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If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch  
Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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Some Practical Models For Cooperative Collection Development

by Margo Warner Curl (Coordinator of Cooperative Collection Development, CONSORT Colleges (after July 1, Technical Services Librarian, The College of Wooster Libraries) <mcurl@wooster.edu>

There is a lot of interest in Cooperative Collection Development (CCD), and increasing pressure to participate in cooperative projects as a way to maximize materials budgets. Many library partnerships and consortia have formed in order to collectively purchase electronic resources (electronic journals, databases) or to create efficiencies through a shared integrated library system (ILS). These types of cooperative projects, though time-consuming and difficult, have proved themselves as they continue to thrive. Cooperating in developing print collections is more of a challenge, and there are few successful models out there. This lack of models makes it harder for new projects to start. This has certainly been the case for our cooperative project (CONSORT Libraries — see ATG volume 14, no. 6, December 02-January 03 issue for some somewhat naive musings as we started into our project): the only models we could find three years ago were those of comprehensive country coverage distribution among Research Libraries, and the college groups of CTW (Connecticut-Trinity-Wesleyan) and the Tri-Colleges (Bryn Mawr-Haverford-Swarthmore) that were also just in the early stages of exploring cooperative collection development. These latter two groups have been of assistance to us as our project has evolved, just as they have also gleaned from our experience.

Based on the descriptions in the articles that follow, it seems to be a number of common factors that contribute to the (potential) success of projects. All the projects described in these articles come out of formal consortia, though not all involve all consortial members. The projects do not always involve only those libraries of a similar size. A shared ILS is useful, but not necessary if patrons can easily see the holdings of institutions participating in the CCD project. An efficient system to deliver materials among the participating libraries is a strong supporting element. Working with a common vendor is especially useful when the project involves the acquisition of current print monographs. A financial commitment to the project strengthens it, but in all projects described here, the money for material comes from within current budgets, so extra funding is not a necessary ingredient.

While the articles do not represent the entire universe of CCD projects underway, they all claim some degree of success. They all claim a good working relationship among the member libraries. They all emphasize that member libraries retain their autonomy in collecting decisions — no member is forced to give up acquiring what is needed locally; none is forced to collect in areas of little local interest. The projects all focus on a particular material type or subject area, rather than trying...
Dear Editor:

Against the Grain is an excellent publication and one that folks pay attention to. I read it every month.

I look forward to meeting you in Charleston this year.

Best wishes,

Dean Smith
Director, Global Sales
American Chemical Society
<d_smith@acs.org>

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.

Rumors from page 1

We have interviews with Ron Klauser (ProQuest), Christopher Warnock (ebrary), and John Riley (Eastern Book). Besides many of our regular columns, we have a Biz of Acq on consolidation in acquisitions departments, a view from the sixth Fiesole Collection Development Retreat, a discussion of XML, a Group Therapy on using subscription agents for electronic subscriptions, and an article on Laura Cohen's URL Clearinghouse.

Anyway, we all have plenty of reading ahead of us. In the meantime, I think I will get out my beach towel and go get wet in the surf.

Happy Summer!

Yr. Ed. 🍹

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

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Events                   Issue          Ad Reservation          Camera-Ready
Reference Publishing     September 2004  06/30/04                  07/21/04
Charleston Conference    November 2004   09/08/04                  09/29/04
ALA Midwinter            Dec. 04/Jan. 05 11/03/04                  11/24/04

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Edna Laughrey, Ads Manager. Address: 291 Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176; Internet: elaughrey@aol.com; Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax: 734-429-1711.
Rumors from page 6

ies recipient of the same award for Research. The award winners from each college were given a plaque and a check at an awards dinner and then two are selected for a University-wide award in those categories. At Western this is considered very prestigious. Jack says he was pleased to have the recognition and the money. It helped pay for the studio time for a new CD. I can’t wait to hear it!

More congratulations for Jack (above)! He has just recently been promoted to the rank of associate professor and awarded tenure at Western Kentucky University. Jack’s colleague, Gay Helen Perkins sends a message acknowledging Jack’s high achievements! Congratulations all around, Jack!

