December 2012

If Rumors Were Horses

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Who would’ve thought 20 years ago that librarians would now be building our collections with books we haven’t even paid for? Or that publishers would collectively strike a deal to agree not to charge us for these books unless our patrons used them substantially?

Patron-driven acquisition for print books has been around for a while. For example, the University of Vermont Library worked with YBP to set up PDA for print books in 2007, based on rush ordering in response to patron requests from the library catalog. But the old model of invoicing upon acquisition still held. The real growth in the patron-driven business model has been enabled by combining two innovations: eBooks and usage-triggered invoicing (a more accurate term than patron-driven acquisition but with a much more awkward acronym). Librarians can now select eBooks for the collection via approval and/or manual selection, obtain access for patrons, and greatly expand the size of the library while only paying selection, obtain access for patrons, and greatly expand the size of the library while only paying

So, suddenly the definition of a library “collection” has completely changed. We’re already seeing additional innovations, such as consortial DDA; short-term loan options (which save the library money in the short term but essentially drive up the purchase price of each title); and ebrary’s Extended Access model (which allows librarians to specify that when a single-user title is accessed by more than one patron, they will automatically upgrade to multi-user access if available, purchase another copy, or provide a short-term loan).

I predict more innovations on the way. We’ve yet to see DDA for multimedia and articles (more sustainable than pay-per-view, and much more sustainable than subscriptions); and access points beyond library catalogs, discovery services, and eBook platforms (meeting our patrons where they are).

Against the Grain published a special issue on this topic in June 2011. Now that even more libraries and publishers are using DDA, and many more are planning to use it, our authors are taking account of where we are now. Take a look and learn how it’s going, and what librarians and vendors are thinking. Thanks especially to Kris Baker of YBP for brainstorming with me about where we’re headed with DDA. We hope you enjoy the notes from our phone conversation. Let’s all keep envisioning the future, especially if it means going out on a limb! That’s the only way change happens.

Going Out on a Limb: Pushing the Boundaries of DDA

by Jonathan H. Harwell (Head of Collections & Systems, Rollins College’s Olin Library) <jharwell@rollins.edu>

Knovel Corp has acquired the New York city-based Knovel Corp which provides a web-based application that integrates technical information with analytical and search tools to drive innovation and deliver answers for engineers. Founded in 2001, Knovel has developed a deep knowledge of the engineering community and is a valuable tool for thousands of engineers and students in more than 700 corporations and engineering schools worldwide. Recently named by research firm Outsell one of the “10 to Watch” in scientific/technical and medical publishing, Knovel has expanded its offerings and customer base as multiple factors have influenced the engineering technical reference market segment. “This is a great new chapter for Knovel,” said Chris Forbes, Knovel President and CEO. The acquisition is effective immediately and financial terms of the transaction are not being disclosed. My long-time friend and one of my favorite people ever, Debbie Hodges who used to work for ProQuest now is working for Knovel. I will tell you a secret! Debbie helped me pick out my mother-of-the-groom dress way back when! And now I need a mother-of-the-bride dress. Where are you when I need you, Debbie? www.knovel.com

Saw that the vivacious Sue Vazakas (did you know that she is Greek?) posted some detailed blog entries about Charleston 2012 on the Johns Hopkins Sheridan Libraries

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Happy New Year! There has been a lot of activity over the past few months. Elsevier has acquired the New York city-based Knovel Corp which provides a web-based application that integrates technical information with analytical and search tools to drive innovation and deliver answers for engineers. Founded in 2001, Knovel has developed a deep knowledge of the engineering community and is a valuable tool for thousands of engineers and students in more than 700 corporations and engineering schools worldwide. Recently named by research firm Outsell one of the “10 to Watch” in scientific/technical and medical publishing, Knovel has expanded its offerings and customer base as multiple factors have influenced the engineering technical reference market segment. “This is a great new chapter for Knovel,” said Chris Forbes, Knovel President and CEO. The acquisition is effective immediately and financial terms of the transaction are not being disclosed. My long-time friend and one of my favorite people ever, Debbie Hodges who used to work for ProQuest now is working for Knovel. I will tell you a secret! Debbie helped me pick out my mother-of-the-groom dress way back when! And now I need a mother-of-the-bride dress. Where are you when I need you, Debbie? www.knovel.com

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From Your (staying indoors) Editor:

Y’all, it’s cold outside! I prefer cold to hot but this winter is too cold in my book. I know those of you up North with snow and ice think I am a wimp. I have to confess — you are right!

