If Rumors Were Horses

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Buy One, Get One e — or Has Print Finally Become Never, No More In Reference Collections?

by Frances C. Wilkinson (Phone: 505-277-4241; Fax: 505-277-7196) <fwilkins@unm.edu>

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Since 1997 this keynote column in the reference issue of Against the Grain has asked librarians and publishers questions about reference publishing trends. In reference publishing, the first electronic resources were journal indexes. Now reference tools such as handbooks, dictionaries, and encyclopedias are available electronically. New electronic resources frequently combine features of dictionaries, indexes, full-text articles, and links to media; the distinctions between types of reference tools is blurring.

Many library users have never used print indexes, and they expect all reference materials to be online. These library users would find using a paper index to be as outmoded as being asked to use a phonograph-record player.

In this article, the rapidly changing world of reference databases — such as the numerous statistical sources, the collections of reference electronic books, and the database indexes to subjects — is explored. To address these issues the authors conducted an interview-style “joint discussion” among six librarians from five universities. Their insights follow.

1) How would you define a library reference database? How do you discover what databases are on the market? In selecting databases, what tools are most helpful? Reviews? Database demonstrations? Trials? Word of mouth?

Stephen Bosch, Materials Budget, Procurement and Licensing Librarian, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, AZ: “A database is a collection of bibliographic or statistical data that is organized into a product with a single user interface that may or may not also contain full text. Generally we rely on contact with vendors, reviews, advertisements, etc. For larger products, vendor contact is the most important. Reviewing the content of the product, coverage, assessing price, and trials are the main components we use to select database.”

James Burgett, Collection Development Coordinator, with Mary Vass, Team Leader for Reference and Information Services, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky: “In general, reference databases, like encyclopedias or dictionaries, provide factual information which can be used to answer some specific question or to verify factual information, such as the content of a citation. Bibliographic databases fall into this category, but these days even full-text journal collections may be used for ‘reference’ purposes. Professional publications, industry literature, fliers from database vendors, visits from company reps, exhibits at pro-

If Rumors Were Horses

I don’t know about you, but we in Charleston have been dodging hurricanes and tropical storms! However, here are a few Rumors that we managed to eke out of the rest of the world! And to all our friends in Florida Godspeed.

So exciting! Blaise Simqi is the new President and CEO of Sage Publications! Sage is about to celebrate its fortieth year in publishing. Blaise, who has served as Executive Vice President of Sage’s Higher Education Group, is replacing retiring Michael Melody. He assumed his first executive role at Sage in 1996 when he began implementing a strategic plan to increase Sage’s visibility in key venues such as the academic library market. Blaise is the architect for Sage’s entrée into

STM journal publishing and he is also known for success in increasing Sage’s brand in the global marketplace. Simqi has also served on the Board of Directors for CrossRef and the Society for Scholarly Publishing. Congratulations to you, Blaise!

Speaking of which, Sage Publications and CSA have changed the name of Politics and International Relations: A Sage Full-Text Collection to Political Science: A Sage Full-Text Collection. The collection will feature the addition of new content. The Review of Radical Political Economics, the official publication of the Union for Radical Political Economics, has already been added. In 2005 four titles in the field of public policy administration will become part of the collection:
"10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for the Library" piece in American Libraries a few years back? It has been reprinted thousands of times, and in about a dozen countries and languages. The poster version has sold more than 1,500 copies by word of mouth. Well, Mark's book *Raising Funds with Friends Groups* has just been published by Neal-Schuman (May 2004). http://www.neal-schuman.com/db/0/370.html. Plus his Pro-Life/Pro-Choice Debate was also published by Greenwood in April 2003. http://www.greenwood.com/books/BookDetail.asp?dept_id=1&ska=GR1710

Speaking of Mark (above), he has a review of Michael Gorman's *Enduring Libraries along with Quentin Schultze's Habits of the Hi-Tech Heart* this 3,500 word review-essay in volume 34 issue 9 of *Libraries & Culture*. http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus

