If Rumors Were Horses

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The Impact of Tasini: Foreword

by Kent Mulliner (Collection Development Coordinator, Ohio University Libraries, Athens, OH 45701-2978; Phone: 740-593-2707; Fax: 740-593-2708) <mulliner@ohio.edu>
and Jack Epstein (Reference Librarian and Web Manager, Ohio University Libraries, Athens, OH 45701-2978; Phone: 740-593-9683; Fax: 740-593-2708) <epstein@ohio.edu>

“Content is king,” was a mantra of the 1990s but only in the first year of this century did we begin to understand what that means, with the Tasini et al. decision. In brief, the court said that absent other factors, such as work-for-hire, content belongs to the creator. But the court also remanded the case back to the Federal District Court to decide remedial issues. For authors, publishers/distributors, and librarians, we have a landmark case that has yet to run its course.

Even in this interim situation, we sought to explore what the case may mean for creators of content, distributors, and, most importantly from our perspective, users. While it is premature to form firm conclusions, we sought a variety of perspectives on our fundamental question: “what is the impact of Tasini?” Those willing to venture “where angels fear to tread” include Laura Gasaway, every librarian’s favorite guru of copyright from the University of North Carolina; Arne Adler and Miriam M. Nisbet of ARL and ALA, organizations that combined in submitting an amicus curiae to the Supreme Court; Mike Bradley, a member of the National Writers Union and an officer of an NWU local; Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada Reno Library, with a sympathetic yet cynical librarian’s view as one who will be dealing with fallout from the case for years to come; and Ward Shaw, who found

If Rumors Were Horses

I begin with an apology. The Against the Grain renewal invoice which went out this year (and last, so I have to double apologize) said: “We are concerned that you had a subscription to Against the Grain last year and have yet to renew for 2002. Was this an oversight?” This implies that you had already received one invoice and this was your second. That was not the case. Mea culpa. Sometimes here at ATG World Headquarters the help runs amok. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

Another apology. Michael Young <youngm@albany.edu> writes that in his haste to get out the piece about the Charleston Conference for January 2002 ATG, he overlooked an error, viz., he described NERL as the “New England Research Libraries consortium” when in fact it is the Northeast Research Libraries consortium. When your slack editor didn’t fix this, Ann Okerson called us on it! Whew! Thanks, Ann!

I remember when I first moved to Charleston, a Citadel group of women had a murder mystery night which was great fun. Well, a few weeks ago, Barbara and Norm Desmarais <norm@ providence.edu> went to a murder mystery at the library! The other week, there was an article about it “Who Done It?” in the Providence Journal (Providence, R.I.) (Blackstone Valley Edition), Jan 31, 2002 by Patricia A. Russell with a picture of Norm and other participants on the front page of the local news section. Melanie Zanella (electronic resource librarian at the Lincoln Public Library)
I'll admit it here. I largely hate this time of year. I hate it because of income taxes, end of the holidays and beginning-of-the-year bills which get larger each year. Then right in the middle of running for ALA President, my LTA for accounting quit so I've been doing his full-time job on top of everything else. What to do? Well it's obvious.

I threw myself into what I love best — you guessed it — editing the February issue of Against the Grain. This issue is guest-edited by the tirelessly and astute Kent Mulliner and contains some really important papers by Pru Adler, Miriam Nisbet, Rick Anderson, Mike Bradley, Lolly Gasaway and Ward Shaw, regarding the Tasini Supreme Court decision. Karen Hunter also updates us on her continuing series of yearly articles about the state of the industry: Surviving Another Year. We have some new contributions by Daryl Rayner who has sent us Rumours (not a typo, just bowing to Brit-spell here) from Paddington plus an interview with Richard Charkin of Macmillan. We have an interview with Mike Eisenberg, Dean of the Information School, U. of Washington by Lisa Spagnolo plus a response re Tasini from Lexis/Nexis Corporate Counsel, a profile of Scientist Professor Lali Chatterjee. Of course, there is much, much more! Meanwhile, reality calls! I have to go and pay more bills. At least Spring isn't far away. Yr. Ed. 