Cheryl Kroes (not the singer) has been promoted to Sales Manager Alfred Jaeger, Inc. effective May 1. She has been employed at Jaeger for almost 12 years and has the necessary background to work effectively with the sales and customer service staff as well as Jaeger’s growing clientele. Cheryl’s positive attitude and ‘can do’ disposition will be welcomed in her new position.

Guess whose birthday just happened? The truly wonderful David Goodman <dgoodman@iu.edu> about the fabulous Second Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication: Towards a New Publishing Environment which was held in Lund, Sweden April 26-28. This conference was organized by the awesome Lars Bjornshauge, Director of Libraries, Lund University Libraries <lars.bjornshauge@lub.lu.se> and Catta Torhel <catta.torhel@soebibh.lu.se>; among others. Many of the papers are loaded at http://www.lub.lu.se/nesc/2004/!

Lars (above) will be speaking in Charleston and we all know about the Directory of Open Access Journals which is a Lund University initiative. Last time I checked there were 1096 journals in the directory. http://www.doaj.org/

Speaking of which, ISI has done a citation study of open access journals. For the purposes of the study, they define “open access” as “not charging readers or their institutions for the right to access, download, copy, print, distribute or search the articles.” ISI now covers 200 Open Access journals and this study explores the growth of the Open Access movement and the growth in importance of those journals. For the complete study visit http://www.isinet.com/media/present/nacropdf/impact-oa-journals.pdf.

While we are on ISI, The Thomson Corporation (NYSE:TOC; TXS:TOC) has named Vin Caraher President & CEO of Thomson Scientific, part of the Scientific and Healthcare market group. Caraher, 45, was most recently Executive Vice President of Pharma/Chemistry Markets, where he led a team to create and launch Thomson Pharma — the information portal for professionals focused on discovery, development, and the launch of drug therapies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology markets. Caraher started his career at Chase Manhattan Bank, holding positions in financial analysis and marketing. He later served as Marketing Director for the banking and business product lines at Warren, Gorham & Lamont, Caraher joined ISI® in 1989. Mr. Caraher holds a B.A. from Boston College, and holds an MBA from Adelphi University. He resides in Philadelphia and splits his time between Philadelphia and London, while visiting Thomson locations and customers worldwide. www.thomson.com

Continuing the discussions on Open Access, read the balanced discussion of this topic by Peter Puthiuch <pscott@iub.edu> — “Embracing Open Access” on BioMedCentral. http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pmcentrez&artid=314095.

Recently visited the divine Peter Scott’s blog at http://xerox.blogspot.com/peter.html. Peter is best known as the compiler of the first hyper-text index of Internet resources, Hytelnet, released in 1991. He works at the University of Saskatchewan Library.

Meanwhile, back at Don Jaeger’s horse-steam, son Scott was in a regatta on Long Island for Huntington High school. Scott will row in the two-man and eight-man events against sixteen other teams. And word is that Don’s other son, Bryan, will be working in Charleston, SC, this summer!

This issue of Against the Grain is guest-edited by the multi-faceted Margo Warner Curl (Coordinator of Collection Development, CONSORT Colleges, College of Wooster Libraries) until June 30 and after July 1 Technical Services Librarian (College of Wooster Libraries). Did you know that she was born in India and went to boarding school in the Himalayas? Pretty awesome! Anyway, it is full of all kinds of really neat articles about cooperative collection development in several areas including Russian and East European studies, South Asian studies, liberal arts and government documents. And also covered are projects involving print archiving, cooperative building on a national level, developing “core” collections in libraries. Enjoy!

Also in this issue of Against the Grain is the Special Report section which is guest-edited by another awesome person — Steve McKinzie (Social Science Librarian at Dickinson College) <mckinzie@ dickinson.edu>. The topic is Peer Review: Past, Present, and Future and includes timely articles on open access and peer review from Peter Suber, Gerry McKiernan, Barbara Fister, Mabe M., and John Ober, Catherine Cande, and Beverlee French. Don’t miss this very special report from the incredibly hard-working and astute Steve McKinzie who also wrote the Open Ed in this issue, see p.62.

