2011

If Rumors Were Horses

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Trends in Health Sciences and Biomedical Sciences Information Provision

by Ramune K. Kubilius (Collection Development / Special Projects Librarian, Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) "<kubilius@northwestern.edu>

According to an ancient Chinese proverb, “All that is constant is change.” That is certainly the case in the world of the health and biomedical sciences. Content, services, and efforts continue to be directed to those who are a part of the ever-evolving scholarly communication, research, education, and patient care continuum. A number of issues and trends reported in the November 2008 special issue of Against the Grain still resonate today. The 2011 eclectic mix of articles provides a new sampling of successes, issues, trends, challenges, and opportunities for information provision in health and biomedical arenas.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) is the largest medical library in the world, one unit in the very large National Institutes of Health. In 2010, at the 10th Health Sciences Librarians Lively Lunch during the 30th Charleston Conference, Dr. Elliot R. Siegel, then recently retired from NLM (and still serving as a consultant) was the invited speaker. He highlighted NLM milestones and included his personal insights, particularly in the areas of technology and international outreach, of which he was a part, during his long career with the library. In 2011, as NLM celebrates its 175th anniversary, Maria Elizabeth Collins, John Doyle, and Martha R. Fishel provide an overview that illustrates some of NLM’s more recent initiatives, particularly in forging domestic as well as international partnerships with librarians, libraries and publishers, building and maintaining its own collections, and providing leadership for medical libraries of all types.

On the other end of the spectrum from NLM are the most basic “frontline” local and regional healthcare providing units — hospitals. For a number of years, many, if not most U.S. hospitals operated libraries. The larger hospitals might have had separate libraries for physicians, nurses, and even patients. A 2009 article highlighted survey results from the time period 1989-2006, and one listed trend continues to this day: “The status of hospital librarians and libraries is still volatile due to the dynamic nature of the health care and financial environments.” (Trends in hospital librarianship and hospital library services: 1989 to 2006, Thibodeau PL, Funk CJ Journal of the Medical Library Association 2009 Oct; 97(4): 273-9.) Contributing to the “volatile and dynamic nature” are library closures and downsizings, changing and expanding duties for hospital librarians, administrations’ wide-ranging, often differing perceptions about cost efficiencies and self-sufficiency of health professionals in

If Rumors Were Horses

Have just learned that ALA Publishing has acquired Neal-Schuman Publishers effective December 23! Neal-Schuman was formed in 1976 by John Vincent Neal and Patricia Glass Schuman. ALA will relocate Neal-Schuman from New York City to Chicago over the next three months.


We all missed the smiliingly earnest John Dove at the 2011 Charleston Conference! But he had an excuse. He was undergoing surgery! Ouch! John underwent “skull surgery” to relieve a subdural hematoma from a bicycle fall. Thankfully John is home and is on the mend and still riding his bicycle!

Is that wise, John? Does your mother approve? John had told me back in 2005 that Charleston was on his permanent schedule so he promises that we will see him next year in Charleston! November 7-10, 2012.

Speaking of Charleston, we were slammed with attendees this year — a record 1,551 registrants! I am speechless! We missed some of our regulars like Tony Ferguson who was attending his mother’s 90th Birthday party. But he will be back!

We were so excited to give the Vicky Speck Leadership Award to the deserving Glenda Alvin (Assistant Director for Collection Man-
It seems that our days fly by in a mixture of advancements, discouragement, challenges, and changes. Now that I am retired, I have the privilege of visiting many different types of libraries and talking with the stewards of knowledge. You have no idea how important you are to the quality of our culture and the wellbeing of its actuarists. Sometimes we come to work looking for those special answers for individuals, not knowing if it will make a difference at all. In academic libraries, it is easier to understand our impact on the success of students and faculty, and some general public. Special Libraries are devoted to the advancement of knowledge in specific subject areas for researchers. School Libraries help those beginning to understand the world and its functions at the base levels. I am particularly curious about Public Libraries. When we dashed into the new millennium, I worked in academic and public venues as a way to earn privileges and money to further my education. I began to understand the interesting association of libraries and the community at large. As the general public used our facility, I saw the way our information specialists influenced and aided each human being. Of course, we helped the children from nearby schools, as our branch endeavored to encourage and enlighten children of all ages understand all the various subject areas and develop wonderfully creative papers for their classes. But, I also understood the various other community inhabitants who were undergoing different problems. We used to help families look up information on a number of different physiological and health problems that their family members were being treated for in the Veterans’ Hospital only a few blocks from our door. We not only found information for them, but we held our hand or gave them a shoulder to cry on when they understood the severity of the diseases.

We have spent time helping teenagers explore grief, bullying, and specialized learning as they strive to understand their roles and new coping abilities. We were always watchful for suicidal tendencies and gave them positive alternatives instead of the more common negatives imposed by families and friends. We were special friends.

We became helpful to those people trying to recover from work shutdowns in nearby industries. People came in depressed and they walked out holding their heads higher, finding reasons to have hope because we helped them develop resumes, get them ready for interviews, or walk them through the establishment of a home business.