Shh... The following announcement comes from one of my favorite people in all the world. Manny Deckter, Chairman and CEO of Franklin Book Co. Inc. This wonderful man used to bring my son and daughter Reese's Peanut Butter cups every time he came to Charleston and, boy, do they remember that, even though they are both now grown and out of the house. Anyway, the terrifically awesome and wonderful Manny makes the following announcement. Bob Schatz <bschatz@franklinbook.com>, <everbob@yahoo.com> will assume the role of President of the Franklin Book Company. Manny says: "Bob has been Franklin's Director of Sales for the past two years, bringing a vision and drive that has energized our entire staff. With his many years in the library and bookselling professions, I look to Bob to help provide the kind of leadership that will carry Franklin strongly into the future." And there's more. The delightful and efficient Linda Morvan <lmorvan@franklinbook.com> has been appointed Vice-President of Franklin. "Building on her six years with the Company as Director of Customer Relations, and her many years in bookselling to libraries, Linda will have primary responsibility for the management of day-to-day operations at Franklin Book, and will work closely with Bob Schatz to set Company objectives." Newly added to the Franklin Book staff team is Jeff Grillo <jgrillo@franklinbook.com> who will act in the capacity of Manager of Operations. "Jeff will concentrate on implementing Company plans at the operational level. Jeff is a professional librarian, most recently Head of Acquisitions and Serials at the University of Pennsylvania Law Library, who also has work experience in bookselling to libraries. We welcome him to Franklin Book Co., Inc." Be sure and read our interview with Jim Stephens, this issue p. 64) After almost 34 years as president and chief executive officer (CEO) for EBSCO Industries, Inc., J.T. Stephens has announced that his term will conclude July 1, 2005. At that time, F. Dixon Brooke Jr., vice president and general manager of EBSCO Subscription Services, will become the third individual to serve as president in EBSCO's 60-year history. To prepare for that transition, Brooke will become EBSCO's chief operating officer beginning July 1, 2004. Brooke currently oversees EBSCO Subscription Services as well as EBSCO's General Services Group of business operations. When he assumes chief operating officer responsibilities, Brooke will also take up management of additional EBSCO operations. Stephens will continue directly managing several manufacturing operations, real estate development and corporate service businesses. Stephens' career with EBSCO officially began in 1965. He became president in 1970. During his years as president, he guided the company his father, Elton B. Stephens, founded through major growth to its current status. He became chairman of the board in 2002 and will continue to serve in that capacity after July 1, 2005. Brooke has been with EBSCO for 31 years. He became general manager of EBSCO Subscription Services' Birmingham regional office in 1974. In 1980, he became general manager of the three subscription service centers, Publisher Services, Title Information Department and Information Systems and Services. In 1987, he assumed additional responsibilities as general manager of EBSCO Subscription Services in the United States and Asia and began overseeing the division's planned "I am delighted that our new president comes from within, and that is how I hope i: will always be," Stephens said. "I have not managed precisely as my father did. We are different people. Dixon will not manage precisely as I have. What counts will be basic consistency, results, and harmony." www.ebscoind.com More from EBSCO. Allen Powell, vice president and chief financial officer for EBSCO Subscription Services, has been named vice president and division general manager, EBSCO Information Services, effective July 1, 2004. Powell succeeds F. Dixon Brooke, Jr. Powell will take on the responsibility for the management of EBSCO's global office network (31 regional offices located in 19 countries around the world) and will also supervise six departments based at the company's International Headquarters that support EBSCO's global office network including the Birmingham, Ala. branch of international accounting firm Ernst & Young. Powell, a certified public accountant, joined EBSCO in January 1991. He was named a vice president of EBSCO Industries, Inc. and chief financial officer of the North American, Latin American and Australasian units of EBSCO Subscription Services in 1994. In 1998, Powell's portfolio was expanded to include all financial activities of the division's European unit. He was also named general manager of JETS (Journal Expediting and Technical Services) the same year. JETS is EBSCO's journal consolidation outsourcing service that provides worldwide subscription delivery along with other specialized services. www.ebsco.com Head's up! This information comes from Robert F. Holley (Professor, Library & Information Science Program, Wayne State University) <AA3805G@WAYNEU> on the ALA Council listserv. — The current issue of Consumer Reports Money Advisor (September 2004, Vol. 1, Issue 8) lists "librarian" in an article entitled "Your brilliant (second) career" (pp. 10-11). Here’s a direct quote — "LIBRARIAN: Twenty years ago, library science was seen as a dusty, dead-end pro-
The awesome Sarah Michalak is the new university librarian and associate provost at UNC-Chapel Hill. She succeeds the retiring Joe LeDroit. Talking to one of Sarah's librarians at the University of Utah where Sarah has been for nearly ten years — the wonderful Margaret Landesman (Collection Development) <margaret.landesman@library.utah.edu> the other day about Sarah's departure. Margaret says she is trying to hold up. Congratulations to you, Sarah, and hope to see you in Charleston!

The incredible, always on the cutting edge Corrie Marsh <smash12@hotmail.com> has started a new position as the Associate Director of the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge (TxCDK.org) Basically Corrie will be the business and marketing director for TxCDK which is located at the University of North Texas in Denton. Like, wow!

The Vice President for Innovation at Sirsi Corporation is the guy who spoke innovatively last year at the Charleston Conference — Stephen Abram <stephen.abram@sirsi.com>. As VP Innovation he has to help find out where libraries, users, and librarians are going to be 3, 5, and 10 years from now. Stephen says he gets to look at a lot of whiz bang stuff and see what's useful! Sounds like a great position. Stephen's PowerPoint presentation from the conference last year is supposed to be loaded on the conference website but we have had a lot of problem with this since it's such a big file. Stay tuned! www.katina.info/conference/

Jerry Alper of AlperBooks.com (Eastchester, NY) is closing his long-running periodical back issue business. Story on Serialist said that reasons were electronic publishing and electronic storage projects. The things he has certainly turned our whole world upside-down. I remember Jerry way back when he was one of the first advertisers in Against the Grain. Ann Okerson was working at Jerry Alper back then, and I think she personally designed those early ads. Do you have an old copy of ATG lying around? Check it out! Good thoughts to you, Jerry.