Hope that everyone had a great holiday break. I sure did. Of course I was working on Against the Grain along with many others. Jonathan Harwell has done an admirable job of assembling papers on demand-driven acquisitions also known as patron-driven acquisitions. I know that we at the College of Charleston are getting ready to do a small pilot in a few areas so I have read these papers with great interest! Debbi Dinkins contrasts librarian and teaching faculty selections, Dara Elmore talks about cost-per-use, Lindsey Reno has a unique suggestion for an acquisitions/reference partnership, Andrew Welch and Teri Koch explore the “just-in-time” “just-in-case” dynamic as it relates to PDA. Finally, Sarah Forzetting and Erin Gallagher go into consortial PDA from the vendor’s perspective.

Jonathan also interviewed Kristine Baker, Director of Digital Sales at YBP about DDA. In our Op Ed Katy Ginanni doesn’t think that working for vendors is joining the “dark side” and I have to agree. Tony Ferguson focuses on publishers and old ways. Cliff Lynch reminds us of Lee Dirks who, with his beloved wife Judy was killed so tragically August 28, 2012.

We have two Special Reports, one by Don Hawkins on Indexing and another by Candace Mooney on W.T. Cox. Our interviews are with Kristine S. Baker, Helen Henderson and Hazel Woodward, and Norm Desmarais. Deb Vaughn sends us a review by William Joseph Thomas and Tom Gilson does his usual great reference reviews. We have Cases of Note by Bruce Strauch and Questions and Answers by Lolly Gasaway to spice up our legal section. Alex Holzman writes about open access monographs from the publisher’s perspective and Leila Salisbury and Doug Armati tell us about their university press panel in Charleston 2012. Biz of Acq is about print serials check in by Barbara Pope. We have several reports of meetings — The Frankfurt Book Fair, the Online Audiovisual Catalogers Conference and final reports from the 31st Charleston Conference. In Acquisitions Archaeology, Jesse Holden asks about our obligations as professionals. Scott Smith tells us about his new small library. Papa Abel completes his Tale of a Band of Booksellers. Donna Jacobs explores Poland and Nobel Laureates. Collecting to the Core is about manuscripts in medieval studies, Analyze This is a new column by Rossi Morris on usage statistics. Sam Demas talks about sharing print collections and Bob Holley talks about banned books and intellectual freedom. Finally, Dennis shines his inimitable light on Google and several sessions at Charleston Conference 2012.

Whew! I am out of breath or is it keyboard!! And, guess what — Suddenly it is summer outside! Excuse me while I put on my shorts and take a walk. Oh! And Happy New Year!

Love, Yr. Ed. 🎄

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Here’s a picture of our new grandchild. Mother Capron and daughter are doing well! Considering that she had to wait out the hurricane in NYC before arriving, we may nickname her Sandy.

Welcome Olivia Hayden Levine!

William M. Hannay (Schiff, Hardin & Waite) <whannay@schiffhardin.com> 🎁

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FON MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892; USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29435; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472. 🎁

Lainie Brown (EBSCO Publishing) sent along this picture of her little Christmas elf. Isn’t she adorable?

Rumors from page 1

Travel pages. Sue talks specifically about the TRLN (Triangle Research Library Consortium) deal with OUP, also Duke’s eBook Advocacy Group and eBook Boot Camp. Her report goes on for too many pages to reproduce here but I recommend that you look it over! http://jhulibrariestravel.blogspot.com/2012/11/charleston-conference-november-2012.html

Featuring another session at Charleston Conference 2012, did you see Find>Search on Friday, November 9. It was a great panel that took the position that SEARCH is only a stepping-stone to FIND. Moderated by Meg White (Rittenhouse), it included Elisabeth Leonard (SAGE), Stanley Wilder (UNC-Charlotte), Elizabeth Willingham (Silverchair) and Marjorie M.K. Hlava. And did y’all see that Marjorie (founder and chair of Access Innovations, Inc.), is among 32 New Mexicans honored as 2013 “Women of Influence” by Albuquerque Business First. A pioneer in the information management industry, Marjorie founded Access Innovations in 1978. She holds continued on page 34
Op Ed — Ivory Tower vs. the Dark Side: A Rebuttal to “Joining the Dark Side”

by Katy Ginanni (Collection Development Librarian, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University)
<ksginanni@email.wcu.edu>

