provide strategy. JISC does not appear to have an official OA policy: a leading staff member told me last year:

JISC actively supports a variety of models for improving scholarly communication, and open access is one of these. The open access model is an interesting model which (as you say) has a lot going for it and which needs support, but which offers an approach that is not yet proven.

Serious investigation is required of issues surrounding the open access model, e.g., its long-term sustainability.

In practice JISC is a little warmer towards OA. There are, of course, the well-known evangelists for OA on JISC committees such as Fred Friend, one of the signatories of the Budapest Open Access Initiative. For them OA is a moral duty. There are those for whom public access follows from the fact that the public pays. Perhaps the most important, and rarely expressed in public, is the belief that there is no chance of funding increasing so there must be savings and OA will enable cheaper scholarly communication in the future. At an important meeting in November, in theory designed to convince scholars but not handicapped by the attendance of more than a handful plus a sprinkling of other outsiders (publishers), the theme was stated as follows:

The barriers of price and licensing restrictions are hindering access to the results of academic research world wide, and the seminar will place UK initiatives in the context of international moves to create open access to published research.

This reads to me like how not why or whether and certainly all the speakers tread the same line, with differences of emphasis. The Harnad group in particular pressed academic bureaucrats present to mandate archiving in institutional repositories. The Director of the

Wellcome Trust made clear that for him mandating only awaited education of those he funded. No timescale was, however, provided.

The trouble, however, in Europe as elsewhere is that, while the OA gains momentum, there is a growing undertow of concern over practicalities among all those concerned with scholarly communication including librarians. David Brown of the British Library recently published in his capacity as editor of Scholarly Communications Report twelve arguments against Open Access many of which will strike a chord outside the ranks of "traditional" publishers.

In an excellent article in the British magazine New Scientist a Public Library of Science protagonist writes:

“Our real target is the society journals. Those are the journals we think should move in the direction of open access...If we, BioMedCentral and other open access journals attract the best articles and most of the articles, the other journals will have to come round because they won’t get submissions any more.”

But this is not how the officers and publishing staff of European learned societies see it. Few go into print but some, for example Dr. Peter Gregory of the Royal Society of Chemistry, put forward reasoned objections. It is not only staff like Gregory (clearly suspect to some as concerned with profit!), but in practice academics in general do not rush to publish in OA journals. Harnad frequently points out with only about five per cent of peer-reviewed journals now OA, that route to OA is a no-brainer. It will take too long. Therefore he urges the wholesale and compulsory creation of institutional repositories. Alas there is no greater enthusiasm among the academic community about filling these repositories, except perhaps with peer reviewed papers. It is interesting that the excellent Dspace (the bell weather of the repository movement) opens its doors to MIT faculty but it is not articles in journals that the press forward to archive.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of OA, the advantages and the disadvantages, the costs and the savings, attempts at compulsion by those funding academic research will lead to some rather unpleasant situations (if mandating is to work) and will certainly leave many librarians in a situation where alliances will shift. The fight for the hearts and minds is only just beginning and it will be the scholars themselves who will decide.

Endnotes
7. Personal communication from Professor Peter Suber.

Dana Alessi Tribute

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Column Editor's Note: In the December 2003/January 2004 issue of ATG, you might have seen the sad notice of Dana Alessi's untimely death and, on page 8 of the same issue, her obituary and a letter from her cousin, Lois McNiel.

As requested by Dana, the obituary contains a poem that ends with this line: "Miss me, but let me go." We will miss her, but we will not let her go, either, but in a sense other than what the poem implies. We will each, those who knew her, keep her in our memories in a special way. Those who didn't have the pleasure of her acquaintance can read the following testimonials and perhaps get some sense of why she is missed.

If you did not contribute to this memorial, it is not too late for another issue of ATG. Please send your remembrance to Tom Leonhardt <thomast@admin.stedwards.edu>. Thank you.

I was saddened to learn of Dana's most untimely death.

Years ago, when I was a young pup repping for Baker & Taylor in the Midwest, I remember hearing stories about Dana from my customers. Even then, she was beloved for her energy, integrity, and friendliness. When we finally met at a conference, I was flattered to learn she knew who I was and we spent quite a while swapping tales of the road and sharing our love of the Classics.

Over the years, our paths crossed often. Dana's unfailing good humor was a bright spot at countless exhibit halls and her insightful contributions to meetings we attended enriched all involved. I came to look forward to seeing her, grateful that our profession was blessed

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Dana Alessi Tribute
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with such people.
What I most remember about Dana is
her smile. She had that remarkable gift for drawing people in and
making each conversation feel important. She was one of the best
and she will be missed.

— Forrest E. Link, MLS, Northeastern
Regional Manager, Midwest Library Service

In 1979 I was the National Sales Manager of
BNA, and was on a two week trip on the East
Coast, when I received a call from Chris Von
Hinkeldey, who at the time was relinquishing
his position as Sales Rep in our Mountain Plains
Territory (the Dakotas thru Texas) and was moving
inside as Customer Service Manager. He said to
me he had a candidate to replace him. Her
name was Dana Alessi, and she was the Acquisi-
tions Librarian at the University of Houston, but had been offered a similar
position at Rice University, and had until the following Thursday to
decide, but...that she was interested in changing careers and going
commercial. Chris said I had one window of opportunity to inter-
view her, but to do so I had to cut my two week trip short, and fly
back to Portland, where he would arrange for Dana to fly in from
Houston and meet me on Monday morning. I did so, and left New-
port News, Virginia (my hometown) and where I had planned to spend
the weekend with my 80 year old mother.