Naxos Digital Services has signed an agreement with the regional network PALINET, making it possible for member libraries in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and New Jersey to subscribe to Naxos Music Library and Naxos Spoken Word Library through a consortium opportunity. PALINET is a non-profit membership organization serving libraries and cultural institutions since 1936. PALINET’s 600 members represent all types of libraries in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and neighboring states. PALINET provides a midpoint for educational opportunities through classroom and online distance learning. It also offers a cooperative purchasing program with member discounts from major library vendors. PALINET is OCLC’s mid-Atlantic region service provider. For additional information, visit www.palinet.org.

Naxos Music Library, given an “A+” rating by Library Journal’s e-Reviews, is one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive online listening services for libraries with over 80,000 tracks and full liner notes, including classical, jazz and world music from Naxos, the classical music label, as well as world, jazz, and classical independent labels. For more info contact Heather Buettern <hbuettern@naxosusa.com>.

The efficient Mary Jo P. Godwin <mggodwin@naxosusa.com> continued on page 12

http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Rumou(u)rs from Paddington

by Daryll Rayner (Marketing Director, xref; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryll@xref.com> www.xref.com www.xrefplus.com

The editor and I have clearly been experiencing some e-mail “issues” and my deadline for this column was . . . or . . . yesterday . . . so, apologies, this may be slightly shorter than usual. I am pleased to report that all is well at xref towers in Paddington Station. We had our summer outing to London Zoo last week which was a great success. We thought that whilst we really should be having an outing to the British Library, it is nice, once in a while, to get away from reference books — as much as we love them . . . We are now preparing ourselves for the autumn chill and have started to stock up on our favourite sweets. I thoroughly recommend http://www.aquarterof.co.uk.

Other news? The Archives Hub at Mimas are displaying in their “collections of the month,” a focus on the Great War. This is because ninety years ago, the First Battle of the Marne (September 5-10, 1914) marked the beginning of trench warfare in Europe. By 1918 the First World War was being fought on seven continents and at sea from the Mediterranean to the South Atlantic. Collections represent the experiences of fighters and war poets, nurses and ambulance drivers, prisoners of war, and political campaigners.

Oxford University Library services are inviting proposals to undertake a consultancy which will build a business case for investment and provide a full business plan, including an options appraisal, for an Electronic Library and Information Service for the University of Oxford http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/elseis/elseis-2004-08-25.pdf.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in the UK has launched an online diagnostic tool to help public library services in England deliver live or on-demand audio and video content through the People’s Network. Public libraries are increasingly providing access to films, TV, music and corporate broadcasts because of the broadband capacity of the People’s Network. People who use computers in public libraries are catching onto the benefits of accessing content in this way for e-learning opportunities, entertainment or more effective business communication http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/future/streaming.asp.

Family history will become even easier to do from home thanks to a new project by The National Archives. Information on over 55,000 people who became naturalised British citizens between 1844 and 1930 is now available free in their catalogue http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

A course called Content Management and Search Software: specification, selection and implementation is being held on 14 October 2004 at the Wolfson Technology Resource Centre, Edinburgh University Library. The course presenter is Martin White, Managing Director of Intranet Focus; http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/.

I’m told that The Reading Agency is looking for a consultant to develop “a new national initiative taking partnerships between BBC Radio and libraries to a new level” Go to http://readingagency.org.uk for more info...

I’m pleased to read that the JISC have announced a 12 million pound programme to support regional e-learning networks. The programme will forge links between schools, colleges and universities to encourage progression into Higher Education. More information on http://www.jisc.ac.uk.

Good to hear that the Royal family are taking reading seriously. Apparently Prince Charles is plunged into reader development in October. His Arts and Kids foundation will be staging StoryQuest 2004 — “a huge travelling story festival which aims to encourage children to read for pleasure at any age. The festival will provide a one day rock concert experience!” Hosted by Children’s Laureate Michael Morpurgo, the festival will tour Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland and four English Regions. http://www.storyquest.org.uk.

On that note, I’d better get this off to our editor Katrina, so that she can get those printing presses going ... Until next time. Daryll ☺

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http://www.scarcewpress.com

More sad news. Long-time library director at Duke Medical Center Library, Warren Bird, passed away this month. Warren was a techie back before techies were invented. May he rest in peace.

More from Duke Medical Center Library. Mary Ann Brown, collection development librarian, retired in June, after thirty-three years. I used to work with Warren and Mary Ann back in another life when I was a medical librarian at Duke University Medical Center.

Ambassador Books and Media has successfully tested and implemented the ability to automatically receive, process and confirm EDI orders from the SIRSI, Endeavor, Voyager, Horizon, Dynix, ExLbris, and Innopac integrated library systems.