Speaking of which, this issue is excellent and I became instantly ensconced learning more trends in health sciences and biomedical libraries, ably guest edited by Ramune Kuhlinus. Papers are by Maria Collins, Martha Fishel, and John Doyle, Patricia Hammond, Sally Gore, Stephanie Kerna, Heather Stecklein and Nathalie Wheaton and Leslie Czechofski and Nancy Tannery and talk about assembling orchestras, mobile access, eBooks, and much more!

Our Op Ed this issue is by David Mash who conducted a small, unscientific survey of reading habits in airports. We don’t have a back talk this time since Tony Ferguson was at a Birthday Party for his Mom but Greg Tananbaum has taken his place discussing the excellent discussion at the 31st Charleston Conference by Anne Kenney and Kevin Guthrie. And even more is in this issue — how serials departments are changing, Octavio Paz, Occupy Wall Street, the future of the book conference in Tallahassee, the death of cable and much more.

Oops! Excuse me! I think it’s the UPS guy hopingfully with my Atlas of WWII Battles that I just ordered for my birthday present!

Happy New Year and many good thoughts and love y’all’s way! Love, Yr. Ed. 😊
Perhaps someone can help me with this. Since the discovery of a library at the “Occupy Wall Street” site in New York, the library press has been nothing short of gaga. Like Neanderthals discovering fire, the library press has been all atwitter about the library, books, donations to same, and, of course, the destruction — OMG, no, please say it isn’t so! — of said library when the police moved in. Never in my thirty years in this profession have I seen more ink spilled on so narrow an event in general, and in the library press in specific. Granted, librarians are probably slightly more germane to librarians. Is it really unusual for a library to be torn up public property in the process? Furthermore, the group has not exactly patterned itself after Gandhian’s passive resistance of late, as fighting is now taking place at more than one location. And it isn’t just with the police, but with other participants. In Zuccotti Park, for example, they had to set up a “safety tent” for women being groped by fellow (or felon) occupiers. I won’t mention the outbreaks of lice.

The second part of the question is a bit more germane to librarians. Is it really unusual for a library to develop among scores and scores of people sitting about on public property all day with nothing to do? Wouldn’t it be more unusual had one not emerged? Personally, I don’t go anywhere without a book. Even when stuck in traffic I pick up whatever I’m reading while waiting for the unsnarling, and I began this habit long before I became a librarian. Wouldn’t thousands of folks with nothing to do but sit about all day find reading natural? Not everyone there has a smartphone or an eBook reader either, so naturally print books should, and did, emerge. And yet none of this explains why so much ink has been spilled about this library. I’m glad the library is there, and I’m glad these folks are reading. I hope some of the books have to do with economics, and democratic capitalism, too. Perhaps their reading will help them understand why running up a $40,000 college debt on street theatre and puppetry may not yield the highest career return, but that’s not exactly Wall Street’s fault.

This leads me to a final observation. Is this the movement to which the library profession should suddenly attach itself? I understand that librarians have something of a chip on their shoulders about their image and will do almost anything to be seen as something other than librarians. But seriously, is this Marxist-laden movement the right one? Given that our future largely depends on “evil” corporations like Microsoft, Apple, Wal-Mart, Sears, and McDonald’s (not to mention many of those 1% throwing a few dollars our way, should we be so quick to bite the hand that feeds us, or feeds our organizations?) I’m not advocating a pass for corporations, but we can’t be like the guy who shot his parents and then threw himself on the mercy of the court because he was an orphan. It’s hardly fun, I know, but perhaps we should take a breath and occupy reality for a bit? At the very least, can we all agree that libraries are not all that unusual, and their emergence is as natural a part of life as eating and drinking?
5. Journals must have all of their parts in place including covers, tables of contents, advertisements, and administrative material.

6. Commitment data will be recorded in the institutional section of DOCLINE. NLM’s online request routing and referral system.

As MedPrint participation grows, NLM will work with OCLC on exchanging print retention information between WorldCat and DOCLINE.


Digital Developments

NLM’s Digital Repository — by John Doyle

The National Library of Medicine launched its new digital repository, Digital Collections http://collections.nlm.nih.gov, in autumn 2010. Digital Collections allows rich searching, browsing, and presentation of monographs and films from NLM’s historical collections. Users can perform full-text and faceted keyword searching across the range of content in the repository. Digital Collections uses a suite of open-source and NLM-created software, with the Fedora Commons Repository as the underlying framework. The repository facilitates the long-term preservation of the content by describing, verifying, and managing the ingested files using XML and RDF technologies. The repository also makes use of NLM’s offsite co-location data-center for redundant storage and distribution of access services.

Digital Collections contains a growing number of digitized books in the Public Domain, which are therefore freely available to read and download. The books are currently presented in two collections: Cholera Online, consisting of 518 monographs dating from the 19th century about cholera pandemics of that period, and Medicine in the Americas, NLM’s in-house digitization project which will eventually number approximately 6,000 volumes, demonstrating the evolution of American medicine from colonial frontier outposts of the 17th century to research hospitals of the 20th century. The books are displayed through an integrated viewer which provides within-book search, thumbnail preview of all pages and page zooming/rotating. Digital Collections also contains 29 historical films which can be downloaded in a variety of video formats to accommodate a wide range of playback devices, including mobile devices. The films are also playable via an integrated, Flash-based video player which allows full-text search of a film’s transcript and graphically displays where the searched word or phrase occurs within the timeline of the film. Additional content, including other format types, will be added over time.