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3356, 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:

Norman Desmarais (Against the Grain, v.13/#6, Dec 01-Jan 02) raised some interesting questions about the allocation of spending for collection development. Unfortunately, his use of Allen Kent's "landmark study of library operations" casts a shadow over the formulas that he contemplates.

Kent argued for reducing collection development expenditures. He used circulation figures as the sole evidence of use of books and a very brief reading room observation to judge use of journals. The report was discredited by library researchers and publicly repudiated by the Pitt faculty senate. Melvin Voight of the University of California commented, "It seems so obvious that use of any multimillion-volume research library ... can be meaningfully studied only by concentrating on that research use, not on statistics hopelessly distorted by the intensive use of relatively few volumes by undergraduates." The Pitts-

burgh study stands more as an eyesore than a landmark.

Circulation figures tell only about circulation. Many researchers (myself included) have used huge numbers of books inside libraries without ever checking one out. A fair study of library use will dwell in the stacks and reading rooms to record behavior demonstrated by patrons' activities. There is an urgent need for such research, particularly if it can connect with the consequences of use to estimate the productivity of libraries in eliminating wasteful errors, insularities, and duplications in research and education. The aim of library research in these worst of times should be to justify parity of library spending with R&D and education — not to waste energy competing for control of crumbs falling from the misers' table.

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References


Rumors

from page 1

played the dead body! Norm says that Barb was a little annoyed at the article because it mentioned at the end that her character operated a brothel. Oops! But, you know what? I guess that's showbiz!

And, besides being in mysteries, Norm and Barbara are going to Paris for spring break in April. Lovely daughter, Denise, is studying in Paris this semester. Doesn't sound half bad to me. How about a French mystery?

Last Norm Rumor! Read all about it in Albert Henderson's letter to the editor in this issue (p.6). Norm says he'll let Albert's comments re his paper (did you read it? "In Search of Equitable Fund Distribution," Dec/Jan ATG, v.13/#6, pp. 83-86) stand without comment. He says he continued on page 8
Paul Orliszewski begins at Appalachian State University March 4th as Acquisitions Coordinator. This means Eleanor Cook <cookel@conrad.appstate.edu> gets to be JUST Serials Coordinator again after two years (that’s besides editing ACQNET and being vice-president-president-elect of NASIG). Paul was Music Librarian and also Coordinator of Collection Development at Rice University for a number of years.

Speaking of NASIG (North American Serials Interest Group) www.nasig.org, the President is Maggie Rioux (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), Past President is Connie Foster (Western Kentucky University), Secretary: Margaret Merling (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and Treasurer: Denise Novak (Carnegie Mellon University). Talk about a bamm-zowie group of women!

And speaking of ACQNET, the incredible Deborah Duke <dduke@fortworthlibrary.org> and the awesome Lisa German (University of IL Champaign-Urbana) are in training to become assistant ACQNET-L editors. Also, ACQNET welcomes the incredibly energetic Thelma Diercks <thelma@hawaii.edu> (University of Hawaii) as a new Editorial Board member.

I have heard via the GV (grapevine) that the energetic Heidi Hoernemann, who is tech services professor at College of Library and Information Science at University of South Carolina, was at ALA in New Orleans. Her car got a real “owie” when it was broadsided by a SUVed woman doing an illegal U turn. The accident occurred on Melvii Dewey Road in Metairie, Louisiana. (As Dave Barry would say, I am not making this up!). So, Bob Molyneux <drrdata@molyneux.com> quips that Heidi probably would have been better off going two blocks and turning at Ranganathan Drive. Anyway, mother and ear are doing fine!

Moving right along, the scrumptious Marla Whitney has moved from divine/Faxon to OCLC.

The often-described-as-hard-hitting-yet-svelte John Perry Smith <JPS@TotalInformation.com> was seen at ALA in New Orleans holding forth re his Presparsiain Library Society. He says he just needs more venture capital.

And, what can I say. Amid the countless meetings that I had to attend and talk at in New Orleans (see this issue’s Op Ed, p.38), I was forced to leave the aforementioned John Smith nursing his scotch (was it scotch, John?) while I stood him up (aided and abetted by Sandy Paul <Sandy@skpassociates.com> my campaign manager, no less) so that I could be at a meeting “on time.” My Greek parents (who have a history of always being tardy — that’s where I get it from) would be mortified!