Oxford Journals, a Division of Oxford University Press (OUP) has signed an agreement for Stanford University’s HighWire Press to host its entire journals collection, beginning January 2005. HighWire Press, a not-for-profit organization that is a department of Stanford University Libraries, currently hosts the majority of OUP’s science, technology, and medicine (STM) journals. By collaborating on OUP’s collection of humanities and social science journals, OUP and HighWire will now be able to offer online functionality not only to the STM community but to all specialties across the intellectual spectrum. http://highwire.stanford.edu/

More, Sage Journals Online is now available on the HighWire platform. Free access is available from September 1 through October 31, 2004. Visit http://online.sagepub.com

MetaPress has extended its agreement with Springer, part of the specialist publishing group Springer Science+Business Media, to add more than 650 scientific, technical and medical (STM) journals from Kluwer Academic Publishing (KAP) to SpringerLink http://www.springerlink.com. This agreement extended as a result of the merger between Springer-Verlag, Metapress’ largest customer, and KAP, under the new name Springer. Derk Haank is CEO of Springer Science+Business Media and MetaPress General Manager is Mark Williams. http://www.metapress.com

Speaking of Springer, they have relocated to 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013. Their main fax number has changed to 212-460-1575. Their other numbers as well as the Secaucus address remain the same. I wonder if moving a publishing company is the production that moving a library is. No doubt.

PsyBOOKS is a new full-text database of books and chapters in the American Psychological Association’s array of electronic databases. The initial release in August 2004 features approximately 600 books: more than 500 APA books with copyright dates from 1950-2003, including 100 out-of-print books; 75 archival resources in psychology; and the exclusive electronic release of more than 1,500 entries from the APA/Oxford University Press Encyclopedia of Psychology. PsyBOOKS will be updated with new releases on a monthly basis. Get information on free trials. http://www.apa.org/psychbooks/homepage.html

This database was also covered in a recent Paula Hane Newsbreaks. http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/jb040712-1.shtml

Elsevier’s SCOPUS, its new abstracting and indexing product, will be launched before the end of 2004. Those interested may read this in-depth assessment of the product, or view an online video demonstration. http://www.scopus.com/scopus/homeurl

An unprecedented coalition of public interest groups has just announced the formation of the... continued on page 14

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Alliance for Taxpayer Access. The Alliance will urge the National Institutes of Health as well as Congress to ensure that peer-reviewed articles on taxpayer-funded research at NIH become fully accessible and available online and at no extra cost to the American public. The Alliance formation preceded the public interest meeting on Tuesday, August 31 where NIH received input on how to improve public access to the results of NIH-funded biomedical research. The Alliance is an informal coalition of librarians, patient and health policy advocates, and other stakeholders who support reforms that will make publicly funded biomedical research accessible to the public. Details and FAQs on the Alliance may be found at http://www.taxpayeraccess.org.

Maryanna Karinch <maryann@karinch.com> sends word that Understanding Metadata, an introduction to metadata that includes an overview of leading metadata contenders and examples of practical applications, is now available as a free download (20 pages) from the National Information Standards Organization. Sounds like something to look over.

www.niso.org

Professional Engineering Publishing has appointed Extenza-Turpin to provide order processing, customer service, invoicing, subscription management, postage and dispatch services for the wide range of magazines, books and journals published by Professional Engineering Publishing. The service commences on 1 December 2004. Alan Singleton <alan@epublishing.com> is Managing Director of Professional Engineering Publishing and Lorna Summers <summers@extenza-turpin.com> is Managing Director of Extenza-Turpin. Professional Engineering Publishing is the publisher for the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). With a membership in excess of 77,000, the IMechE is the UK's leading professional marketing body for Chartered and Incorporated mechanical engineers. Extenza-Turpin is a professional outsourcing organization providing fulfillment and distribution services to STM, academic and professional publishers worldwide using their premises and staff in the UK, USA, and the Netherlands.

Reed-Elsevier has named Erik Engstrom as the new CEO for the Science and Medical Division. Previously, Engstrom worked at Random House and Doubleday.

ProQuest Information and Learning has launched a new digital institutional repository (IR) product, Digital Commons at. The resource, powered by the BePress platform (the technology partner driving the University of California's eScholarship Repository), BePress, the Berkeley Electronic Press, based in Berkeley, California, was founded by academicians to improve the scholarly publishing model. One of its goals is to create comprehensive repositories promoting one-stop shopping for researchers. Digital Commons has experienced rapid market acceptance. Two prestigious academic institutions, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of New Brunswick, will be using the new service.

http://www.ip.proquest.com/division/pr/04/20040625b.shtml

Swets Information Services is offering a broadband portal to electronic content in China.

As part of its e-journals management drive, Swets has forged a unique deal with CERNET, the Chinese academic Internet service provider, to provide users with rapid access to SwetsWise Online Content. Active in the Chinese market since 1997, Swets has a widespread customer network and an extensive sales force among foreign suppliers. The Chinese STM-market is expected to expand an additional 40% during the next three years.

www.swets.com

More from Swets. Rob Hoyer <roby@us.swets.com> is the new West Coast Regional Sales Manager for the academic market. Rob has backgrounds in ILS systems and database management, having worked for DRA and EBSCO Publishing. Rob will be responsible for California, Oregon, Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona, and Montana. Welcome, Rob.