NLM has helped create a complete digital archive of these 90 journals in PMC.

International Collaboration and Durability

NLM is collaborating internationally with other agencies that share the goals of PMC. Maintaining copies of PMC’s literature in other reliable international archives that operate on the same principles provides greater protection against damage or loss of the material.

Conclusion

NLM’s rich collection of print and digital resources has grown significantly over the past 175 years, and the Library looks forward to the next 175 years and more of collecting, providing access to, preserving, and recording the world’s most important materials in medicine and health.
-librarians to step in and provide services and support. Given the sheer size of some of the data sets in question, libraries may not be as well-suited for long-term storage as computing centers; however, the task of insuring their existence for historical purposes is one in line with the long-standing mission of libraries. As the future unfolds, we should observe the historical value of data, and the role of librarians, in this new world of e-Science.

Building Networks

Besides data, the second most prominent feature of e-Science is networking. As it has advanced the creation and sharing of data, computer technology has also made creating and sustaining networks of people and resources both different and plentiful. One need only to think of the many different ways we communicate today: phone, email, Skype, Webinars, smart phones, electronic notebooks and tablets, social networks — to realize we are more connected with friends, family, and colleagues than ever before.

For science, networks make collaborative work much easier. Technology allows for the easy development of networks not limited by geographical constraints. Science, like many other aspects of life today, is cross-disciplinary and global, and our technological networks foster and reflect this environment. Helping researchers find collaborators is a large part of e-Science and one where librarians have taken a role. Working in the development and training of semantic Web resources like VIVO (http://vivoweb.org/), librarians assist computer scientists and other information specialists pull together biographical and bibliographical information about researchers so that they can better identify future research partners.

While the technological tools of e-Science are quite impressive and their newness can be glamorous, when it comes down to it, these tools are about bringing people together. Thus, e-Science, for all its emphasis on technology and data, is also about people — and people are the business of libraries and librarians. Libraries have the history of being the non-biased, neutral hubs of information. While this physical image might be fading, the work remains the same.

By the nature of their work, librarians know institutions in ways that scientists often don’t. They see them from the level above the silos. Librarians have a wealth of information and knowledge they can harness to bring people together and foster collaborations, and the networking tools of e-Science allow librarians to do this much easier than in the past. Today, one librarian can push information out to a hundred researchers via a post on a blog or an interactive Website. She can build small networks, real and virtual, to bring people together. These are skills we have always had and work we have always done. We just have different tools now.

Moving Forward

Successfully assembling the orchestra for our future in e-Science involves recognizing what we do well now, noting which of these skills will continue to be useful, and realizing the areas we must learn and/or improve in. Librarians are skilled in information management, cataloging and metadata, searching, archiving, and delivering resources. We also possess the intangibles like objectivity, as well as both a sense and a mission of providing service and support.

What some of us lack is subject knowledge. Is being a generalist enough to effectively communicate with researchers about their information needs? We also need a better understanding of the research process, of research methods and statistics. Finally, we can practice those entrepreneurial skills — sales and marketing and creative problem solving — that scientists have honed over the years. Researchers are often entrepreneurs, securing their own funding, planning their own “business” strategies, hiring their own staff, etc. Librarians can perhaps better work in this world if we adopt some of the same patterns and behavior.

I have an old college sorority sister who is a concert flutist. She recently posted a status update on her Facebook page saying, “Holy Toledo! My flute is AMAZING!” She’d recently picked it up from a technician who’d given it a good tune-up. “It’s better than when I bought it. Some stuff I thought was MY issue turned out to be the flute’s and is now GONE!” I thought of this post as I was writing this article and using the orchestra metaphor to describe e-Science. An orchestra is made up of instruments and people. Bringing them all together to make beautiful music requires the right placement of the right musician as well as a conductor who can lead them to their best performance.

The same can be said for e-Science. It too is an orchestra made up of researchers, computer scientists, librarians, and publishers, all with different instruments to play. We’ve all been practicing our roles a certain way for a long time. Now we face a bit of retuning, and we have some new music to learn, perhaps we might even need to change instruments, but it will work. The curtain hasn’t been addressed successfully before. The curtain is merely rising on a new performance.

Some Helpful Resources:

- e-Science Portal for New England Librarians (http://esclibrary.umassmed.edu) — The Portal is a collaborative project initiated at the University of Massachusetts Medical School through funding from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. It is “designed for librarians working in research organizations that generate, share, store and/or use data for basic scientific research in the health, biological, and physical sciences. Bringing together resources on education, outreach and collaboration, current practices, and e-science news — the portal provides librarians with the tools, knowledge, and skills to effectively participate in networked science.”

- e-Science Initiative of the Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School (http://library.umassmed.edu/escien/index.shtml) — The Initiative includes several annual events including an e-Science Symposium, professional development day, and Science Boot Camp for Librarians. Information on each is available on the Library’s Website.