According to our friends at Everett’s in the UK, Bob Schatz <everbob@yahoo.com> has been up to a lot more than traveling all over North America on company business and hosting the Weakest Link panel at the Charleston Conference. Bob was recently appointed to the Board of Advisors of the Portland chapter of First Book, a non-profit that raises and distributes grant money to agencies to provide new books to young, economically disadvantaged children who have never before owned a book. On top of that, readers of the newly published Jump Start Your Career in Library and Information Science (Priscilla Shontz, Scarecrow Press, 2002) will find numerous bits of career advice from Bob scattered throughout the book. And if that wasn’t enough, Bob will also be giving two Effective Writing in the Workplace workshops during this summer’s NASIG conference at the College of William & Mary. Wow, is this guy busy, or what?

There are some changes at the Spartanburg (SC) County Public Library. The awesome Patricia M. Brown <pmtb@SPART.SPLIB.SC.US> will no longer be the Government Documents Librarian but the Coordinator of Collection Development. Jayne Moorman, who joined the staff in September, is now Government Documents Librarian. Pat has enjoyed the rather short tenure and looks forward to new challenges!

What you don’t learn when you listen! I had no idea that there were two people named Jim Morrison and Jim Morris. I thought someone was trying to trick me. BUT, it is true! There is a Jim Morrison <jim.morrison@il.proquest.com> and a Jim Morris <jim.morris@il.proquest.com> and they are alive and well and working for UMI/Proquest/Bell & Howell Information and Learning! Had a visit with Jim Morris just yesterday and learned three sajent things (I was listening!). First, Jim and Lia Hemphill (Head, Collection Development, Nova University) <lia@nova.edu> are good friends. Second, Jim did NOT make it to Charleston to hear Lia’s paper last year even though he told Lia he would (shame on him!), and third, Lia and Jim, as well as Shirley Jeffries (Head of Monographic Ordering, College of Charleston Libraries) <shjaffres@cco.edu> and yours truly, love chicken livers! These are the tiny tidbits that you read Rumors for, right?

Speaking of food, had some great eating experiences in New Orleans! And just the other day, the truly wonderful Debbie Humphrey (also of ProQuest <debbie.humphreys@il.proquest.com>) was telling me that she had her very first raw oyster in New Orleans (at Pascal Manolis, hopefully spelled that right) twenty-eight years ago. ALA, thanks for the memories!

Got a Happy New Year email from among-lots-of-things-she-speaks-French-fluently-and-Conspectus-eze-too Dora Black <dorabell@wsu.edu> who says she is enjoying retirement but it sure keeps her busy! In her spare time she is working on the history of the Richard Abel Company and hopes to have a manuscript this year!

More from Dora who sends word of a Midwinter report written by Don Chvat <dchvat@wisc.edu> dated January 2002, this year’s report “shows the developing integration of library processes and the Internet.” Don’s report is in six sections covering the RMG (Rob McGee) seminar; updates on vendors’ search offerings (three sections) and a end piece on cataloging and virtual reference services. Check it out at www.biblio-tech.com.

divine, inc. (Nasdaq: DVJN) has acquired certain assets of privately held Northern Light® Technology LLC, a provider of search and content integration solutions, in an all-stock transaction. The acquisition of Northern Light’s content services, enterprise search technology, and e-commerce transaction engine enhance divine’s comprehensive integrated content, collaboration and knowledge solutions for academic institutions and corporations. Northern Light Technology products include Special Collection®, an online business research library of over 70 million pages of fulltext documents; SinglePoint® Custom Content Integration service; RivalEye, a customized competitive intelligence solution; and the Northern Light Enterprise Search Engine®, which features its patented classification technology and customizable 17,000-term taxonomy. The acquisition of Northern Light strengthens divine’s content management and delivery solutions for the information industry by expanding the number of sources it can offer and by providing a dramatically improved interface for locating specific content. divine intends to integrate Northern Light’s global search technology across its content management, content aggregation and acquisition, client interaction and collaboration solutions.