The April, 2012 issue of Against the Grain included an article by Laura Harris, “Joining the Dark Side,” which I read with interest. Harris described her transition from working in an academic library to working for EBSCO, the developer and vendor for the wonderful LibGuides. The article held interest for me personally, since I experienced a similar change earlier in my career. I had spent seven years in academic libraries when I received an unexpected and unsolicited job offer from EBSCO Subscription Services (later EBSCO Information Services). Like Laura, I had not considered working for a vendor. Well, that’s not quite true. I had actually talked with a couple of folks at EBSCO before, but only for a possible position at their headquarters in Birmingham, AL. I thought I was completely uninterested in any sort of customer-facing position. And yet, that is what I ended up doing (in three different positions) for fifteen years!

During the first year of my tenure with EBSCO I was talking with a colleague at a reception, and I started a sentence with, “When I was a librarian…” Seconds later, Lynn Fortney, director of EBSCO’s Biomedical Division, turned away from her own conversation to interrupt me with, “You are still a librarian! You just work in many libraries now, instead of one.” And that is the ethos that I shared with the many other librarians at EBSCO. We were librarians who happened to be working for a vendor. But during my years at EBSCO, I came to have great respect not only for many of my non-librarian colleagues, but also some of our competitors and the publishers with whom we collaborated.

And of course, not all of those other vendor-types were librarians. What I respected about those other folks was their integrity; their knowledge not only of their businesses but also of the libraries (and, by extension, the library users) they served; and their sincere concern that they and their companies provide a good service or product for their customers.

For years, I have attended conferences with programs about the “vendor-librarian” relationship. In fact, I was still a baby librarian when I attended my first Charleston Conference back in 1988, and while listening to someone drone on about a particular publisher, I wondered, “But why is this publisher being criticized for making money? Isn’t that the point of a business in a free market? Should we expect to get that publisher’s journals at cost?” I was, most definitely, naïve and idealistic. Certainly I have since come across publishers with whom I wish I could refuse to do business. Another early lesson I learned at EBSCO was the Golden Rule: He who has the gold rules. Some publishers have content that we simply cannot or buy.

But I digress. My real point is this: Why on earth, after so much discussion of the vendor-librarian relationship and talk about how we can work as partners and we should collaborate to meet the needs of our end users, do we still refer to vendors and publishers as “The Dark Side?” In my opinion, this only perpetuates the belief that vendors and publishers are inherently untrustworthy, perhaps even evil.

I know that upon reading this, many people will think, “This woman needs to get a sense of humor.” And indeed, the title of this column was proposed as a tongue in cheek suggestion. It turns out that I feel too passionately about this to make an attempt at humor, because language matters. In ways that our conscious minds sometimes aren’t aware of, language affects and influences the way we think and feel about others. In the seminal The Handbook of Nonsexist Writing, Miller and Swift give examples of ways that sexist, or non-gender-neutral, writing can affect the ways that little girls see the world. Non-gender-neutral language can put limits on what little girls can imagine for themselves and their futures. In the United States, many institutions — including schools, colleges, universities, and local and state governments — have placed bans on “hate speech,” which is usually recognized as any communication that maligns a person (or people) based on his or her gender, sexual orientation, race, or other identifiers. It is becoming more generally recognized that hate speech can lead to hate acts.

Now, I’m not suggesting that after engaging in disparaging talk about vendors, even in jest, some librarians may escalate to keying cars, or putting nasty signs in a vendor’s office, or violating their civil rights. But talking about vendors in a negative way, even in jest, could lead people not to trust them fully, or not treat them fairly in a business negotiation. So I ask you to consider removing that tired, not really so funny phrase — referring to vendors as “the dark side” — from your vocabularies. In the end, it really affects us all.

Endnote
1. I later learned that it was not Laura Harris’ intention to title the column “Joining the Dark Side,” and that there was a miscommunication somewhere in the editing process.