Rumor has it that Dan Boice, Library Director at Divine Word College in Iowa, renewed both his interest in issues associated with peer review and his former connection to South Carolina by helping out a great deal with the Special Report on Peer Review in this issue of Against the Grain, see p.62. Dan insists that Iowa may be the ideal locale, but concedes that South Carolina in general and Charleston in particular have special charm.

Wolters Kluwer Health, a division of Wolters Kluwer NV, has announced that Gary Foster has joined as President and Chief Executive Officer of the global Medical Research division, which includes Ovid and Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (W&L) journal publishing. Mr. Foster brings more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare and IT sectors, with a focus on software and services. Most recently, he served as President and CEO of PatientKeeper, a software company that provides a leading platform to enable enterprise-wide deployment of handheld computing devices in the healthcare marketplace. In this position, Foster successfully developed and introduced multiple products and technologies for commercial use, negotiated key technology and channel agreements with Coriell Corporation and IBM, and raised over $53 million from leading venture capitalists and strategic partners. www.ovid.com/

Mark Sauter <sauter@ioppubusa.com> has joined the Institute of Physics Publishing (IOP) sales team, effective March 15th. Many of you will know Mark from his years with Engineering Information (EI) and later Elsevier, where he was Director of Sales for North America. Says Mark, “I was anxious to leave the commercial publishing world in order to work with a learned society, and have long admired the journals and community outreach done by IOP.” Mark’s role will be diverse, but will have a particular emphasis on the corporate library sector.

The effervescent Claire Ginn <cginn@megaplus.com> is getting married on June 6th. Claire is marrying David Winthrop who is an engineer. (He’s not a librarian but Claire says he still has many great qualities.) Anyway, they are going off for a multi-faceted honeymoon to Martin’s Vineyard, Las Vegas, and the Grand Canyon. Whoa! Then, for her next trick, Claire will be in Orlando at ALA and she will be a Winthrop. She says she is coming to Charleston in November and will organize a panel on legacy content which is being added to electronic collections especially by society publishers.

The on-top-of-it David R. Heisser (Reference/Documents Librarian, The Citadel) <heisserd@citadel.edu> sends word that there is a draft report (“And Miles to Go Before I Sleep”) on the long-term results of the Brown versus Board of Education Decision loaded at the Univ of South Carolina’s Institute for Public Service and Policy Research Website. http://icasp.sc.edu/brown/research.asp

Ranune Kubilius <rkubilius@northwestern.edu> sends an announcement courtesy of medlib-lg@listserv.buffalo.edu and Suzanne Crow (Collection Development Librarian, Levy Library, Mount Sinai School of Medicine) <suzanne.crow@msm.edu> — “The Brandon/Hi’ll Selected Lists will no longer be updated. Since the initial Selected Lists on Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library was published almost forty years ago, this series of selection guides has been heavily used and highly valued by librarians, nurses, health

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take a closer look at....

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from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to build upon the Sakai project to meet the unique needs of community colleges.”

Speaking of Sakai, there is a Project Briefing from the CNI Spring 2004 Task Force Meeting — Sakai Project Update: Connecting Libraries and CMS/LMS by Brad Wheeler (Associate Vice President, Research and Academic Computing Indiana University) and Suzanne Thorin (Dean of University Libraries, Indiana University) at http://www.cni.org/tms/2004a/spring/abstracts/PB-sakai-wheeler.html.


Project MUSE has released article-level links to the back issues of 23 journals common to both Muse and JSTOR. Users can now select an option on the MUSE Advanced Search page to include JSTOR citation information (title, author, abstract) in their searches. JSTOR results are clearly labeled and take the user to a brief “intermediary page” alerting the user that the article is on another site. Muse plans to release OpenURLs for the links to JSTOR in June to enable libraries with limited or no participation in JSTOR to point their users to the appropriate resources. The article-level links are part of a reciprocal linking agreement between Muse and JSTOR. JSTOR also provides the ability to search and browse the MUSE issues for these same titles from the JSTOR interface. The Muse/JSTOR linking project gives users the added convenience of searching the full run, from Volume 1 to the current issue, of these journals from either resource. For more information and a list of journal titles included in the project so far, see http://muse.jhu.edu/proj_descript/librarian_resources/backissues.html.