I couldn’t believe it. The incredibly
Jeez! It’s been as high as 80 degrees in Charleston this winter! Meanwhile, I know that a lot of you have the opposite kind of weather. Tant pis, as the French say! Anyway, I got word from the warmly-dressed Tina Creguer <pr@il.proquest.com> that southeastern Michigan was in the midst of an ice storm and then I talked to Edna Laughrey (ads manager of ATG) <elaughrey@aol.com> just as the snow truck was coming to clear 8 inches of snow off her driveway in Saline, Michigan! You can’t always get what you want, weatherwise, can you? The grass is always greener, or is it whiter?

Heard from the marvelous Margaret Landesman (Head, Collection Development, University of Utah) <mlandesm@library.utah.edu> who wrote to say that The Olympics are “kind of a major presence” in her and her husband’s lives just now so she wouldn’t send in a Sense and Sensibility this month. Just like all of us watching it all on TV, except Margaret is right there! (I keep hoping to catch a glimpse...) And, she’s been at several of the “outdoor events.” Back when it was warmer, she said it seemed like an OK idea. Brrr...

Anyway, Tina C. (above) sends word of ProQuest Company’s (NYSE: PQE) Information and Learning unit’s acquisition of Micromedia Limited. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Founded in 1972 and headquartered in Toronto, Micromedia licenses information from media, government, and other sources, creates abstracts, and delivers the information via the Internet, CD-ROM, microform, and print media. “Micromedia is an ideal complement to ProQuest, and we are pleased to bring together our content and resources,” said Joe Reynolds, president and chief executive officer of ProQuest Information and Learning. “This new relationship also allows possibilities for greater distribution.” Micromedia products include: reference materials-news, periodicals, and government information appearing in such databases as CBCA and CRI/Microlog; corporate information-financial and securities information, including such products as CanCorp (tm) Financials; and directories-comprehensive listings of targeted topical and market segments for corporate, education, libraries, and government users. www.proquest.com www.micromedia.on.ca.

More. ProQuest Company’s (NYSE: PQE) Information and Learning unit and Safari Books Online, LLC have also recently announced an agreement that will grant ProQuest exclusive distribution rights of SafariTech Books Online to academic, public, and K-12 libraries and non-exclusive rights for government libraries. The Safari Tech Books Online library edition, currently under development by ProQuest and Safari, is scheduled for release later this month. The Web-based service allows library patrons to conduct online searches of more than 20 technical categories from Networking to Java to Microsoft’s.Net. <pr@il.proquest.com>.

The bam-zowie Daryl Rayner <daryl.rayner@xrefer.com> has contributed LOTS to this issue of ATG. Did you read Tom Gilson’s <gilson@cofc.edu> interview with her in the September issue of ATG? Anyway, besides, Rumors from Paddington (see this issue, p.12), she has interviewed Richard Charkin, CEO Macmillan Publishers in this issue. p.40. And this isn’t all that Daryl’s been doing, no siree! It’s been a hectic time in merrie old England: the Online show, launching xreferplus, the reference service for libraries. And Daryl writes that just last week the Queen was seen getting on an ordinary passenger train on Platform One (where the xreferplus offices are...) (Clearly, the Queen had heard about xreferplus...).

Sadly, Tom Gilson’s mother died in February in Colorado, and he and his lovely wife Carol were gone for several weeks settling her estate and grieving with family members. Our sympathies go to them and thanks to Tom who still turned in his From the Reference Desk this month.