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that it is implementing new procedures regarding the release of potentially sensitive data to requesting law enforcement agencies and organizations or individuals. Effective immediately, all special tabulations of data requested by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency or intelligence agency will require preapproval. An Associate Director at the Bureau whenever the request involves sensitive populations, including minority groups. “This action demonstrates that the Census Bureau is committed to maintaining the trust of the American people by respecting privacy and ensuring confidentiality,” says Director Louis Kcannon. Until now, requests for special tabulations have been reviewed only if the Bureau was reimbursed for the work, usually by non-governmental organizations, businesses, or individuals. Most tabulations for government agencies, including law enforcement offices, did not require reimbursement, and were not reviewed. Under the new policy, all requests for special tabulations will undergo the same review process.

Project MUSE® has endorsed The Year of the University Press, a year-long campaign that celebrates the role university presses play in the scholarly communications process. The goal is to strengthen relationships between libraries and university presses. Project MUSE began in 1995 as a collaboration between The Johns Hopkins University Press, the oldest continuously-operating university press in the United States, and the Johns Hopkins University. “One of the earliest Web-based electronic publishing ventures, Project MUSE is a testament to the capacity of library and university press collaboration to transform the scholarly communications process,” notes the farsighted Winston Tabb, dean of university libraries at Johns Hopkins.

The Automated Acquisitions/In Process Control Discussion Group met Sunday, June 27, 2004 in the Marriott Grande Lakes Hotel in Orlando. This hotel was far removed from other conference locations which contributed to the lower than usual attendance at the meeting. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Still, the awesome Katharine Farrell of Princeton was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect. And another dynamic, Lynne Branch Brown of III became Chair. The wonderful JoAnne Deeken @deeken@email.lib.ukr.edu wrote up some minutes but I do not have the URL. JoAnne will be in Charles- ton so we will have to ask her there!

A group of eleven Pennsylvania College As-

sociation (ACA) libraries has launched its first shared catalog with Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium. The ACA Central Library, a subscription library owned and operated by the ACA, will serve as the systems office. The ACA is composed of private religious liberal arts colleges spread throughout the central Appalachian Mountains. It functions much like a distributed university library through its use of cross-institutional departments. Eighteen months ago, Central Library Director Tony Krug approached Innovative Customer Sales Consultant Katja Moos, reporting that many ACA libraries were on different automation systems without a union catalog, and expressing his enthusiasm for Millennium. Maryland College, an innovative crusader since 1995 and a member of the ACA, stepped forward to make the shared catalog a reality. The College upgraded to Millennium Alpha DS10 server, and moved it to the ACA Central Library where it will act as the host server. Maryland and the following ten libraries will launch the shared cata-

log:

- Amerson-Broadus College (Philippi, West Virginia)
- Cumberland College (landing, Kentucky)
- Davis and Elkins College (Elkins, West Virginia)
- Ferrum College (Ferrum, Virginia)
- Lindsey Wilson College (Columbia, Ken-
tucky)
- Alice Lloyd College (Pippa Passes, Ken-
tucky)
- Ohio Valley College (Vienna, West Virginia)
- Tennessee Wesleyan College (Athens, Tennessee)
- University of Charleston (Charle-
ton, West Virginia)
- Union College (Barbourville, Kentucky)

You might think that Lyman Newlin is slowing down. Not true! The incredible superman is now Vice President of a publishing company. Christopher Small is the President. Zenaida Publishing, Amherst, MA is the name of the company. Lyman tells me that "Zenaida" is the genus name of doves. What an amazing man! Papa, when will you be back in print?

ScholarOne, Inc., the provider for online submission, review, and tracking of scholarly manuscripts, announces the adoption by several more non-profit societies and publishers for its Manuscript Central product. During the first half of 2004, ScholarOne signed 17 new clients representing 76 unique journals. These journals join the diverse ScholarOne community, whose titles receive annual submissions ranging from 100 to 5,000, and cover multiple disciplines, including the humanities, life sciences, engineering, computer science, and social sciences.

Presently, Manuscript Central has over 1.1 million global registered users and processes more than 27,000 manuscript submissions per month. "The combination of a flexible pricing structure and innovative product features makes the Manuscript Central product a natural fit for these innovative scholarly publishers. We continue our commitment to deliver the most comprehensive set of functionality to our clients," said Bill Carden, ScholarOne’s CEO. www.ScholarOne.com

Check out Peter Suber's Open Access News, News from the Open Access Movement. It’s full of timely and interesting news.

http://www.elearni.net/~peters/2004_08_29_ fosblogarchive.html#ia1194061539893347

Looking through Open Access News (above), I was especially interested in Richard Poynder’s "Put Up or Shut Up," Information Today vol. 21 no 8, September 2004) with Derek Haan, once continued on page 16

<http://www.againssthegrain.com>
The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) has streamlined its acquisitions management process by purchasing the Online Solutions Assistant. Working together, TLC and LAPL were able to develop a fully customized version of LAPL’s collection development process. With over 70 branches, LAPL’s collection enhancement efforts must be collaborative. The Online Selection Assistant is a Web-based service that works with all TLC automation systems. Libraries can license it as a standalone service that integrates with any ILS to manage their acquisitions and collection development processes. http://www.TCLdelivery.com

As we all know, Project MUSE has announced a new pricing structure. They have just recently posted information on single title subscription options and prices for 2005. Selected MUSE titles are available on a title-by-title basis as well as in the MUSE journal collections. Some single title subscriptions are sold through Project MUSE, while others must be ordered directly from the publishers. Information on http://muse.jhu.edu/about/subscriptions/single_title_options.html. The price list for titles sold through MUSE can be found at: http://muse.jhu.edu/about/subscriptions/singles_2005.html.