Speaking of JSTOR, I have been reading a fascinating book published by Princeton University Press called JSTOR: A History by Roger C. Schonfeld. It’s current and future history in the making.

The impressive Lisa Nachtigall <lisanaightigall@oup.com> and Oxford University Press have announced the members of the new Grove Art Advisory Board. Since Oxford acquired Grove Art last year, Oxford has been committed to the ongoing enhancement of Grove Art content and functionality. The Grove Art Advisory Board includes Peter Blau (Head, Reader Services, Ryerson & Burnham Libraries, The Art Institute of Chicago), Clayton Kirkling (Chief, Art Information Resources, The New York Public Library), Eunice Martin (Western Art Librarian, Stackler Library, University of Oxford), Ken Soehner (Arthur K. Watson Chief Librarian, The Metropolitan Museum of Art), Lee Sorensen (Art Librarian, Lilly Library, Duke University), Marta Teegen (Deputy Director, College Art Association), Allen Townsend (Past President of ARLIS/NA, Librarian Amon Carter Museum) and Jeffrey Weidman (Senior Librarian, Public Services at the Kimbell Art Museum).

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Rumo(u)rs 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 www.xreferplus.com

Summer is supposed to be on its way but we’ve had thunder, lightning and even hail in the past week. Talking of bad weather (as the English do) I did manage to complete the London Marathon — even though the weather was atrocious! True to my word I counted the number of libraries (or bookshops) signposted on the route. There were three close to the route and one on it. All in 26.2 miles.

But the weather hasn’t put us all off forging ahead with meetings, product announcements and lots of exciting news. So here it is from Platform One in Paddington.

http://blog.xrefer.com/#108332627356424424
http://blog.xrefer.com/#108332891192768290

IST 2004 will address European policies, strategies and research activities in all areas of the Information Society http://blog.xrefer.com/#108332557819180561.

There are a number of courses taking place over the summer. July 8-9th “The Future of Scholarship in the Digital Age” to be held in Brighton http://ukoln.ac.uk/events/fisc-enit-2004/. It London from July 13-16th, The International Society for Knowledge organisation (ISKO) http://conferences.atala.org/conferences/fiches/isko08.html.


Congratulations to Huw Evans who has been appointed Head of Advice and Support at Cymal (Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales) Huw was previously Executive Officer at CILIP Wales. Lesley Ray has been appointed Head of Libraries, Archives and Arts at Lambeth. We wish Lesley lots of luck.

That’s all for now. Until next time.

Daryl

Rumors

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www.xreferonline.com

And the IEEE has announced new members of the IEEE Library Advisory Council (LAC). Representatives of corporate, academic and government libraries worldwide serve on the LAC for two-year terms. IEEE established LAC in 1999 to get ongoing feedback about its products and services. The new IEEE LAC members are: Susan Ardis (The University of Texas at Austin, USA), Rudy G. Bakker (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands), Beth L. Brin (Boise State University, USA), Cheryl Cohen (Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information), Marriann Cyr (3M, USA), Bradley E. Gernand (The Institute for Defense Analyses, USA), Orlando Hugo Levato (Secretaria de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, Argentina). They will join current members who continue through 2004: William Mischo (University of Illinois, USA), Joong-Yoo Lee (Seoul National University, Korea), Cynthia Hill (Sun Microsystems, USA), Dr. Hiroshi Nakashl (Tsukuba, Japan), Dr. Layne Johnston (Pitzer, USA), Judy Carlson (Motorola, USA), R. James King (Naval Research Laboratory, USA), Jacqueline St. Alamos National Laboratory, USA), Dr. Heath O’Connell (Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, USA) and Miles Porter (QinetiQ Ltd.—UK Defense Research Agency, United Kingdom)