The incredible Marcia Tuttle — she’s not a person, she’s an institution — sent out a notice that the Newsletter on Serials continued on page 12
Rumors from Paddington

by Daryl Rayner (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryl@xrefer.com> www.xrefer.com

Pricing Issues has ceased publication with issue number 257 on August 12, 2001. I am reproducing her letter here as it contains not only reminiscences of times past, but a discussion of the future. Says Marcia, “From its beginning on February 27, 1989 (as an ALA Resources and Technical Services Division publication) through the final issue, the pricing newsletter has been a delight for me, the most fun I ever had as a librarian. But times have changed. The newsletter was one of the earliest — if not the earliest — library-related electronic publications. In 1989, BITNET, Datalinex and ALANET were state-of-the-art systems, and the pricing newsletter published through them all. The World Wide Web made our job much easier and enabled us to provide an archive of all the issues. Four and a half years ago I retired as a serials librarian, and three years ago I taught my last serials librarianship course. That’s a long time to be away from the day-to-day serials world. Jim Mouw has been wonderful as a permanent guest editor, but he is a very busy man, and the pricing newsletter is very much my baby. No one else can be expected to be as emotionally involved as I have been! Jim, the editorial board, and I have contemplated the advisability of trying to continue the newsletter, even of selling it to a commercial publisher. However, it seems that the best course of action is to cease publication. As technology matured, so did the means of distributing news about serial pricing; we were not the only game in town. Also, the pricing issue itself evolved from simply concern about subscription rates to include other matters such as licensing of online journals. As people’s interests moved from issues related directly to pricing, new forums developed to address those issues. Many of these new forums employ listserve technology, allowing for immediate posting and feedback. We considered moving the newsletter to this technology, but it became apparent that adequate channels already existed, and we decided not to reinvent the wheel. The time for a periodic newsletter addressing issues of immediate concern has passed. My sincere thanks to all the editorial board members: Deana Astle, Mary Beth Clark, Jerry Curtis, Chuck Hamaker, and Bob Houbeck — the original members; and Keith continued on page 14

The Online Information conference and exhibition took place at the beginning of December in Olympia, London. It was the event’s Silver Jubilee. Strange to think that the first event took place before the Internet was a household word and before the PC revolutionised desktop access to computing. 

Learned Information did a great job organising a lively and interesting few days. The product presentations, running concurrently to the exhibition were jam-packed. Speakers included Jenny Walker from Ex Libris, Amanda Spiteri from ScienceDirect, Simon Jennings from the Resource Network Centre, Kings College, Tim Owen from the Library Association and Tim Ingoldsby from the American Institute of Physics. Gary Price (ex George Washington Library) and Greg Notess (Montana State University) the tireless pair of librarians-come-Web-search-Gurus were both involved in the information master classes and keynote seminars.

BioMedCentral, the publishing company committed to a policy of free access to scientific research has announced that it will introduce a processing charge for articles published in its online journals starting January 1st 2002. I guess it is hard to sustain a completely free model ad infinitum.

BioMedCentral has also announced that it will be collaborating with The Scientist to produce “the most widely distributed life science magazine in the world.” The serial entrepreneur, Vietek Tracz, Chairman of the Current Science Group, the company behind BioMedCentral, is said to be delighted about the prospects of this partnership.

The JISC-funded six month project INSPIRAL is now finished and a full report available at http://inspiral.cdlib.strath.ac.uk. The project’s remit was to identify and critically analyse the issues that surround linking virtual learning environments (VLE’s) and digital libraries. The focus was on the institutional and end-user perspectives. The dynamic Sarah Currier INSPIRAL research Fellow at the University of Strathclyde and her Research assistant, Sharron Brown, worked non-stop for the past six months holding focus groups, conducting online research and generally wading through the issues this new and exciting area has brought to the surface. Their analysis is to provide JISC (the Joint Information Services Committee) with priority areas for strategic planning and investment.

London has been gripped by “The Lord of the Rings” mania (the film was released on Dec 19th) following the recent “Harry Potter” hysteria. The British Library satisfied appetites for anything related to the famous books by running a Tolkien exhibition until the end of January. The exhibition displayed a trove of Rings memorabilia including the first illustrated edition of J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy and rare first edition copies of “The Hobbit” as well as letters and notes from the author to his grandson.

The British Library have also announced that they have completed stage one of their project to put online the 1.5 million Union Catalogue of Books records, listing stock held by the British Library’s Document Supply Centre. This means that the DSC’s pre 1950 records, 450,000 in total, are now available or the British Library Public Catalogue and can be searched via the Library’s Website.