Guess what? The smooth and polished Danny Overstreet <overstrd@oclce.org> is now Library Services Consultant, OCLC Online Computer Library Center. Great to hear from him and know where he is!

My mouth started watering when I read news of this job overseas! Head Librarian, The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece! (ASCAS) invites applications and nominations for the position of Head Librarian of the Carl W. Blegen Library. Founded in 1881, the ASCAS is a primary resource for American and international graduate students and scholars in ancient and post-classical Hellenic studies, and offers two research libraries located on its campus in Athens, Greece. The Blegen, with 87,000 volumes dedicated to the ancient Mediterranean world, and the Gnaddia, with 110,000 volumes and archives devoted to post-classical Hellenic civilization. The School also sponsors excavations and provides centers for advanced research in archaeological and related topics at its excavations in the Athenian Agora and Corinth. I heard about this job through Charles Watkinson <cwatkinson@ascas.org>, son of none other than Anthony Watkinson. For further information, contact Professor Kevin Clinton, who is head of the search committee. Dr. Clinton is at Cornell University and his email is <kc1@cornell.edu. Oh, if I had world enough and time and no children in the U.S.


Heard from the grand Ana Arias <ana.arias@earthlink.net> who has moved. Here is her new contact information: Arias, 970 North Street, #408, Boulder, CO 80304; 303-449-6640; fax: 303-449-6641. Ana is working at CodeMantra Inc., a publishing services business as well as serving as a literary agent. Sounds like she has her hands full.

www.codeamantra.com

Was recently reading through the COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) International Advisory Board Bulletin (August 2004). Total membership is just over 140, with a target of 150 in 2004. A full list of paid members is available at www.projectcounter.org/

The capable Ron Maas writes with some good and bad news. The bad news is that the wonderful Martin Dillon is leaving Libraries Unlimited. The good news is that the wonderful Martin Dillon is leaving Libraries Unlimited. I will remember him as Debby Mattil is rejoining Libraries Unlimited as Author Support and Workshops Manager. www.liu.com

Got a great letter from Clyde T. McCants who writes Operate for Libraries thanking us for the review in the June ATG (v.1663, p.74). Clyde says that he’s working on his next book, American Opera Singers and Their Recordings which is due out in the fall. And that’s not all. Verdi’s Aida is also on the boards. Clyde tells me though he’s not a librarian, he has played many roles as a friend and trustee of libraries. Being an opera lover myself, I have to give him my seal of approval.

I hear that the wonderful Jim Smith is no longer with EBSCO. Where is he these days?

Got a note from Tom Loughran <tom.loughran@blackwell.com> who writes the great Book Pricing Updates in Against the Grain. Tom tells us that Shawn Kilburn has decided to pursue an MLS degree at the University of Washington (hooray!) and will be replaced by Jamie Vandenberg <jamie.vandenberg@blackwell.com. Jamie has 5 years of experience with Approval Plans. Hip! Hip! Hooray! Pearlson Education, Inc., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., and Thomson Learning have settled their ongoing pending trademark and copyright infringement lawsuit against Pelican Bookshop, Inc. The publisher’s complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in May, alleges that Pelican infringed the publisher’s trademarks and copyrights in the books by illegally importing the publisher’s lower-quality foreign versions of their U.S. books and reselling the foreign books in the U.S. through the Pelican Website and other commercial Websites at prices below the U.S. editions available from legitimate resellers. In settlement of the case, the defendants agreed to cease and desist from all importation, promotion, and sales in the U.S. of non-U.S. versions of John Wiley & Sons, Pearson Education, and Thomson Learning books.

We told you that Bryan Jaeger, son of the inimitable Don Jaeger <donjaeger@msn.com>, might be working in Charleston this summer (see Rumors, v.1663, p.8). Well, this didn’t happen. Bryan wrote for the South Carolina World Trade Center www.scwtc.org and did himself and his father proud. Besides getting a glowing letter from the Executive Director, Mark Condon, Bryan wrote several articles on the Center and building trading communities in South Carolina. Like, wow!

Was just reading through *Acumen, a Follett Newsletter for Faculty* (August 2004). There was a discussion of Value versus Price regarding college textbooks and student purchases. There is an inverse relationship between perceived value and continued on page 28
well suited to index this innovative multi-volume work, and their deep understanding of its scope and purpose led her to open many alternate windows into the content that the entry list and the cross-references could not provide. She worked late into the night for weeks to meet our deadline; the index was so long that even when we typeset it in three columns in very small type it still occupied 120 book pages. The Booklist reviewer wrote, "The index is thoroughly excellent." I still glow with pride at that high praise, and with pleasure at the recognition that the amount of art was understood and appreciated, and the investment justified.