Anyway, I met Dana early Monday morning for breakfast at her
hotel in Beaverton, OR, where she had flown to from Houston
the previous night. I liked her right away, and set up interviews for her
with various people from Blackwell during the day. At the end of the
day, after consulting with my boss, Max Ginehm, who was President
of BNA (and who also recently died of cancer) I decided to offer her
the job as Regional Sales Manager for the Mountain Plains territory,
and did so while driving her to the airport for her evening flight back
to Houston. So, she had two offers and two days to decide, Rice
University or Blackwell’s. She called me the next day, with one ques-
tion: Would she get a company car and how much travel did I expect?
My answer was no to the car (because the territory was so large that
she would fly everywhere, and rent cars), and 60% travel, including
conferences. She called me back the next day (Wednesday) and said
she would accept the offer if I included the car. I did not hesitate.
I said to her, you win. She was the most successful hire I ever made.
She doubled sales in her territory two years in a row. She earned
more bonus money than her salary at the time, and some eight years
later I promoted her to Division Sales Manager. She subsequently
moved to Blackwood N.J. as Product Manager for Approvals, and
then left for Baker and Taylor after 11 or so years with Blackwell.

We remained in contact, until she left Baker and Taylor and moved
to Las Vegas. When I learned of her illness, I re-established contact
and had many conversations with her until her death. She never gave
up hope, and I thought she might make it. It was with great sadness
that I learned of her death on November 26th, the day after my 65th
birthday. She was one of kind, and will be missed by many friends.

— Don Satchley, Retired

Dana Alessi became my mentor and friend
during our days together at Blackwell North
America in the late 1980’s. We first met at a
Collection Development Institute on the cam-
pus of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas
in the spring of 1986. She was working for
BNA and I was a Sales Representative for what
was then Research Publications (now Primary
Source media). Our companies sponsored the
Institute, so we spent a bit of time together, and we shared in an epi-
isode that would create a lifetime bond between us. On the final
evening of the Institute, we arranged for a dinner on barges that circle
the riverwalk. There were five of these barges connected and they
were all set up with tables, chairs, cloth napkins, etc. There was not
enough room for everyone to participate, so Dana and I stayed on the
sidelines and waited on shore. As the barges made the last turn around
the corner we could see that something was wrong. The last barge
was sinking from the rear so that the passengers had to walk them-
selves forward to keep from going into the water. Although no one
got wet, all of the tables, food, dishes, and wine on the last boat ended
up in the water. Now that time has passed, I can admit that Dana and
I got a good laugh watching those folks scramble to stay dry while all
of the tables were sliding into the drink. I believe I heard Dana la-
ment that they could have at least saved the wine.

It was not long after this that I joined BNA and worked with Dana.
She was kind enough to share her extensive knowledge of the library
industry and was always accessible. We traveled quite a bit together
and had an agreement — she would teach me how to write an ap-
proval profile and I would carry her luggage. I think that Dana would
agree we both got what we wanted.

— Steve Sutton, Regional Manager,
Northeast Collection Management &
Development Group, YBP Library Services

My favorite Dana Alessi memory features
an abandoned black and white kitten she and a
colleague rescued from a San Antonio Holi-
day Inn parking lot during ALA Midwinter.
While Dana was able to host the young “tux-
edo cat” during the meeting, time came when
she needed to move on. I was the recipient
of an Alessi sales pitch I couldn’t refuse and thus
ended up with a new feline companion
Rosalinda Blackwell, or Rosa for short, who shared my home for
many years. Dana did so much more than a salesperson in my pro-
fessional life and I assume that all who knew and worked with her
feel much the same. She was an enormous positive influence on me
as a collection development librarian, especially during my early years
at Trinity University. I value her as a colleague, mentor, and friend.

— Craig S. Likness, Head, Archives & Special
Collections, Otto G. Richter Library,
University of Miami

Dana was a person who was a real Mensch.
On my last visit to Charleston (when I was no
longer affiliated with important publishing
houses) but visited on my own for sentimental
reasons, Dana was the only person from the
industry who invited me to have lunch with her
during my stay. It meant a lot to me and I never
forgot that. I met Dana while she worked for
Blackwell’s with my colleague at Pergamon
Otto Rapp and Dana left a wonderful impression. Later at Baker and
Taylor she became my friend and we shared many good times and
good laughs.

Dana was my supervisor at Baker & Taylor from 1996-1999. She
was The Best Boss! Coming from book publishing, I was over-
whelmed with the amount of information I needed to absorb when I
first joined B&T as a field sales rep. During many conversations,
Dana explained in detail the interactions of librarians, publishers, and
vendors. As a former librarian, and a manager at both Blackwell and
B&T, Dana was extremely knowledgeable about the book world. She
knew library procedures, what rival vendors were doing, plus she knew
many people in the book world. She was a mentor to many of us.