The host for the 2002 UKAIS conference is the School of Information Management, Leeds Metropolitan University. This conference is the premiere event in the Information Systems calendar within the UK and attracts leading academics and researchers from the UK and overseas. There is a call for papers via the Website http://www.lmu.ac.uk/ies/ukais/callpapers.htm.

Chris Martindale, Subject Advisor, Derbyshire Business School and UCR Committee member organised a stimulating afternoon discussing eBooks and their future at the University of Derbyshire at the end of November. Speakers included Louise Edwards, Head of Management Information Resource Centre, Cranfield School of Management and member of JISC eBooks Working Group and Penny Garrod, Public Library Networking Focus UKOLN - UK Office for Library and Information Networking.

The Library Association in London also held a seminar on eBooks and publishing recently attended by 50 librarians from throughout the UK keen to learn about the latest developments. Louise Edwards from JISC was speaking again (she must be exhausted!) as was Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Commercial Director, Lightning Source Ltd, Christine-Love Rodgers, Assistant Librarian Learner Support, Open University and the omnipresent Anthony Watkinson, Consultant, Visiting Professor in Information Science, City University.

And finally, the news from xrefer on platform One, Paddington Station is that we have now released xreferplus (Dec 7th) and are welcoming our first flurry of libraries as subscribers.

We also welcomed the Queen in the station a couple of weeks ago. Quite unexpectedly she arrived in Paddington to take a normal passenger train to Wiltshire. Mind you, she was traveling first class! 🐝

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
so, she definitely wasn’t retired! Marcia has done an incredible service to the profession. Thank you, Marcia, for all you have done! We love you!

R2 Consulting has contracted with Common Ground Publishing of Australia for North American distribution of five titles related to electronic publishing. The titles are:

- C-2-C: Creator to Consumer in a Digital Age: Print and Electronic Text Convergence; Digital Rights Management and Content Development; Digital Book Production & Supply Chain Management; and Multilingual Book Production.

These titles were produced using the very digital printing techniques they describe, and are essential reading for publishers and librarians. For more information, visit www.ebookmap.net/booksonlinebooks.htm.

Bernie Sloan <bernies@uillinois.edu> on liblicense tells us — According to the Houston Chronicle: “Another round of layoffs at online library and academic research firm Questia Media has reduced the company to a skeleton crew of about 28 workers, just enough to maintain its Website.” For more info, go to: http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/story.hts/headline/tech/1220472.

John Cox <John.E.Cox@btinternet.com> is delighted to announce that Laura Cox has joined John Cox Associates as of 28 January. Laura is 25 and a graduate of the University of Derby. She has worked in sales, in IT recruitment, and in marketing with Taylor & Francis. She will add a valuable research, market intelligence and marketing capability to the resources of the firm she can offer. And, John has a new telephone number, so write it down: +44 (0) 1327 860949.


Word has it that Dan Greenstein is taking over at the California Digital Library.

The Copyright Society of the U.S.A. is launching Copyright Awareness Week in April 2002. The mission of Copyright Awareness Week is to create a greater awareness among the youth of America about the protection and use of creative works. http://www.law.duke.edu/copyright/html/events/CAW2002.html.

This is from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) — http://www.eff.org/IP/DeCSS_prosecutions/Johansen_DeCSS_case. A trial date of June 3, 2002, has been set for Norwegian teenager Jon Johansen’s criminal trial for developing DeCSS, software that can encrypt DVDs. The case will be heard by a three-judge panel of the Oslo City Court and is expected to last approximately six days.

More from the EFF — The Electronic Frontier Foundation has filed an amicus brief in federal district court asking that the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) be found unconstitutional because it infringes on protected speech and stifles technological innovation. The case arises from the criminal prosecution of Russian programmer Dmitry Sklyarov and Elcomsoft, the Moscow-based company where he works. The Computing Law and Technology and U.S. Public Policy Committees of the Association for Computing Machinery, the American Association of Law Libraries, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Consumer Project on Technology, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, and the Music Library Association signed on to the EFF brief that, along with a brief from 35 law professors, supports Elcomsoft’s own motions to dismiss the case. http://www.eff.org/Cases/US_v_Sklyarov/20020204_eff_elcom_pr.html.