4. I don't like to see page count ignored in comments about price-per-volume.

Comments about price are one way that we continue to learn about the customer's perception of value. Reference publishers know that our books are considered expensive, and we understand that the decision to purchase is often difficult. Unfortunately, however, the perceived fair price for one reference volume does not seem to change with the size of the volume. For example, recently I read a review complaining that $195 was an "exorbitant price" for a 900-page reference book. If the publisher had split the volume into two, without adding a word of content, and charged $250 for the two-volume set, the reviewer probably would have thought the price was fair. I would ask reviewers to keep in mind that there is a significant difference between 900 and 600 pages: 300 more pages means more words to commission and contributors to pay; more deadlines to track and reminders to send out; more manuscript to pay scholars to review; more manuscripts to revise and finalize; more copyediting, typesetting, proofreading, indexing to supervise; more paper to purchase.

Profit margins in reference publishing are not high, at least insofar as I am aware of them across the industry. If a volume is only a volume, no matter what its size, publishers will keep prices lower by creating shorter volumes, perhaps not the result that reviewers intend. It might be helpful to develop a general awareness among reviewers and publishers of price-per-volume instead.

5. I like it when a reviewer notes that articles are signed and looks at the qualifications of the contributors who signed them.

An encyclopedia that assembles the work of numerous professors is a feat of organization and labor as well as scholarship, and it is important for reviewers to let the publisher know that the investment of time and money is needed and appreciated. At Routledge, most of the reference works that we create contain hundreds of chapters written by scholars and experts because we believe that such works have the best chance of containing thorough, authoritative material in every entry. It is especially helpful when a reviewer of a scholarly encyclopedia notes that each article was written by a qualified expert in the topic and recognizes that a peer-review process has taken place for each article. If, in addition, through the work of in-house editors and scholarly advisors, the work presents a topic or field of study in a way that is coherent, balanced, perhaps even pathbreaking, it is terrific to have that achievement recognized.

I know that for librarians, whose primary goal is service to their patrons, quality and usefulness are inextricably intertwined. If what we have accomplished was unnecessary, and another type of reference would have served as well or better, we need to be aware of that. In general, though, with a free-for-all of unsubstantiated information influencing students hourly on the Internet, one might argue that now more than ever it is important for publishers and librarians to continue to work together to define authority and provide quality resources.

6. If the book is appropriate for high schools as well as for academic and public libraries, I like to see the review say so.

"Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries" is a typical conclusion of a review of a Routledge reference work, and it is certainly one of which we are proud. It is appropriate for many of our high-level works that have a theoretical or professional bent. However, many of our works on historical, cultural, and literary topics are appropriate for a wider audience.

Although we rarely create reference works specifically intended for schools alone, many wonderful U.S. high schools continue to invest in scholarly reference books and multi-volume sets for use by motivated, college-bound students for term papers and school projects. Many different kinds and sizes of public libraries do the same, to support local high school students as well as adult researchers. Because the word "high school" or the general phrase "all libraries" is so often omitted from that all-important "Recommended" line, the librarians who have developed and who continue to maintain these impressive curriculum-oriented collections are missing some useful resources, while publishers are missing sales. Perhaps some reviewers do not find our books useful for schools and most public libraries. In any case, we continue to learn from reviews about the market potential for our books and about who our audience is. For example, once we sent a single-volume encyclopedia to a publication that reviews young-adult resources, and the reviewer, while respecting the quality of the work, criticized it for containing terminology unfamiliar to young adults. The review reminded us that at the school level, our books are most useful to the top tier of students in the eleventh and twelfth grades. An additional, perhaps unintended result of the review was to cause us to be very careful when sending review copies to that particular journal!

On the other hand, recently the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association picked six of our reference works to honor in their "YA Top Forty Reference 2003 Titles." At least three of the six had not previously been recommended as resources for high schools in the library review media. We are grateful to the Pennsylvania librarians for their work to create this list and for their enthusiasm, which we hope will rub off on library reviewers everywhere.

The foregoing points might sound minor and picky, but it bears repeating that creating each reference work requires a sizeable investment in money and time. It takes a team of scholars and in-house staff several years to create an encyclopedia, and the cost is significant—sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars. Yet the review that can make or break a reference work is typically only a few column inches long. Interestingly, resources tend to be longer; we look forward to receiving more of those reviews as we extend our online publishing program.

Because every review teaches publishers a lesson, whether intended or not, reviewers have a tremendous responsibility. I do hope that does not discourage librarians from taking on review assignments. To conclude, I would like to offer a few words to reviewers and review journals: We have great respect for what you do. Even though Routledge unfortunately receives many excellent reviews, we never become jaded or blasé about them; we receive a Best Reference rating or a starred review, there is dancing in the halls! We know that keeping up with the flood of new publications is an enormous challenge for the review journals, and yet we recognize that the quality of reviewing continues to improve over time; please keep up the good work. In an era in which there is a great deal of worthy competition and library budgets are tight, your dispassionate reviews are crucial, helping our customers and us make the best choices to serve library patrons and communities.