— Inge Valentine

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My favorite memory of Dana:
Dana was a big fan of competitive ice skating and enjoyed attending skating performances. During a visit to academic libraries in Hartford, we sneaked into a figure skating practice for a performance the next day. We stumbled around in the dark outside of the skating rink until we found an unlocked door. Instead of hiding in the back, Dana insisted that we go down front—and sit just a few rows from the ice. She sat us down among the Russian skaters, most of whom she greeted by name. No one questioned our being there. I guess people thought that we were part of the Russian coaching staff. We had the best time watching the practice, listening to coaching instructions, and watching how quickly the skaters followed them. It was striking how hard everyone worked. Dana loved being there, and I loved being there with her.

I miss Dana—and will always remember her with affection and respect.

— Sharon O’Connell

I knew and worked with Dana over many years as she worked with first with Blackwell North America and later with Baker and Taylor. While I have many memories of various times with Dana, I think that one in particular stands out in my mind as a truly amazing occurrence.

While I don’t remember the year, it was springtime in the Great Smokies National Park, probably late April. My wife and daughter and I were visiting the Smokies to see the blooming wild flowers as we tried to do often. It was mid morning and the mountain mist was beginning to lift as we were visiting one of our favorite spots on a nature trail. This trail was easily accessible by automobile. Visitors were able to park and then take a short hike to mountain cabins or other destinations.

We were taking photographs in a clearing behind a log cabin not too far from the parking area, when I noticed someone coming up the trail from the parking area. As the person approached, I walked out on the porch of the cabin and started down the trail. And there walking up the path was Dana. As we looked at each other there was that instant of recognition somewhat hampered by the out of the normal surroundings in which we found ourselves. After all, who would have ever thought that we would run into each other in the middle of the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee rather than in a library in Georgia or at a library conference?

It seems that Dana was passing through Gatlinburg and having never had the opportunity to visit the Smokies decided to take a short excursion off the main road going through the park. She wanted to get a sense of the beauty of the mountains off the beaten path and the folks at her hotel had recommended this nature trail as being easily accessible.

Over the years that followed, we often laughed at this event, realizing full well that you never know when you will find on a mountain path...

— Barry B. Baker, University of Central Florida

Dana Alessi was a wonderful library professional. She was very bright, possessed style and imagination, and was just a quality person generally.

I met her in the late 1970s, maybe at that joint SELA/SWLA conference in New Orleans in the fall of 1978 when she had just signed-on with Blackwell North America. Later, early in 1981, she recruited me for Trinity’s collection development position where they were seeking to build the collection fast and well at the same time. I wasn’t familiar with the institution, but she clued me in, and I’ll always be grateful to her for that.

As I’m sure all your correspondents are saying, she’ll be greatly missed. It’s true.

— Richard Werking, U.S. Naval Academy

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WEBWORTHY

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Webworthy has reviewed 317 Websites to date! Are you reading this intro? If so, we’d like to know if you find this column useful! Email the editor at <pmrose@buffalo.edu> with your comments and any suggestions for improvement! Websites are chosen for uniqueness, depth of information, functionality and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any broken links. Comment and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-3900 x129; <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were reviewed in Science’s NetWatch column. — PR

Biology
Ever want to get your hands on an electron microscope? Virtual Classroom Biology from the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands features an interactive, virtual scanning electron microscope with explanations and applications in research. The site also boasts an array of 500 printable and searchable images with several movies and animations of microscopic specimens, Web lessons and slide shows for use in the classroom (some of which use the interactive electron microscope), and an "amusing informative film" that follows Amnelites along a program of study in biology at the University. Nifty! — [http://www.webio.sc.kun.nl/eng]

Mythology
Can’t find your copy of Edith Hamilton’s Mythology? Curious about chimeras or Calisto? Wondering about Norse mythology or Latvian folklore? If that’s the case, take a look at Encyclopedia Mythica. This well-organized Website has been going strong since 1995. Boasting over 6,100 definitions, the site has sections for mythology, folklore, folktales, heroes, images, and even genealogical tables. Its coverage is global. This resource is easy-to-use, search, and browse. Most entries include pronunciation guides, etymologies, and images. [Michelle L. Zafra, University at Buffalo] — [http://www.pantheon.org]

Digital Collections
Forging a piece of the digital future, the Amadeo Group offers links to free medical information targeted mainly to physicians and health care professionals, but available to anyone with an interest. Registration is required, but once registered and profiled in your subject area, benefits include a weekly update of your personal page with literature abstracts and overview of new publications, plus access to freemedicaljournals.com, and freebooks4doctors.com. The freebooks site in particular contains titles such as the full-text of HIV Medicine 2003, SARS Reference 3rd ed., and Cancer Medicine 5th ed. If you’re a practicing health care professional, you may choose to add your publications to the site, and after one year become eligible for listing on MedicineOnEarth.com. All in all, an intriguing combination of options. — [http://www.amadeo.com/]

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