- e-Science Institute (http://www.arl.org/er/research/escien/index.shtml) — Association for Research Libraries site (Highlights, Overview, Support for Outreach, Articles, etc.)

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**Rumors**

**from page 20**

John Long WAS at the Charleston Conference and he tells me that he swam laps at the Medical University of South Carolina Wellness Center pool while he was here. That’s a great place and I highly recommend it. I walk the pool at least three times a week myself.

Speaking of the MUSC Pool, I wonder if John ran into Pam Cenzer, retired from the University of Florida, Gainesville? Pam was in town for the Conference with Michelle Crump, but she was really sick! Anyway, Pam loves to swim and many times we have tried to get her in the College of Charleston pool. Stories to tell! Oh! And see the pic of Pam’s grandbaby in this issue, p.1.

Just learned that the impressive Selden Dumon Lamarourex will be leaving NCSU Libraries with great affection and appreciation after three and a half excellent years. Selden will be freelancing and remunering involved with professional commitments, including SERU, Kuali OLE, and teaching. Oh! And Rumor has it that she’ll be returning to her previous life as a potter! Good Luck, Selden! And keep in touch with all us working stiffs out here!

Did y’all happen to meet the gorgeous Roula Awad-Harb <rharb@ndu.edu.lb> (Head, Acquisitions, Gifts & Exchange Dept. Notre Dame University-Louaize, Lebanon) at the Charleston Conference? She flew a long way to come but she says it was well worth the time and expense! She says she is giving a talk at her library about the Conference and what all she learned that will be of interest to her colleagues. We hope that Roula will be back next year and tell us about libraries in Lebanon.

Springer Science+Business Media has agreed to purchase Wolters Kluwer’s pharmaceuticals-focused marketing and publishing services (MPS) unit. The deal is pending regulatory approval. According to a statement by Wolters Kluwer, “proceeds from this divestment are expected to be used for general

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Endnotes


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30 Against the Grain / December 2011 - January 2012

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
The mobile marketplace is designed for the individual purchaser, and most companies treat these downloads in the same way, even if the library is purchasing it for the end user. There are two models for libraries to purchase mobile downloads at this time. One is an add-on to a Web product that the library has already purchased, where the end user downloads the app to their mobile device. The other is where the library specifically purchases the mobile products for the end user. The add-on model is acceptable provided what you want on your handheld is part of the library’s Web collections. It is not acceptable if you simply want the mobile product and the publisher is trying to make you buy something you don’t want to get something you do. Nor is it acceptable if you don’t want the mobile product and the publisher charges you for it anyway.

The preferred model is the one where we purchase individual titles in mobile format, treating those titles just as we would any other title. This gives us greater control over our collections, allowing us to respond to user needs, and permitting us to control costs as much as possible. These titles are just like any others, and it’s best if publishers treat them as such. As with any collection, we want to be able to control what we offer to our users, respond to what they ask for, what is required in the curriculum or in our particular clinical specialty treatment areas, and respond to our particular technology environment.

The other key issue when it comes to purchasing by libraries is to have site licensing available. Most of these apps are marketed to individuals and are available for purchase individually. Very few companies who do sell to libraries charge their business model to adjust for our needs to control costs and to easily manage user subscriptions by providing site licensing. At the Galter Library we can only consider titles we can purchase in this way because we cannot maintain individual user logins that would be required without IP authentication. For budget purposes we cannot consider titles that are priced by individual download. With that model, we cannot control for costs since we don’t know how many people will choose to download an individual title. Because this is not how any other electronic title is priced, it doesn’t make sense to do it for a mobile title simply because of the platform. The technology is available to allow for IP authentication and site-licensed pricing, so more publishers should allow libraries to do this with their purchases.

Another issue involving these titles is accessibility. Some publishers put the content of the app on the device itself, which means the user can access the content no matter where they are. This is appealing because many hospitals have restrictions on their wireless networks, and 3G networks are often inaccessible. The downside of this is that the content can take up a lot of memory, limiting how many apps a user can potentially download. And if they are putting this on a smartphone with other objects like audio and video competing for that memory, it may not be the optimal situation. Therefore, some publishers keep the information content in the cloud. The app is installed on the device, but to access the information, the user must have an active wireless or cellular connection. This can be good in that it allows for more apps to be installed on one device, but as pointed out above, many hospitals restrict access to their wireless networks.

Deciding on the best way to support these titles is also an important consideration for any library. Most universities have departments to provide technical support, but when providing these kinds of titles, you should be prepared to answer specific questions about the kinds of mobile operating systems your users may have. We have found that the generic questions like those about connecting to the university wireless network can easily be passed on to the technical support department. But we answer the questions specific to downloading the software we purchased and how that is done. This requires that at least some reference staff be familiar with some of the more popular mobile operating systems. This has not been a problem since we all use smartphones in our own lives, and learning how to use the mobile software we purchased was just like learning how to use any other resource we buy for our users.

### Conclusion

Constant changes with mobile technology are allowing our library to become more relevant to our users’ lives by bringing resources to where they need them — at the bedside and in the classroom. Reform in medical education will hopefully make the needed funding available for this and other library collections as well. If more publishers are willing to work with the mobile platform, and make that content available on a site-licensed basis, we would be better able to support our users with the resources they need in the format they want.

