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2008 Charleston Conference -- 28th Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

Editor

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We were so sorry to learn of the death of Peter Banks in July. I remember Peter at the conference several years ago giving an impassioned talk regarding open access. Be sure and read Greg Tananbaum’s tribute to Peter, this issue, p.8.

Symyx Technologies, Inc. (Nasdaq: SMMX) has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire certain content and software products of MDL Information Systems for $123 million in cash (subject to a working capital adjustment) from Elsevier Inc. Symyx, based in Santa Clara, CA, provides electronic lab notebook (ELN), automation and scientific decision-support software, automated lab systems (workflows) and collaborative research services. MDL, based in San Ramon, CA, provides technical R&D software solutions to more than 1,000 life sciences companies. MDL’s integrated informatics and content solutions for discovery chemistry and biology include its ISIS and Isentris platforms, and such industry standards as MDL Draw, MDL Direct, Available Chemicals Directory (ACD) and DiscoveryGate. With this solution set, Symyx will be able to accelerate its customers’ move toward paperless labs by integrating content, collaborative desktops, automation and information management for users, workgroups and the enterprise. The transaction is expected to close during the fourth quarter of 2007 and is subject to customary closing conditions and documentation, including clearance under applicable antitrust laws. Thomas Weisel Partners LLC acted as exclusive financial advisor to Symyx and provided a fairness opinion to the Symyx Board of Directors.

www.library.yale.edu/~license/ListArchives/0708/msg00047.html

All of us think frequently of JOHN SECTOR. What is he doing? What happened to him? Well, I have a semi-clue. I heard from his son, Glen <gsector@lawandinfo.com> who wants to catch up with the industry. Glen says he is a voice from the past and is hoping to re-engage, probably in some consulting capacity. He wants back issues of ATG. Well, guess what? I have them. Send me your orders! <kstrauch@comcast.net>

Speaking of old friends, I picked up my cell phone the other day and who should be on the line but PHIL MAY! Remember the amazing Phil from Mumford Library Services in Jacksonville, Florida? Anyway, Phil was coming to Charleston to see us at the Addlestone Library, of course, but also to donate a letter John Bennett (1865-1956) had written to the wife of Lancelot Harris (a professor of Languages at the College of Charleston many years ago) and a relative of Phil’s. How exciting to see Phil who is doing very well!

More old friend news! Heard from Alix Vance <avance@cqpress.com> who has resigned her position at EBL to become the new Director of Library Reference Publishing and CQ Researcher Division at CQ. Alix says she will be at the Charleston Conference. An announcement from EBL regarding her replacement is forthcoming. For any EBL inquiries, contact Kari Paulson <kari.paulson@eblib.com> or Alison Morin, <alison.morin@eblib.com>. Congratulations, Alix, and see you soon!

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There was a fantastically thorough write up of the Ninth Fiesole Collection Development Retreat in Hong Kong April 13-14, 2007 in

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