And from Wired News, Feb. 11, 2002 — http://www.wired.com/news/business/0,1367,50356,00.html?tw=wn20020214 — “Judge Dubious About Link Patent” by Michelle Delio — “British Telecom is less than cheery over a small setback in the company’s attempt to collect cash for the ‘unauthorized’ use of hyperlinks. The British telephone company had set out to prove in U.S. federal court...[a few weeks ago]...that the company developed and holds a patent to the hyperlink technology used to whisk Web users from one site to another.”

Did you attend The Charleston Advisor’s program — On the Road to Full Text — Linking to the Source — on explor...
The sale of NetLibrary assets to OCLC was finalized at 5 p.m. Jan. 24 in Boulder, Colorado. The sale includes both the eBook Division, which will become a division of OCLC, and the MetaText eTextbook Division, which will become a for-profit subsidiary. The MetaText Division of netLibrary creates, hosts and manages Web-based digital textbooks for leading textbook publishers. MetaText digital textbooks provide instructors and students with a full range of interactive teaching, collaborating and learning tools. http://www.oclc.org/oclc/press/20020128.shtml.

This is from Ineke Middeldorp <middeldorp@nijhoff.nl>. “I am sorry to have to confirm the fact that Carmen Garcia Moreno has passed away. Visiting the Estuaerv Servicios Bibliotecarios booth during ALA in New Orleans, friends and colleagues of Carmen Garcia Moreno, were informed by Carmen’s son Pedro, that she could not attend ALA due to serious illness. Although Pedro had tried to prepare all of us, we were still in denial and shocked at best, when we heard of her death shortly after ALA. Carmen Garcia Moreno, formerly of Puvill Libros, and since a couple of years running her own agency with her son Pedro, will be sadly missed. We will always remember her as the kind and gentle lady with the ever ready smile and positive attitude. Carmen, it will never be the same without you.”

The hard-working Kent Mulliner <mulliner@ohiou.edu>, as you have no doubt already noticed, did a fantastic job of editing this issue papers on The Tasini Case. This is one of the biggest cases to ever come out of the Supreme Court as far as the library world is concerned. Be sure and read all the articles!

Speaking of reading, have you read the analysis of the “E-Choice” option regarding IDEAL: journals and ScienceDirect? Kimberly Douglas and Dana Roth of Caltech and David Goodman <dgoodman@phoenix.princeton.edu> of Princeton have done a great job of laying out many of the issues. “E-Choice option for Elsevier’s ScienceDirect” by Kimberly Douglas, Dana Roth (Caltech Library System) and David Goodman (Princeton University Library) February 2002 — It’s on the SPARC Website: http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=f53.

There is an article worth reading in the Chronicle of Higher Education for Wednesday, January 23, 2002 — “Consortium of 12 Universities Begins Project to Deliver Academic E-Books” by Jeffrey R. Young. This is about the CIC and university press initiative at the Big Ten Universities and the U. of Chicago that we told you about last month in Rumors, p. 10. http://chronicle.com/free/2002/01/2002012301.htm.

Everybody was talking about it in New Orleans! Gale and Ingenta are joining forces to create a new service that will allow researchers and librarians to use a single search to access online journals held by both companies. The partnership may creates what the companies believe to be the world’s most complete online, fulltext journal service. Ingenta’s more than 5,400 scholarly and academic electronic journals will be integrated within Gale’s InfoTrac, which is in use in more than 100 countries and is best known for its simple, intuitive search interface and rich array of services, including the availability of usage statistics, catalog links, reliable subject guides and InfoMarks, a persistent URL that allows researchers to save searches. The new service will begin with InfoTrac OneFile and Expanded Academic this summer and will later expand to Gale’s Resource Centers. Total periodical counts depend on the number of subscriptions the library holds. However, a pay-per-view option will also allow users to buy individual digitized articles when the library doesn’t hold a subscription. The new service will also be available remotely, InfoTrac OneFile and InfoTrac Expanded Academic with the new service option will launch within six months, but Ingenta and Gale officials note that current subscribers can activate a link immediately. Registration is free and available at www.ingenta.com.