### Endnotes


The fifteen Rush employees present represented a wide range of departments and surprised Nathalie when they used their own introduction opportunities to ask her questions about the Rush Archives. One woman thanked her for assistance the Archives provided her with a genealogy research request several months before. She recalled the emotional response her relative gave her when she presented him with reprinted material from the Rush Archives’ collection. Another attendee asked if a collection in his own department would be suitable for donation to the Archives. In this group setting, all of the participants heard the conversation between the Archivist and other employees. Consequently, everyone present learned about the variety of ways they could make use of our research skills and collection initiatives.

These fruitful encounters with other employees are not possible if we don’t venture out of our office. Each campus event provides opportunities to interact with different segments of the institutional community. In many cases, it is the first time some of our fellow participants have heard about the Archives. We rarely leave one of these events without a fresh reference request, an offer of materials to transfer to the Archives, or a request for information about our outreach events and tours.

Creating Our Own Contributions to Existing Events

Finally, the Rush Archives has created its own contributions to existing campus events. In several instances, we have made note of new ways that our department can enhance existing annual events. Each year, Rush University Medical Center encourages its employees to participate in the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk. The major city-wide event takes place in Chicago’s Grant Park, but many employees do not have schedules that allow them to travel to that location. Instead, the institution’s Heart Walk committee created an on-campus alternative walking route. When the Rush Archives recognized that this event was taking place on campus each year, we proposed that the Rush Archives could incorporate a historic walking tour of campus into the route. In response, event organizers modified the route to represent a walking tour that incorporated many of the older buildings on campus. Now, on-campus walkers learn about the history of Rush as they raise money for charity each year.

Conclusion

As Rush’s archivists, we are responsible for accessioning and processing collections, working with external researchers, assisting Rush departments with projects, and archiving born-digital documents. We interpret our collections by organizing our own outreach initiatives, including exhibits, presentations, and tours. However, as a small staff, it is important for us to prioritize building our image on campus. We encourage our fellow archivists and librarians to attend other departments’ events and contribute content to existing blogs and newsletters. Participate in your institution’s initiatives — even when a connection to the archives or library is not immediately clear. Sometimes to see and be seen is a goal in itself. Your status as a familiar face on campus can go a long way toward achieving your department’s future goals. Every time you introduce yourself to another participant at an event, you can create a potential user or donor.

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BORN AND LIVED: I was born and raised in Iowa. The most exotic place I have lived is Juneau, Alaska, and I have lived in Chicago, Illinois for eight years.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I have been a Librarian/Archivist at the Rush University Medical Center Archives in Chicago for six years. Before I came to Rush, I was an Archival Assistant at the American College of Surgeons, The Iowa Women’s Archives, the Center for Dubuque History, and the Illinois Regional Archives Depository.

I serve on the Steering Committee of the Chicago Area Archivists, and I’m a member of the Chicago Area Medical Archivists.

FAMILY: I’m celebrating my fifteenth anniversary with my husband, Geoff Osterhaus, this year. Our daughter, Amelia, turned two in December 2011.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I love to get outside whenever I can. I enjoy hiking, geocaching, and exploring new cities. I love photographing everyday life, and I always have a camera with me.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I love non-fiction and biographies. I recommend The Alex Studies, by Irene Pepperberg, which details her investigative work with the speaking capability of an African gray parrot. I also recently read Alison Angrim’s Confessions of a Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Olson and Learned to Love Being Hated, which was a fascinating memoir.

PET PEEVES: Defeatism and avoidable miscommunications.

PHILOSOPHY: There is always a way to move forward.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The industry has to continue to build a digital presence. Our users will increasingly develop the expectation that they do not need to travel to obtain the information they seek.

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The Iowa Women’s Archives, the Center for Dubuque History, and the Illinois Regional Archives Depository.
Op Ed — The Death of the Bookless Library

by S. David Mash, Ph.D. (Dean of Library Services) <dmash@lander.edu>

I recently flew through Atlanta and Dallas to visit my family in Texas. At both airports — each a teeming and bustling airport of travelers — I had a good amount of free time between flights. I decided in advance to do a brazenly unscientific study of the reading habits of people at airport gates. Taking special care not to draw attention to myself, I adopted a data collection method I will call “observational strolling.” I took no notes, and I certainly did not gaze at anyone, lest I be taken for something other than a librarian. I “observationally strolled” past gate after gate with three research questions in mind:

1) of those reading to pass the time, what proportion were reading digital formats versus paper formats?
2) what was the general age range of those reading digital formats? and
3) what was the general age range of those reading paper formats?

I observed many hundreds of readers representing a phenomenally broad demographic profile. For the sake of full disclosure, I own an eBook reader, and I believe in the enduring value of print media. But what I saw surprised even me. First, of those reading to pass the time, the proportion of digital to paper was at best two digital readers for every ten paper readers. Second, the general age range of those reading digital formats was over thirty. In fact, everyone reading digital formats appeared to be over thirty. Yes, what I am saying is that everyone in the preschool through the twenty-something group was reading paper media. This included parents reading to very young children, grade-school children reading children’s books, and college-age adults reading novels. Just to keep myself honest, I began looking for young-in-appearance people reading digital media. I saw plenty of these young people with tablet devices and laptops, but all the screens that I could see were filled with entertainment and social media. There’s nothing wrong with any of this, of course, but the absolute lopsidedness of it all gave me pause.

