E-Everything: Putting It All Together

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When I think about how the information business has progressed in the last 30 years I can hardly believe how much has changed and how it has changed. Was this at all predictable in 1981? Take a look at where we came from, where we are today and where we are going. When I started in the library business a dial-up modem at 1200 baud was really fast! Who could have predicted where we are today? Certainly what libraries provide for their patrons, and their patrons’ expectations, have dramatically changed the way we do business. The resources and services we now offer have altered what we do and how we do it; every aspect of what we do has been transformed.

In this issue you will find articles about a new delivery method for electronic resources, e-content procurement, access models and technology, and content integration written by some of the most forward-thinking librarians, vendors, and developers in our business. We can always rely on Peter McCracken (ShipIndex) to assist us with thinking “out-of-the-box.” His article about pay-per-use proposes a new approach to procuring content and gives us some insight into where we may be going in the near future. Co-writers Emalie Delque (Publishers Communication Group) and Cory Tucker (University of Nevada at Las Vegas) wrote an all-encompassing overview of both the methods of acquiring electronic resources and the challenges we face regarding e-content procurement. Lisa Carlucci Thomas (Southern Connecticut State University) and Stephen Rhind-Tutt (Alexander Street Press) wrote about access technology, while content integration is covered by Michael Gorman (EBSCO) and Peter Johnson, et. al. (HighWire Press). What would an issue of Against the Grain about electronic resources be without discussing discovery services or open access?

Several of the topics covered in these articles include provocative issues such as switching from buffer access to a la carte access, moving from a “just-in-case” to a “just-in-time” collection philosophy driven by the end user, adapting to changes in the emerging e-reading culture and the use of mobile devices, embracing digital video in the academy, and improving discoverability with a discovery service and the implementation of interoperable technology to truly integrate all electronic resources.

The Charleston Pre-Conference E-Everything: Putting It All Together, part 2 highlights these writers and presenters in the Pecha Kucha Style, where each presenter will have 15 minutes to deliver their message to you in a short period of time, succinct and to the point. The break-out session at the end will give you the opportunity to pose questions to those speakers that intrigue you.

An archived version of this pre-conference will be available on the following Websites:

LibrariesThriving.org
Against-the-Grain.com

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Guess what? CRL (Center for Research Libraries) has engaged the magnificent Ann Okerson as Senior Advisor on Electronic Strategies, effective October 1. As we all know, Ann served as Associate University Librarian for Collections and International Programs at Yale University, and is Chair of the Professional Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and a current member of IFLA’s Governing Board. Ann organized the Northeast Research Libraries consortium (NERL), serving as executive director, and is the founder and moderator of LIBLICENSE, an online resource for collection development. She has been active in a number of other international projects and initiatives. CRL will draw upon Ann’s wealth of knowledge and experience in its efforts to ensure persistent and affordable access for CRL Libraries to electronic resources in the humanities and social sciences. http://www.crl.edu/news/7411

The energetic, doesn’t-miss-a-trick Beth Bernhardt married off her equally energetic daughter Anna on continued on page 6

If Rumors Were Horses
Connie Foster

BORN AND LIVED: Born in Buffalo, NY; have lived in Greensboro, NC (through early grade) and Nashville, TN (high school and college years).

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: English teacher in middle grades, Nashville for 2 years; English instructor, Radford College (before it became co-ed and a university); John Logan Community College, Carterville IL; and then to Bowling Green for English and eventually library staff and faculty employment. Began at WKU as English instructor and then found part-time temp work in the library system. Joined faculty in 1978 and quickly pursued MLS at Peabody/Vanderbilt.

FAMILY: Husband Tom, retired graphics designer WKU; one recently married (on Tybee Island) son Michael who took his own career path and is a detective with the Spring Hill, TN police department; one 15-year-old cat, Maggie (Maine Coon hybrid without the hugeness factor).

IN MY SPARE TIME: Just love bicycling whenever I can. (Rode across Iowa twice — RAGBRAI).

FAVORITE BOOKS: Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver, and somehow I was absorbed by Stieg Larsson’s Girl Who…. Series (although I’d never want to see movies of the three).

PET PEEVES: People who end sentences with “Where ….. at.”

PHILOSOPHY: In work be firm, fair, friendly; with family and friends realize that life is short and don’t delay experiences, travel, and visits. And, when in doubt, Shop.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Besides being named Interim Dean, my other most memorable was being elected president of NASIG for the 2001 term.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Not be Interim Dean; return as a department head in the library.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: From what I am reading now, the library will increasingly use mobile applications to reach students. I think also the current search and discovery systems will continue to undergo transformations that will be more user-friendly; and small presses and societies that have not yet moved to the online environment with IP and proxy access must do so; publishers must provide more back files with current subscriptions. JSTOR and Project MUSE will continue to be major platforms for current and archival quality content.

It’s the feet that are so troubling. No, seriously. They represent the fact that business models and service approaches we’ve grown comfortable with are continuing to undergo as-saults of increasing intensity. We can’t simply discount any given scenario as too implausible or unexpected to take seriously.

Back when Capt. Kirk was first signing off on his tablet computer (over forty years ago), who’d have thought that tape cassettes would surpass the reel to reel, or even the vinyl, along with their accompanying business and distribution models? Who’d have taken seriously, back when Capt. Kirk was flipping open his communicator, that the digital cell phones his grandchildren would see with that form factor would be the cheap ones (or are they his great, great, great grandparents)?

Next thing you’ll be telling me is that it’s time to take 3-D seriously.

By definition, it’s the things that haven’t caught our attention that take us by surprise...