www.ieee.org

This issue of ATG includes an absorbing Back Talk by Tony Ferguson on RFID’s (Radio Frequency Identification) (see p.94). Tony says that in Hong Kong RFID tag-like devices are a part of their daily lives. They have what are called “Octopus” cards. Meanwhile, back in the US of A, many are alarmed by this technology. See the recent article, “RFID: Helpmate or Conspiracy?,” by Michael Schuyler <michael@kril.org> (Deputy Director, Kittap Regional Library Bremerton, WA) in Computers in Libraries, 24; 1, Jan 2004, pp.22-24. Schuyler advocates the adoption of policies and procedures so that libraries can influence what is happening in bookstores and other outlets in a positive way. From the listserv for the Pacific Northwest Library Association.

Okay. Visit the NEW and IMPROVED Charleston Conference Website at http://www.katina.info/conference/. The November (Charleston Conference issue) of ATG is being edited by the astute and energetic Thelma Diack <thelma@hawaii.edu>. The focus is “Budgets, Budgeting, and Books” to balance the Charleston Conference theme of “All the World’s a Series”. The November ATG asks: “Where in the World Have All the Books Gone?” Included will be articles by Anthony Ferguson (University Librarian, U. of Hong Kong), Dan Halloran (President, Blackwell’s Book Services), Ila Scott (Reference/Collection Librarians, U. of Alberta), Linda Di Biase (Collection Development Librarian, U. of Washington), Margaret Landesman (Head, Collection Development, Marriott Library, U. of Utah), Nancy Slight-Gibney (Director, Budget & Management Information Services, U. of Oregon), Nicholas Goetzfried (Acting Dean, RKF Memorial Library, U. of Guam) and Niko Pfunf (V.P. & Publisher, Academic, Professional and Medical, Oxford University Press).

We have an interview with Ron Klauser of ProQuest in this issue of ATG, see p.63. Anyway, this news is just out. ProQuest Information and Learning, a unit of ProQuest Company, and NYTimes.com will offer directly to the consumer market a historical digital archive of The New York Times newspaper dating back to 1851, when it was first published. The Archive will be available on NYTimes.com, the Website of The New York Times, on a pay-per-view basis. Articles are available for $2.95 each or in packages of four, 10 and 25 articles.

http://www.nytimes.com

More from ProQuest Information and Learning. They have acquired Nineteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue List (NSTC), the renowned bibliographic database that catalogs the 19th-century holdings of eight of the world’s top research libraries. The libraries include: The British Library, the Bodleian Library (Oxford), the Cambridge University Library, Trinity College Dublin, the National Library of Scotland, the Newcastle University Library, plus holdings from 1816 to 1919 of the Harvard University Library and the Library of Congress.

NSTC was formerly owned and maintained by ABC-CLIO, who moved NSTC from multiple CD-ROMs and integrated them to make them searchable across the series on the Web. www.il.proquest.com

Serials Solutions, Inc. has recently released new Overlay Analysis functionality. Serials Solutions’ Overlay Analysis shows, for each database in a library’s collection, the number of journals in that database that are unique to that database, and the number that are available elsewhere in the library’s collection.

www.serialssolutions.com

This is from Edupage, May 19, 2004 — A survey conducted by Harris Interactive and commissioned by the Business Software Alliance (BSA) indicates that a majority of U.S. children continue to download songs, despite acknowledgment on page 14.
edging they know it is illegal. According to the survey, 88 percent of kids between the ages of 8 and 18 know that most popular music is copyrighted, but 56 percent download music files anyway. Survey participants said they were generally more concerned about downloading viruses in music files than being prosecuted for copyright violations. The BSA, which represents software companies including Microsoft, Apple Computer, and Adobe, said the study shows that despite growing awareness of the legal issues surrounding file trading, more needs to be done to discourage users from trading copyrighted material. The BSA estimates that piracy costs its members $13 billion a year. Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) and Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) are cosponsoring a bill that would criminalize the sharing of more than 1,000 songs on peer-to-peer networks. Berman noted that awareness of illegal activity is not sufficient and that computer users “need to have … the fear of getting caught” to curb illegal file trading. Excerpted from the Washington Post, 18 May 2004 (registration reqd.).