My last observations were made on the final flight home. It happened that the person on my right (someone over fifty) was reading a paper book and the person on my left (someone nearing forty) was reading from one of the best-selling eBook readers. The person on my left read from the device, from ephemeral page to ephemeral page, in stillness and calm. The person on my right actively marked sections of text, wrote notes in the margins, and flipped back and forth at times. Dare I suggest that she was interacting with the paper text? Dare I suggest that the format has a tangible effect on the kind of reading that is possible and the quality of retention that is achieved?

It would be irresponsible to draw grandiose conclusions from my airport observations. But the death of print, the tipping point into that transformative print-less future, has been “immanent” for decades. It has been right around the corner for my entire professional life. Let’s give it a rest. Research has begun to emerge which suggests that eBooks are far less adequate than print books for substantive reading and comprehension of long and complex texts. Incessant multitasking and ubiquitous digital immersion may have a costly dark side: habituation of the mind into a rigid bias against protracted complex thinking. The stakes are monumental. Students with this kind of bias — a sort of cultivated simplemindedness — may be able to graduate from high school or college, but they will not have the mental habits and intellectual discipline necessary for protracted attention to the complex problems that plague us.

It is encouraging to see the new Joe Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago described not as “another Bookless Library,” for the digital age but as “an $81-million bet that researchers still need ready access to print.” Librarians, educators, and administrators who stay on point with the script that print is second-class may not be acting in the best interest of the people we serve. It is time to apply some rigorous scrutiny to one-dimensional polemics about the inferiority of print. It is time to ask new questions about the limits of digital media. It is time for the digital prophets, pundits, and product pushers to scale back on extreme anti-print caricatures and anecdotes. In fact, I think it is time to declare the death of the bookless library. The social and cultural benefits will not be insignificant.

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Endnotes

Rumors from page 40

through the Lightning Source Distribution Network:
Ingram Book — www.ingrambook.com/default.aspx
Amazon — www.amazon.com/Charleston-Conference-Proceedings-Katina-Strauch/dp/0985404305/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1322491921&sr=8-1
Baker & Taylor — btol.com
Espresso Book Machine — onemandbooks.com
HORAY! HORAY!
Moving right along, the 2010 Proceedings are in press, and we expect that they will be available no later than the end of January 2012. We will again send a free electronic copy to all 2010 attendees, and print copies will be available for purchase at the same locations above.

Still more! The 2011 Proceedings will be published in partnership with Purdue University Press, and will be available in October 2012. We hope to also be included in the Project MUSE/University Press Content Consortium as well. More information will be sent to 2011 attendees in the spring of 2012.

And now — on to 2012! The 2012 Charleston Conference theme “Accentuate the Positive!” will be held November 7-10, 2012, in historic and beautiful Charleston (voted the #1 tourist city in 2011)! http://www.charlestoncvb.com/

The Conference Directors will be having a conference call to discuss the 2012 program. In fact, we just heard from Darcy Dapra (Partner/Manager, Google Scholar) who said that Google was so sorry to have missed the 2011 Conference. Anurag Acharya, the founder of and lead engineer on Google Scholar, will present a talk entitled, “Integrating Access and Discoverability in Scholarship: Successes and Failures,” which aims to touch upon some very fascinating trends in the scholarly content ecosystem that Google has identified over the nearly eight years since Scholar was in existence. Ready to sign up? Registration will be up in March! Stay tuned!
emathical Programming. Users can search on an equation, article title, or DOI, and equations that are similar (or even exactly the same but written slightly different) will also appear under the “Similar Results” tab. This ability to provide a comprehensive set of results is unique to LaTeXSearch.com.

Exemplar (www.springerexemplar.com) is a free linguistic tool designed to aid the publishing process for authors, editors, and the scientific community at large. Exemplar allows researchers to quickly see how a particular term or phrase is used in peer-reviewed, published literature. This is a tool to help consolidate the use of subject-specific terminology and facilitate the communication of scholarly information through standardization.

Also, this year, Springer launched a network of job sites, with over 5,000 up-to-date listings. ScienceandHealthcareJobs.com is the main site and includes linkouts to two other sites. StethoscopeJobs.com is the “daughter” site for physicians, and LabratJobs.com is the site focused on scientific researchers.

The sites in the network include:

- www.ScienceandHealthcareJobs.com
- www.LabratJobs.com
- www.StethoscopeJobs.com

A timely and well-received set of sites in this economy!

ATG: That is an impressive list of resources that will definitely enhance the scholarly efforts of your users and other interested readers.

Jennifer, Wouter, and Thijs, we want to thank you for taking the time to talk to us. Getting your individual perspectives has been both fun and very informative.

JK & WvdV: Thank you for the opportunity to bring this information to your readers.

TW: It’s been our pleasure to inform you about this new Springer initiative. Please don’t hesitate to contact us in case you have any further questions.