Thank you to Barbara Bibet of Oakland Public Library, who invited me to give the panel presentation at ALA on which this article is based, and to the colleagues both in and outside of Routledge who offered valuable comments. — SM

Rumors
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Price Students said they would purchase a textbook if it was made an integral part of the course by the instructor. And 90% of the faculty surveyed by the Follett Higher Education Group, said that "students absolutely need a textbook for this course." But when asked why students did not buy the textbook 29% of the time, faculty said that "the text was not perceived as valuable." Hmmm...No wonder libraries are sometimes asked by students to purchase textbooks and place them on reserve.

The awesome Mark Walter (Consultant to Content Technology Strategies) is pursuing editorial and consulting opportunities. He is also working with Frank Gilbane's Bluehill Advisors (http://www.bluehilladvisors.com) on anything that can be reached at (215) 643-1878 (home office) or mark.walter@verizon.net.

And, last but definitely not least, just received the new Special Issue to v41 of Choice, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, Web VIII. Can you believe that Choice first published their Web continued on page 83

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
And They Were There
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in serial publications. Paul Losch of the University of Florida presented a sample of the more than 600 items in the Brazilian Popular Groups’ microfilm collection.

Cooperation

Eudora Loh (University of California, Los Angeles) moderated a panel with the unlikely title, “Reading Urdu in Cochabamba: Global Strategies for Library Cooperation.” Starting the discussion, Dan Hazen, of Harvard University, gave an overview of the AUA/ARL Global Resources Network, which serves as an umbrella for a series of unrelated projects, many driven by grant funding. Jeffrey Garrett of the German Resources Project directed attention to Europe where they are eliminating duplication of efforts in a much more organized publishing environment. Finally, James Nye of the digital South Asia Library and Mary Rader of the University of Michigan described the South Asian Federation and what it has meant for libraries in the region. Field offices in Islamabad and Delhi, regionally established standards, cooperation and collaboration mark this not for profit endeavor.

A final look at cooperation featured a presentation by Perry Willett of the Digital Library Production Service of the University of Michigan. Using both in-house and vendor-supplied services, the operation has digitized important holdings. Test conversion software, use of metadata, and links with existing catalog records were discussed. While most libraries currently seem to digitize important local collections, there will be a need for some kind of registry to avoid duplication as more institutions get involved.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a motion picture must be worth millions, and the panel, “Indigenous Film and Video: Trends and collection needs” played to a very full meeting room. Several clips from a wide variety of videos provided just a taste of the myriad, high-quality offerings available. For people collecting in this field, Daisy Dominguez (Long Island University) is the go-to librarian for finding producers, distributors and online catalogs of film and video produced by Native Peoples. Her site can be found at http://homepages.nyu.edu/~d652/cine-indigena.html. Daisy presented on PowerPoint Web pages and bibliographies in English, while delivering a talk entirely in Spanish on the state of Latin American indigenous video activity. Panelist Catherine Benamou (University of Michigan) discussed the upsurge of indigenous film production in the 1980s, as technology became cheap and instruction was offered by NGOs and governmental agencies. Of particular interest is that this year’s conference theme was the attitude and willingness of indigenous women to get behind the cameras, and taking on the role of transmitters of culture in ways the anthropologists of yore could never have imagined. Hard-working Alexandra Halkin, delivered details on the Chiapas Media Project, an undertaking in technology transfer to marginalized people. Members of the Zapotista movement were the first beneficiaries, in 1998, of this bi-national collective, which empowers indigenous communities in Chiapas and Guerrero states via video technology. Two of the most important objectives of the project will be to eventually turn all facilities, equipment, and administration over to the various communities, and to ensure distribution and quality archiving for these productions.

Fifty Years Old!

In 1956, librarians and Latin Americanists met at Brooksville, Florida to discuss better ways to document and acquire library materials. Preparations are under way for the celebration of SALALM’s fiftieth anniversary. Events will include a “kick-off” party, photo displays of past meetings and participants and other events to mark this historic and festive occasion. In addition, various bibliographies and indexes will document the organization’s accomplishments and publications. Inaugural president Pamela Howard-Reguindin, from the Library of Congress office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Richard Phillips of the University of Florida, have been busy planning the anniversary recognition and celebration. All members, past members, retired Salalmistas, and others who have been touched by the fifty years of bibliographic efforts in Latin American library collecting are invited to come back and join the SALALM 50 Celebration in Gainesville, Florida, April 16-19, 2005. Newcomers will enjoy the celebration of old and new and the opportunity to visit with the people who have shaped Latin Americanist librarianship. Information about SALALM and the Gainesville conference can be found on the SALALM Web page. http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/salalmhome.html

Rumors
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issue in August of 1997? Ah — it seems like yesterday! Anyway, Web VIII contains 57 new or revised reviews as well as 543 reprinted reviews. Thank you, Choice for keeping us up-to-date on high-quality Internet resources.

And, more. The same issue contains an editorial from Irv Rockwood, Editor and Publisher, Choice (who has an article in this issue, by the way; see p.38) entitled “What About Bob?” It’s about Robert Balay who was presented with the 2004 Isadore Gilbert Mudge — R.R. Bowker Award during the recent Orlando Annual ALA Conference. Congrats, Bob! And next time I get stuck on the New York Times crossword, I know who to call!

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