This is from Ann Okerson <ann.okerson@yale.edu> and the moderators of Liblicense. (How did we do without them?) Re: Blackwell Publishers: will the family sell or not? http://www.library.yale.edu/~license/ListArchives/0201/msg00047.html. What’s going to happen? This is obviously important for those libraries which license content from this publisher.

Well, this Rumor surfaced in early January and Ann Okerson <ann.okerson@yale.edu> noted it as the “press rumor du jour” on liblicense on 8 January, 2002. From the Bookseller “Reed back in for Wolters Kluwer” — “The merger between STM giants Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer that fell through in 1998 is back on, according to the Observer. The two groups are expected to merge by the end of the year, investment bankers say. A marriage would produce one of the largest publishing groups in the world, with a market value of £1.7bn. Neither group was prepared to comment for the article, but the piee says that bankers believe Crispin Davis, chief executive of Reed Elsevier, is prepared to make an approach to Wolters Kluwer once he has bedded down last year’s £2.2bn acquisition of publisher Harcourt.” http://www.observer.co.uk/business/story/0,6903,628099,00.html.
was standing there in that situation. My particular gripe, especially with the heightened security nationwide, was that the door remained open for almost five minutes, and anybody who would want to hijack the plane or create any problems on board, could have done so at that point. Fortunately, there were no terrorists or insecure people on the flight to disrupt Jet Blue Flight 79 non-stop to New Orleans. I do know that a number of other people observed the door open, maybe not for the approximately five minutes that I noticed it, but certainly it was a breach of security that should not occur, especially with the $10,000 investment for this unique security measure. I personally think that the cockpit doors should remain closed at all times and perhaps even install a lavatory in the cockpit itself. I have always enjoyed flying, both for business and pleasure, and will continue to do so in the future, however, with a deeper sense of who is around me on the plane and the conditions in the cabin during the flight. Needless to say, a few winks of sleep were out of the question as I did want to be aware of the situation around me at all times. That flight was prior to air marshals being installed on almost every flight for added security, however, it made me more alert for that flight and future flights. I do believe that any breaches of security, such as this incident on Jet Blue, should be reported to the airlines so that they could be more diligent in their efforts to protect us passengers in our travels and stop any potential events before they happen. What about the rest of you? I would like to hear about your travels, and not just the vendors and publishers, but also the librarians who travel to different seminars and meetings and board obligations you might have, including speaking engagements for the various library associations. Let us hear about your travels and experiences, many times comical, which I would be pleased to print. Please send it along to me at my e-mail address <jaeger@ajaeger.com> or to my mailing address at Alfred Jaeger, Inc., 66 Austin Blvd., Commack, NY 11725.

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Got an email from the last-time-I-saw-him-he-was-learning-Dutch Albert Prior <OSCO@compuserve.com> telling me that he and David Brown have recently acquired the title Scholarly Communications Report from the dapper Duncan Spence.

Mary Page <mspage@rci.rutgers.edu> (Head, Acquisitions Department, Rutgers University Libraries) says she just got around to reading the Dec-Jan issue of ATG and is "thrilled" to learn that the Charleston Conference will again take place in November in 2003. Every year, Mary says, she looks forward to the conference, of course, but her favorite pleasure is her annual trek to the Bob Ellis shoe store, where there is usually a fabulous shoe SALE!! What can I say? Y'all who come to Charleston know more about the place than those of us who just live here. In fact, John Riley <jdriley@mediaone.net> (that's a new email address so update your records!) and Don Jaeger <jaeger@ajaeger.com> were going to try to update the Conference Website (in their spare time) with little tidbits from the visitors to Charleston. I'm looking forward to it!

And, speaking of the awesome John Riley (above) he tells me that Eastern Book has moved to a bigger and better location. Eastern Book Company: 55 Bradley Dr.; Westbrook, ME. 04092. All phone, fax, email and Web info stays the same. He is also working on two articles, one by Neil Jaffe about Print on Demand. John himself is also working on an "On the Road" column about coffee shops and cafes in academic libraries. Excuse me, that reminds me, it's time for coffee. Yr. Ed. ☕️