Rumors

Dave Nicholas’ and Ian Rowlands’ paper, “Coming of Age: Strategic Directions for Digital Repositories (CIBER Research) was selected as HOT on LinkedIn since it was being talked about on LinkedIn more than anything else on SlideShare so they put it on the homepage of SlideShare (in the “Hot on LinkedIn” section). Congrats, Dave and Ian!! http://www.slideshare.net

While we are talking about Dave, we just learned that he has accepted an adjunct chair in the School of Information Sciences at University of Tennessee Knoxville! Dave will continue to be based in the UK but he will be seeking grants in partnership with the outstanding scholar Carol Tenopir! Ho haa!!

After 18 years, the magnificent Bob Kelly (Director, Journal Information Systems, The American Physical Society) is retiring. “What a long strange trip it has been,” he says, quoting from the Grateful Dead. He continues: “Together we, APS, SSP, and others, had the opportunity to kick off and participate in the evolution from print journals, limited to one user at a time reading, generally, a few years of a subscription to many users at a time reading the full corpus of a publishers’ journals back to volume one. We had great discussions, talked and experimented our way into the concept of reusable XML, open access, accessibility, new deliverables and linking. We lowered our costs, expanded our reach and set the stage for the future.” Bob also invites us to visit him on Facebook where he will be posting some of his “street photography.” Sounds like a great retirement occupation!

Way back when in another life I was a medical librarian (and did you know that Dan Tonkery was too, albeit at a much higher level?).

continued on page 56
I’m reiterating the...to us. We know that our readers will...Against the Grain/December 2011-January 2012 <http://www.Against-the-grain.com>

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FAVORITE BOOKS: Almost impossible to answer — there are way too many. Instead, I’ll mention my favorite fiction and non-fiction books I’ve read recently. I loved everything about Barbara Kingsolver’s recent novel The Lacuna, an epic and moving story, but particularly delighted in the vivid portrayal of 1930s Mexico and its most colorful figures (Rivera, Kahlo, and Trotsky). And James Gleick’s The Information is the kind of non-fiction I really enjoy — encompassing science, history, and biography, it’s an engaging synthesis of a huge amount of material that stimulates new ways of thinking.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I’m reiterating the obvious to say that our industry continues to be driven by rapid technological transformation, and that significant parts of the agenda have been taken over by large technology organizations. Within five years we’ll be in a world where digital editions and business models are primary. While print will continue to exist, it will be more of a luxury item for those who can and want to pay a premium. The technology giants will continue to make significant plays in traditional publisher markets — the K12 and college textbook markets seem to be obvious next candidates. Budgets and markets across higher education are likely to remain tight, and it remains to be seen if the current model of higher education in the U.S. is sustainable — all at a time when education in more important than ever for the U.S. to remain competitive in the global economy. But I remain optimistic about the future of publishing and publishers, as long as we can embrace the discovery of new ways to apply our skills in content development and marketing to emerging technologies. For a relatively small player on this global stage, this means that we will need to be highly focused on our core competencies and highly integrated with our customers’ and users’ workflows.

Interview — Alison Mudditt
from page 55

(CALSO) on the UPSO platform with its first four collections in March 2012, and we are also an active member of the consortium working to develop Books@JSTOR. I’m excited about the potential for these initiatives not only to create new revenue streams, but also to help libraries broaden patron access to content and to make scholarly discourse more accessible than it has ever been — a vibrant hub of information and debate that serves not only the academy, but a much wider audience seeking answers to many contemporary problems.

ATG: Why is partnering with OUP to launch California Scholarship Online (CALSO) on the UPSO platform more attractive to you than joining forces with the Books@JSTOR or Project MUSE?

AM: We’re still an active member of the JSTOR consortium and are, like the other members, currently reviewing the revised agreement, so it’s quite possible we will sign with both. We know that our library customers want and need options in terms of platforms and business models, and are committed to meeting those needs. As we’ve been evaluating potential partners, we’ve been considering platform and functionality as well as business models and sales capacity, and feel that UPSO and JSTOR will best meet both our needs and those of our library customers.

ATG: Alison, thank you taking the time to speak to us. We know that our readers will appreciate your many insights.

Interview — Knut Dorn
from page 53

an early adapter. The Internet still holds many secrets for me and I want to use my free time finally to catch up. While at the office at HARRASSWITZ I could not find the time for creative experimentation and was glad that I had a chance to organize an economic way to participate in electronic communication without putting an undue burden on the company. Now as of next year, there will be the chance to engage in a learning process for which there also has never been the time.

Will I have the drive to do some writing? There are lots of ideas and some sketches for projects that go back to my years in academia. When I started at HARRASSWITZ I had the idea of doing the writing for the topics of my interest on the side, expecting that my commitments at the company would allow me to do that. What a misconception that was! The job at HARRASSWITZ took more than what I ever imagined a full-time job would do to you. I do not regret this since I can say that I fully lived up to the expectations of the company and of our customers, and the fun part was that I thoroughly enjoyed it. So no regrets that I had what you might call a full professional life. Will I be able to muster the energy to go back to what I had intended to do in my formative years at the university? I will have to see.