Got a great note from Edwin Merwin (Univ. of SC, Salkehatchie) <EMERWIN@gswn.sc.edu>. He has been awarded tenure. Hooyay!

From OCLC Abstracts (May 3, 2004) (Vol. 7, No. 18) — The Indiana Historical Society (http://www.indianahistory.com) to the first organization to automatically add records from a digitized special collection to WorldCat. Metadata from the society’s Postcards of Indiana, The Jay Small Collection has been harvested, converted to MARC format, and batch-loaded into WorldCat by OCLC and is now available to library users using the FirstSearch service. The harvested metadata contains links that connect searchers to the collection’s digital images. Salvatore G. Cicilella, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, IHS says the first step behind the decision to register their collection for metadata harvesting is “Access, access, access. We want researchers, wherever they are in the world, to find our materials and use them.” http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/design/abstracts/

Be sure and read Eleanor Cook’s<e1cook@apptechnc.net> excellent review of Eric Moon: The Life and Library Times by Kenneth F. Kister (McFarland & Co), this issue, p.74.

The business school, Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi in Milan has selected Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium, including the Electronic Resource Management module, as its new integrated library system. It will replace their current Ex Libris system. Luigi Bocconi founded this private university in 1902 and it has gone on to earn a prestigious reputation, making significant contributions to international research on business and management. The library is Italy’s most prominent in the fields of social science and economics. “The Library offers support to the economics faculty and to the business school,” says Library Director Marisa Santorsiero. “Because the University has a strong commitment to the use of technology, Millennium gives us a firm basis for progressive and innovative services.”

ABC-CLIO now links its abstracting and indexing databases, Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life, with RefWorks, the new Web-based bibliographic management tool. RefWorks allows users to create a personal, searchable database of references accessible from any computer with an Internet connection. In addition to Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life, references can be imported from a variety of platforms and sources. With this new agreement, ABC-CLIO history database users will be able to reference database records for their own use or to share with colleagues or classes. In addition, references saved in RefWorks can be imported into papers and automatically formatted in hundreds of bibliographic styles in seconds. www.abc-clio.com www.refworks.com/

Ned Kraft <nkraft@state.gov> (aren’t his columns hilarious) sent us his Adventures in Librarianship (see this issue, p.85) from a PDA this time. Talk about Adventures in Editing!

According to the LawLibraryBlog, following a three-day trial, Superior Court Judge Robert Dondero dismissed claims against San Francisco Public Library for lack of evidence. Library activist James Chaffee brought the suit alleging that the library was misusing The Library Preservation Fund established by voters in 1994, Chaffee v. Newsom, (CP 256) CCG 02-046387, blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/liability/ by gosh, by golly! The Council of the American Physical Society (APS) has established journal prices for 2005 and APS will be DECREASING PRICES for all tiers. The publications of the APS include Physical Review A-E (PRA-E), Physical Review Letters (PRL), Physical Review Online Archive (PROLA), and Reviews of Modern Physics (RMP). PRL, with journal content back to 1893, will continue to be available at no cost to subscribers of the APS packages (PR-AII and APS-AII) and at a very modest cost to those subscribing to portions of the package. The elected Council of the APS sets the prices of the journals after advice by the Publications Oversight Committee (POC). A representative of the library community, appointed in consultation with the Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics (PAM) division of the Special Library Association (SLA), attends the POC committee meetings as an observer and advisor. The guidelines set down by Council are that the journal prices should cover costs with sufficient margin to allow for the uncertainty in predicting costs and revenue two years in advance. For 2005 it is assumed the size of the journal will grow by 4% from 2004. This is based on a comparable growth in submited articles over most of 2003 and the fact that APS sees no trend that will cause that growth to change. They are moving rapidly to fully electronic manuscript handling in the office. This is a major factor in controlling costs. In addition, APS is anticipating a reduction in composition and production costs of 20% compared with 2003. This will be accomplished by working with vendors who are taking advantage of the new technology and working hard to integrate it into their processes. The APS 2005 Price Chart can be found at: librarians.aps.org/Price05.pdf.

