com> that John Wiley has sold their lawbook/legal division to Aspen Publishing. Also some, but not all, of their legal journals have been bought by Aspen. If you’d like to find out what titles have been sold call, 800-825-7550.

This info is from Edupage and The Chronicle of Higher Education (February 1998) -- At least two scholarly journals have begun to charge the authors, not the readers for publication. Optics Express, a publication of the Optical Society of America and the Internet Journal of Nitride Semiconductor Research, have each adopted the “pay to publish” strategy and distribute the journal free to subscribers. Optics Express charges $300 for an accepted article and Internet Journal charges $275 per submission, with a refund of $165 if an article is not accepted.

More from Ann Okerson <AnnOkerson@yale.edu> and liblicense-l — Keith Seitter, Executive Director of the American Meteorological Society, has made the AMS’s online Journals Subscription Agreement (i.e., contract or license) available to all of us. It’s linked as “What’s New” on the LIBLICENSE Web site — http://www.library.yale.edu/~license. This Agreement has many things going for it, including its brevity (yes, that is a virtue indeed, compared to some of the 10-25 page documents that libraries read and respond to). More to the point are the: fair use-friendly language, treatment of “occasional” (i.e., walk-in) users, treatment of remote sites/campuses, sensible language about liability/enforcement, and long-term access, among other things.

Globetrot, Multicultural Media’s monthly electronic newsletter <mcm@multiculturalmedia.com> has all kinds of news about music. We at ATG have received several CDs to review and Mike Phillips <philips@cofc.edu> is preparing a review... Anyway, in the meantime, you might want to check out the Website at http://www.multiculturalmedia.com.

Have been talking to the wonderfully approachable and urbane Brian Ingleby of Dawson <ingleby@dawson.co.uk> who I am hoping to interview at ALA Annual in Washington. In the meantime, we just interviewed David Cheatham, of Information Quest <dc@cheatham@ixq.com> (a Dawson company). David attended the Charleston Conference (1997) for the first time though he’s been working with librarians for 17 years, starting with the PC-based library automation vendor Data Trek back in 1981. Watch for that interview, coming up in June, I hope.

Got an email from Daniela Moneta (Head, Collection Development, Arizona State Library)<dmoneta@dlapr.lib.az.us>. She says she just read about the 1997 Charleston Conference and is sorry that she missed it. She has been out of the country, but she wants to come to the 1998 Charleston Conference. See this issue, p.10 for the Call for papers...

And the Johnny-on-the-spot Rebecca Breedlove (Head of Acquisitions Services, U. of Massachusetts, Boston)<becky@delphinius.lib.umb.edu> hopefully will also be coming to the Conference in 1998 and hopefully will be involved in some way. How about it, Becky?


This comes from <web4lib@library.berkeley.edu> which reported it from Wired news. The National Writers Union is filing a mass grievance against the Northern Light online search engine for selling access to previously published articles on the Web. The fulltext of the article is located at http://www.wired.com/news/news/culture/software/970206.html.

The Internet is something. The other day I got an email from Phyllis Erdogan, Bilkent University Librarian in Ankara, Turkey who has a subscription to ATG! I hope that Phyllis will write us about some of the news over there.

Rock Hill Press (Bala Cynwyd, PA) has announced The Internet Travelers Desk Reference. A monthly subject guide to the best Web sites. Twelve issues a year are $66.50. A sample is located on their Web site — www.rockhillpress.com.

IFLA has announced the appointment of Mr. Sjoerd M.J. Koopman as Coordinator of Professional Activities as of April 1. Koopman comes to IFLA from the PICA Library Automation Centre where he has been Head of Marketing since 1995. He began his challenging and varied career within the Dutch library and information sector in 1980. Following a degree course in Business Economics at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, he went on to read Political Science at the University of Amsterdam. In 1979 he successfully completed a three-year-course in Library and Information Science (OWB-B) and obtained his MA in Political Science in 1981 from the University of Amsterdam. Besides his solid background in library automation, Koopman also possesses excellent linguistic skills and has published extensively in both Dutch and English and is proficient in German, French, Italian and Spanish.

And, just as we go to press, we at the College of Charleston Libraries are getting ready to attend the grand opening of the brand new Charleston County Library at the foot of Calhoun Street. This new facility — which you will have to visit the next time you are in Charleston — will have the capacity for 570,000 books, 113 public computers, 108,000 square feet, a capacity of 500 seats, 200 circulating CD-ROMs, and much, much more. Can’t wait to see the whole thing! 

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Librarians will have to be out front providing realistic solutions for their institutions and their users. K. Wayne Smith, Interview, ATG, February, 1998, p.51.