What I definitely will enjoy is living at a more leisurely pace. It is exactly that leisurely pace that I plan to introduce into my life. For once to fully enjoy the summers in my “club of early morning swimmers” in the fantastic open-air swimming pool on the hill over Wiesbaden very close to my home, without having to rush back for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and to try to be able to be at the office in time to fit into the schedule of meetings and daily routines. For once it will be time management for me under relaxed circumstances, or so I hope. Even if it is only to watch a soccer game without feeling remorse later that you have again lost two hours that have set you back with your professional reading or with composing texts for correspondence or marketing purposes.

And I will be able to devote more time again to my circles of friends, go to the theater, and arrange for wine tastings and outings with them, all things I used to do but that had taken second place when business trips and professional duties in general had to be accommodated first.

Naturally, my wife Renate has ideas for me to devote more time to our grandchildren, Lavina and Helena, the two daughters of Nadja who I have to admit have not been given the amount of attention and time that they deserve. How good I will be at that, will have to be seen. It will definitely be children’s books and fairy tales for a while before in a couple of years they will be ready for ball games, swimming, and track and field. I expect that my educational skills will be tested!

Rumors
from page 49

Things were different. This issue, ably guest-edited by the fantabulous Ramune Kubilius, certainly illustrates the massive changes in that world and indeed in our world as well. These are great articles. I love music (classical and rock and country, you name it, but not modern) so I was intrigued and fascinated by Sally Gore’s characterization of librarians as some sort of an orchestra, this issue, p.25. Don’t you love it?

Our Op Ed this issue is near and dear to my heart! Reading habits. Anyway, when I am in an airport, a library, a doctor’s office, a train station, continued on page 60
Cases of Note — Copyright

Column Editor: Bruce Strauch (The Citadel) <strauchb@citadel.edu>


Oklahoma City Thunder is a pro basketball team previously the Seattle Supersonics but now in OKC, hence the new name. It’s an interactive age, and Thunder put out a request for fans to “share ideas” with the team. Quick to respond, songwriter Syrus wrote a song for them and registered it for copyright. In self-promotion, he gave a copy to the mayor, an unnamed coach, and the team’s head cheerleader. No one showed much interest.

However, the phrases “Thunder Up,” “Go Thunder,” and “Let’s Go Thunder” were used in ads, on banners, and were chanted by cheerleaders and crowd at games. A miffed Syrus said these were taken from his lyrics and violated his copyright. Naturally he sued. And not shy in his deposition without the faintest show it at Continuing Legal Eds when in fact, our water extravaganzas.

Defendant Clay Bennett, Prez of Professional Basketball Club, LLC, which owns OKC Thunder, was out because there were no allegations whatsoever about him and hence no plausible claim. Thunder was out because the trite little phrases are not subject to copyright protection. But hanging on like a pitbull, Syrus went to the Tenth Circuit.


Words and short phrases are generally not protected, particularly when they “convey an idea typically expressed in a limited number of stereotyped fashions.” Narell v. Freeman, 872 F.2d 907, 911 (9th Cir. 1989). A short phrase might be protected if the degree of creativity were sufficient. Melville B. Nimner & David Nimner, Nimmer on Copyright, § 2.01[B], at 2-17 (Matthew Bender, Rev. Ed. 2011).

Anyone who has lived through the dreadful years of “teen spirit” knows that “Go Dogs (Panthers, Toads, Mako Sharks, etc.)” is about as stereotyped as they come. Some teeny-weensy degree of originality is required. Or is the sine qua non of copyright, as they say. Feist Publ’ns, Inc., 499 U.S. at 348.

And Syrus Flails About

Syrus argued that single words like “Budweiser” and “Coors” get protection. So “Go Thunder” should as well. But he hopelessly confuses copyright with trademark. Trademark rights “grow out of ... use” and do not “depend upon novelty, invention, discovery, or any work of the brain.” Trade-Mark Cases, 100 U.S. 82, 94 (1879).

Syrus never used “Go Thunder” in commerce as a mark for any goods.

Rumors from page 36

or even a taxi, I am always interested in how people interact with books, magazines, newspapers, technology. And the astute David Mash (Lander University) actually recorded his unscientific observations in this issue, p. 46.

If you have followed Ann Okerson’s libel, there is a repeated discussion of this by Jim O’Donnell and many others! No, Virginia, the print book is not dead!

And speaking of Libel, it has been moved seamlessly from Harvard to the Center for Research Libraries, where Ann is now based! Congratulations to both Ann and CRL!

Do you know that we did some video interviews during the 31st Charleston Conference and Ann was one of them. Watch for announcements on the ATG NewsChannel www.against-the-grain.com/.

As we go to press, I just learned from the approval plan legend Richard Abel that Don Stave just died. Richard reminds us that Don was the principal inside man who helped develop the system to get books to academic and research libraries cheaper and faster. Richard promises to write a memorial about Don for ATG.

And finally, Happy New Year! Have heard from many of you with wishes for the New Year! Sandy Paul, Laura Berg, Jack Montgomery, Clara-Mae Chitum, Betty and Sevgin Oktay, Corrie Marsh, and many of you! Happy New Year and much love always. Your editor.