Future Dates
apply to articles in print and online. We aim to serve our society partners by creative and effective publishing management. And we aim to serve our subscribers and readers by offering fast and reliable access to carefully selected research. When we get all of this right our users come to rely on this information, which is why the loss of access or functionality through a poorly managed journal transfer can be so very debilitating.

Many publishers have welcomed the development of the TRANSFER Code, and interviews with some of the signatories revealed that they have tried hard to abide by it. There have nonetheless been some reported instances of difficulties experienced by the transferring or receiving publisher in dealing with the other. Some of these problems seem to have been in areas that are not dealt with explicitly by the Code, and there have been requests that the Working Group considers updating and adding to the Code.

However, we must take care. The Code is intended as a voluntary set of best practices, and it cannot be seen in any way to be trying to supplant contractual terms, intellectual property rights, or the competitive marketplace between publishers. Some of the cited areas of conflict surround perpetual access rights, details of consortial arrangements and, more generally, the fact that many publishers operate quite different models as regards institutional access (platform versus individual titles), backfile sales, and overall access arrangements. All of these issues need to be overcome on a case-by-case basis to ensure that every existing subscriber retains their access in as seamless and simple a way as possible.

Publisher consensus seems to be that the TRANSFER initiative has had a small but important impact. Some of the larger publishers are very disparate organisations that previously had no single point of contact for journal transfer information; TRANSFER requires that they now supply a single name, and several publishers noted that they have worked to improve their internal communication procedures. The TRANSFER e-mail list now goes to over 300 recipients, and at least one publisher is considering how best to use this list to communicate a large volume of journal transfers.

Rumors
to apply for the scholarships but they need lead time to get visas, permissions, etc. So, please turn in your scholarship intentions as early as you can!

Talking about retirement and page numbers (way above) reminded me of Fred Spilhaus who used to be executive director of the American Geophysical Union. I think that Fred was one of the first people to talk about no need for page numbers. Yes? Anyway, I wrote Carter Glass at the AGU (a Charleston Conference attendee) and he put me in touch with Judy Holoviak who after 45 years retired as director of publications at the AGU in May of 2009. Anyway, Judy tells me that retirement isn’t in her lexicon or Fred’s either. She says that Fred is now in Paris to chair the publications committee of one of the international scientific unions. Judy and Fred share an office near Dupont Circle and are doing quite a bit of pro bono work for various organizations! Long live anti-retirement!

Good news and bad news. Heard recently that the strong silent Randall Watts, Assistant Director of Libraries for Resources Management Services at the Medical University of South Carolina here in Charleston is in pretty good shape after he had what appears to be some sort of stroke. His wife made him go to the hospital. Whew!

The dapper Mark Kendall sends greetings from (still) wintry New Hampshire! Plus news of changes to the YBP sales organization. There are two new sales groups, one for digital sales and the other for library technical services. The new YBP e-content sales team consists of many highly experienced professionals: the awesome Kristine Baker, the splendid Barbara Kawecki, the experienced Matt Nauman, the volatile Steve Sutton, and the steady Michael Zeoli. The equally experienced and professional Library Technical Services sales time, managed by the where-does-she-get-her-smarts-and-energy Ann-Marie Breaux, YBP’s Vice President of Academic Services Integration: the approval plan wizard, Dan Miller, New Business Development Manager-Library Technical Services (Eastern North America); and the hard-working Sadie Williams, New Business Development Manager-Library Technical Services (Western North America). Congratulations to all of them!

While we are on YBP, Janice Welburn, Dean of University Libraries at Marquette University, has been named the 2011 Association of College and Research Libraries Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. The award, sponsored by YBP, recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development. Welburn will receive her award on Wednesday, March 30th at the ACRL 2011 Conference opening keynote session in Philadelphia, PA.

Opened up (I guess I should say, “clicked on”) the latest posting from the Chronicle of Higher Education February 20 and who was smiling up at me? The bearded David Nicholaus, director of the Ciber research group at University College London. The article by Jennifer Howard entitled “Social Media Lure Academics Frustrated by Journals,” focused on the second Charleston Research Observatory survey. This survey was conducted in 2010, focused on the use of social media by researchers in various disciplines and was underwritten by Cambridge University Press, Emerald, Kluwer, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley.

And speaking of the Charleston Conference Research Observatory, check out an upcoming article in The Charleston Advisor in April. www.charlestonco.com/

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

What Next for TRANSFER?
At the moment the TRANSFER Code is informal and is not “enforced” in any way, although publishers may report instances of non-compliance to the Chair of the Working Group. Some societies and librarians are also starting to ask that publishers commit to being TRANSFER compliant as part of their contractual terms. From discussions with publishers there is very much a willingness to enter into the spirit of the TRANSFER Code, even if their business models and terms mean that they cannot always follow it to the letter. Most agree that the current Code is an excellent base from which to build, and many of the publishers surveyed are keen to give more detailed feedback in order to help shape any future iterations. Along with feedback from the librarian community this should help to keep the Code fresh and evolving in line with current industry practice, and to ensure the highest quality of service and access for all stakeholders involved when a journal transfer occurs.

Alison Mitchell is a Publishing Director at Nature Publishing Group and a founding member of the TRANSFER Working Group.