Call for Papers- 1999 Charleston Conference

Editor

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When a vendor reports a successful search, Helen Mack at Lehigh says she checks with the requester regarding price and if that is too high, the request becomes one for an Interlibrary Loan rather than OP. David Fisher at UC, San Diego states, “We do not use vendors who charge up front for searches.”

In our fifth and last question, we asked for other comments on this topic and got some interesting responses. At Dartmouth, Barbara Sterling responded, “the Web sources are useful but time-consuming. It is a title by title search.”

(Does anyone have advice on how to overcome this?) Meg Cairo at New York State Library, Albany says “Web has changed everything, made finding OP part of regular search streams.”

Only one librarian commented on the condition of OP titles. “Reading copy condition books” are acceptable. Marilyn Ng at UC, Berkeley wrote, “Science titles and conference proceedings have always been difficult to locate in the OP market. We find that going direct to the author/editor of a book can be far more successful with the needed book being donated to the collection.”

An accolade for the Web. Laurie Anderson of Maryland Institute, College of Arts says: “Web searching is the only way this one-person acquisitions department would have time to search for OP titles regularly.” At Baruch College, Doug Duchin commented that the Web, “works well for us and is much cheaper. The problem is that some OP vendors want credit card payments, which means we cannot use them at all.”

Dan Evans at Lafayette College said: “The biggest problem we have encountered is smaller dealers who refuse to give their ss numbers, as required by law, to our controller’s office.” Steve Johnson, Clemson University, summed up his comments this way: “The Web has revolutionized the out-of-print business. Now we can obtain many more titles, for much less hassle, much faster, and at a lower price.”

In summary, I see several major findings, probably not news to all of us, but noteworthy:

1. The Web technology has changed OP searching.
2. More institutions are resorting to credit card purchases.
3. Some state institutions have difficult-to-implement policies.
4. U.S. titles are easier to find than foreign works.

Thanks to all who found the time to contribute to this column! We couldn’t do it without you.

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**Biology Bestsellers**

Moyrihan, M. *Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals*. Smithsonian Inst. 1998. $27.50. Cloth 156098788x


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