Get word from the delightful Karen Christensen (CEO, Berkshire Library Group LLC) <karen@berkshirepublishing.com> that she and David are launching Berkshire as an independent library reference imprint this year. (Did you know that Joyce Ogburn <jogburr@u.washington.edu> introduced David to Karen?) We are looking forward to having her in Charleston in November not just for business but for her to tell us some of her delightful publishing anecdotes for pleasure. (Hmmm… wouldn’t this make a great lively lunch?) The first set of reference books will be out in late June, and it is perfect topic for Berkshire as a “knowledge and technology company.” The Encyclopedia of Human-Computer Interaction (2 vols.) edited by William Bainbridge at the National Science Foundation and it also be available through xrefer in September: The big ALA launch, with the Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History (5 vols.), will be in Boston in January. But Karen says that the Charleston Conference really will be the first public forum as a publisher — a kind of “coming out” for them! And did you see the article by Judith Rosen in PW (free to subscribers only) about Berkshire? It’s available at www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA420331.html.

Well, we told you in the last issue (see ATG April 2004, p.14) that librarians/consultants Don Chvatla <dcchvala@teleport.com>, Peter Evans (www.biblio-tech.com) and Ralph Shoaffner (Ringgold Management Systems) were creating a new Website called OpenRFP to be ready by ALA Annual. Indeed. Looks like a new shopping mall” is being opened on the Web for librarians to compare Integrated Library System (ILS) software. OpenRFP, Inc., is creating a Website with a database of functional descriptions for comparing features of ILS and 3rd party library software vendors. All of a library’s functional requirements for software — think about the many detailed specifications that are typically included in a library’s Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new system — these are being linked to vendors’ formal responses and with detailed explanations for how each feature operates. Libraries will be able to use the OpenRFP Website free of charge to explore new software technologies and how they relate to national and international standards. Vendors are expected to pay subscription fees to support the site and to use OpenRFP as a marketing channel by maintaining their product links to the functional information, and vendors are able to expand their descriptions by any function. How will OpenRFP compare to commercial shopping sites on the Web? Will this be the start of a new trend? The April 1, 2004 issue of Library Journal points out that there are still several thousand “legacy” automated systems remaining to be upgraded in the next continued on page 26
The state of cooperative collection building at the time of the grant proposal was a loose arrangement with Duke University by far holding the strongest South Asia collection. Duke was a founding member of the Center for Research Libraries South Asia Microform Project (SAMP) and joined the PL 480 program in 1961. UNC began collecting on South Asia in the 1980s, principally in religious history, literature and culture. NCSU also purchased material in religion, history, anthropology, and literature, and initiated vernacular acquisitions during the 1980s. The approximate size of each vernacular collection for South Asia varies: Duke, 219,748; UNC, 14,614; NCSU, 15,806; NCCU, 270.

The Money Arrives

The three-year grant was awarded in 2000. The grant requested $25,000 per year for the libraries to acquire and process South Asia collections. Salary money for the shared bibliographer was used in the first year to hire a consultant, who evaluated the shared collections in the Triangle and advised on the need for a full-time bibliographer. At that time, UNC and NCSU joined the Library of Congress Overseas Program for South Asia. The libraries worked to coordinate their profiles with Duke, already a participant.

A job description was prepared for the TRLN South Asia Librarian that detailed the duties of the position. The person holding the position would have responsibilities in collection development, public services, technical services, and external relations. In order to continue to develop the relationships with the faculty who initiated the grant, the TRLN South Asia Librarian will serve as a voting member of the Triangle South Asia Consortium Executive Committee.

The job description did not detail how the new TRLN librarian would be integrated into each university library. Instead, the description contained the expectation that the librarian would “develop and sustain a unified collection development policy,” “serve as a reference source for the Triangle South Asia Consortium Executive Committee.”

