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2011 Charleston Conference

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2011 Charleston Conference — 31st Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

Call For Papers, Ideas, Conference Themes, Panels, Debates, Diatribes, Speakers, Poster Sessions, Preconferences, etc. ...

2011 Theme — Something's Gotta Give!

Wednesday, November 2, 2011 — Preconferences and Vendor Showcase

Thursday-Saturday, November 3-5, 2011 — Main Conference

Francis Marion Hotel, Embassy Suites Historic District, and Holiday Inn Historic District, Charleston, SC


If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating a lively lunch, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The **Charleston Conference** prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We'll probably love it...

The Conference Directors for the **2011 Charleston Conference** include — **Beth Bernhardt**, Principal Director (UNC-Greensboro) <beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu>, **Glenda Alvin** <galvin@Tnstate.edu>, **Adam Chesler** <adam.chesler@cox.net>, **Cris Ferguson** (Furman University) <cris.ferguson@furman.edu>, **Joyce Dixon-Fyle** (DePauw University Libraries) <joyfyle@depauw.edu>, **Chuck Hamaker** <cahamake@email.uncc.edu>, **Tony Horava** (University of Ottawa) <thorava@uottawa.ca>, **Albert Joy** (University of Vermont) <albert.joy@uvm.edu>, **Ramune Kubilius** (Northwestern Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>, **Corrie Marsh** <cmarsh12@hotmail.com>, **Heather Miller** (SUNY-Albany) <hmiller@uamail.albany.edu>, **Jack Montgomery** (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>, **Audrey Powers** (UFS Tampa Library) <apowers@lib.usf.edu>, **Anthony Watkinson** (Consultant) <anthony.watkinson@btopenworld.com>, **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston) <kstrauch@comcast.net>, or www.katina.info/conference.

Send ideas by **July 31, 2011**, to any of the Conference Directors listed above.

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Notes from Mosier — “Riding Shotgun with Tintin and Curious George”



Column Editor: **Scott A. Smith** (International Sales, Alibris; Phone: 503-568-9226) <scott.alan.smith@comcast.net>

Now blankets Holmes County, Ohio this time of year, and on this early Thursday morning a brisk wind adds to the chill already in the air. We've finished loading up the Blue Bird, one of two bookmobiles operated by the **Holmes County Public Library District**, and **Gary Stutzman** and I are about to head out for a day's work. Our schedule today starts with a two-hour stop at an Amish parochial school, followed by visits to a nursing home, a couple of crossroads sites, and a stint in Killbuck.

Although their communities in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and elsewhere may be better known, Holmes County is the largest Amish settlement in the world. The county is home to over two hundred districts, representing eleven distinct affiliations (Old Order, New Order, Andy Weaver, Swartzentruber, and others), and neighboring settlements can be found in Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Knox, Wayne, Stark, and Muskingum counties. In addition to the Amish themselves, one can also find other Anabaptist groups, including the Mennonite and Beachy churches.

There's also a significant non-Amish population, known collectively as “English.” Generally speaking the western half of the county is more heavily English; the eastern half more Amish in nature. Millersburg, the county seat, is located in the center of the county, and is where the main Library can be found. An East Library is operated in Walnut Creek.

Up until fairly recently other branch libraries were located in Berlin (accent on the first syllable), Killbuck, and Winesburg. Statewide budget cuts have hit Ohio hard, though, and efforts to pass a county tax levy to cover some of the lost revenue have not been successful. The Library has been compelled to close branches, reduce staff, restrict hours, and abbreviate the bookmobile schedules.

I'm finishing up my library degree at **Kent State** this semester, and I chose to do my practicum with the **Holmes County Library**. Small public libraries are largely new ground for me, and the unusual circumstances of the Library and its patron base struck me as intriguing. Hence I spend some time out on the bookmobiles, and some time working in the main library.

Gary pulls out onto the highway. We follow a state route out of town, and then turn down a side road where most of what traffic we encounter is in the form of buggies. **Gary** is a kind and thoughtful fellow, and I very much enjoy his company. This morning we talk of everyday things — the merits of coal versus wood for heating, and strategies for keeping chickens reasonably happy during the cold winter.

Our first stop is a small one-room school. Students are sent out to the bookmobile by grade; they come with plastic bags of books to return, and then select what they'd like to check out. **Tintin** and **Curious George** are indeed popular (so much so we can't really keep up with demand; **Phil Yoder**, another of my bookmobile colleagues, makes a point of holding some books back so we can satisfy our patrons at stops later in the day). The kids are great. For one thing, because they're being raised without the burden of television, reading represents genuine entertainment for them. We're usually mobbed at these stops, and it's about all we can do to keep up.

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