The successful model for sharing a bibliographer among research institutions/libraries grew out of an environment that was ripe for this experimentation. The libraries already had long history of area studies cooperation and collection building. The faculties from the four institutions that work/research in South Asia were already meeting and were willing to conceive of the four libraries as a single entity. The faculty envisioned investing in a single librarian with the responsibility for building “one South Asia collection” in TRLN would result in the creation of a stronger, more coherent collection that would benefit teaching and research. In addition, duplication could be avoided, and resources could be managed more effectively. The libraries received new monies from the grant, although not the total cost of the program, for this experiment. As this new shared librarian model matures, TRLN can consider whether there are other areas that could benefit from such collaboration.

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Legally Speaking
from page 78

Please understand that I am not advocating that librarians should undertake a therapeutic relationship with patrons. Librarians should not make determinations about the sanity of an individual or undertake counseling sessions. Care should always be taken to avoid practicing psychotherapy or medicine without a license. Nor am I talking about vague situations where a patron asks for books about bombs, Marxism (as in the McCarty cases of the 1950s), or any other subject. I am talking about the limited situation where there is a clear risk to an identifiable person or group of persons, there is a risk of serious bodily harm or death, and the danger is imminent. This is a very specific situation, one that most librarians will never have to face. Nonetheless, it is an important issue that needs to be discussed.

The test that I am advocating (a clear and imminent risk of serious bodily harm or death to an identifiable person or group of persons) is not taken from anything in the library profession. My suggestion is based on the way other professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, clergy, and counselors, handle this type of situation.

Now let us return to Richard Rubin’s case study of the patron asking for Final Exit. If we change the scenario a bit, may we come up with a different answer. If we have the student come up calmly and rationally, without any evidence of crying or depression, and ask for the book, we should use our reference interview to ascertain what type of research she is working on. This may just be a school project, and if so we should give her the book. But if she says that she is going to commit suicide, we shouldn’t give her the book; instead, we should refer her to the suicide prevention hotline. In fact, if you are at all in doubt, you may want to make an anonymous call to the suicide prevention hotline.

This answer doesn’t come from the guidelines of the ALA, AASL, or any other professional association for librarians. The writers of these guidelines might disagree with my feelings that library confidentiality should not extend to those who pose a clear, identifiable, and imminent danger to themselves or others. (Just to be clear, this is my analysis, not the ALA’s. The opinions expressed in this article are mine alone, and do not represent the views of my employer or of the publisher or editors of this journal.)

Conclusion

The disclosure of confidential patron information should be done with great care and trepidation. Disclosure should only be made if the reference interview reveals the three principles outlined above: 1) there is a clear risk to an identifiable person or group of persons; 2) there is a risk of serious bodily harm or death; and 3) the danger is imminent. If these three principles prevail, I believe that the librarian must disclose information in order to protect the potential victims.

Rumors
from page 26

The hard-working Jenny Buzbee (EBSCO) is back at work after six weeks of maternity leave. She recently sent us some fabulous pics of the new addition.

And just as we go to press, I got the following information! Accucoms BV has just been launched with a mission to provide specialist sales and marketing services for publishers of all sizes. The new company, based in The Netherlands, will provide inbound and outbound telemarketing, as well as field sales operations, to publisher clients across the globe. Pinar Erzin, Managing Director of Accucoms, and until recently General Manager of Extenza Marketing Solutions, reveals that the company was launched due to unprecedented demand from publishers. As well as service quality, Erzin explains that transparency of pricing will be a key differentiator of the new company. Accucoms is backed by a strong list of strategic investors including John Cox of John Cox Associates Limited, Duncan Spence who is well known from his previous investments at Carfax Publishing and CatchWord Limited, and Chris Beckett and Simon Inger from Scholarly Information Strategies Limited. Publishers are invited to contact Pinar Erzin at <info@accucoms.com>. The company address is: Accucoms BV, Gieterij 86/A, 2211 ZD Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Website is forthcoming http://www.accucoms.com.