Rumors
from page 6

21 patent claims in two patents for a number of technological processes including automatic text processing and management and software-based methods for searching chemical names in text-containing documents. She was chosen from more than 400 nominees by a panel of judges based on her leadership, community service and support of other women in the professional world. Congratulations to Marjorie! Hip Hip Hooray!
http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/

I am especially interested in all the innovative formats/types of information delivery products that are emerging every day. And from all directions! Amherst College is launching a new digital publishing venture that will offer peer-reviewed books written by leading scholars in the humanities and the social sciences that are then carefully edited and made available for free online. Conceived by Amherst College Librarian Bryn Geffert, Amherst College Press will be housed in the college’s Frost Library and will solicit manuscripts from scholars who may be especially receptive to new publishing paradigms at a time when traditional
drug metabolism and interactions. It also provides a wealth of toxicological, regulatory, and marketing information, all written by leading international experts in the field... This reference is essential for researchers interested in all aspects of drug development, and chemists, pharmacologists, pharmaceutical specialists, toxicologists, molecular toxicologists, and clinicians, including practitioners and physicians. (Encyclopedia of Drug Metabolism and Interactions is available online now. For further information visit wileyonlinelibrary.com/...)

In August, Cambridge University Press published The Cambridge History of Religions in America three-volume set. (ISBN: 9781107013346, 2736 pages, $450). Edited by Stephen J. Stein, Indiana University, Bloomington, this reference “traces the historical development of religious traditions in America, following both their transplantation from other parts of the world and the inaugurations of new religious movements on the continent of North America. This story involves complex relationships among these religious communities as well as the growth of distinctive theological ideas and religious practices. The net result of this historical development in North America is a rich religious culture that includes representatives of most of the world’s religions...”

academic presses are reducing the number of titles they publish. “We will be the first university or college press to publish books solely under an open-access model,” said Geffert. “Although several university presses publish a few books each year under such a model, I do not know of another university press in the United States doing all books, all open-access.” The Amherst College Press will publish solely in liberal arts disciplines such as political science, literary studies, history, economics and anthropology — areas for which Amherst is well known. The press will produce books in formats that will be suitable for most e-readers; print-on-demand may be available. The press will not focus on print production or distribution. Plans are in place to hire a director and two editors to staff the press. Funding for the press will come from the Frost Library and from an endowed position for which the college is currently raising money. The college also expects that the content of the Amherst College-affiliated literary magazine The Common will be freely available online under the open-access model governing the press, while The Common will continue to use its own resources to produce the publication’s print version.  

Speaking of the Charleston Conference, we had great Twitter input from the awesomely energetic Rachel Fleming (Western Carolina University) who is a recent member of the Charleston Conference planning group. Rachel asked several questions and gave us input regarding Twitter feeds! And talk about energetic Don Hawkins blogged the Conference. Check it out on the Conference Website! http://www.katina.info/conference

I was interested in Michael Winecoff’s (UNC-Charlotte) Custom financial reports poster session on Thursday. His session illustrated ways to export ILS from fund or associated fields into Excel and create custom reports. See his slides at http://2012charlestonconference.sched.org/event/2c48e060f7b97731ea173b518387c3468#.UPNhKbYry3g.  

Was excited to get an email from Audrey Melkin (Director of Business Development, Atypon) <Audrey@atypon.com> the other day via Linked In. Audrey said that it was freezing in NYC. She said it was cold outside as well as in her apartment! Can you believe that Audrey has been at Atypon for over nine and a half years, longer than any of her other gigs at Oxford University Press, Wiley, Henry Holt, and CatchWord/Ingenta.
FRANK GAYLORD, v. UNITED STATES, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, 678 F.3d 1339; 2012 U.S. App. LEXIS 9719.

Frank Gaylord held copyright on a cluster of statues—“The Column”—nineteen stainless steel sculptures of a platoon of soldiers. This is the centerpiece of the Korean War Veteran’s Memorial in the National Mall in D.C. The USPS issued a stamp commemorating the Korean War armistice, and—you guessed it—it featured a photo of “The Column.” $6.8 million of these stamps were sold. And the Post Office made no attempt to seek Gaylord’s permission. Rather, it licensed the image from a photographer.

The stamp grossly infringed in three classes of items: (1) stamps used to send mail; (2) stamps kept by collectors; (3) images of the stamp on retail goods. Gaylord did not care for this and sued in the Court of Federal Claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1498(b). He won and then won again on the appeal. The case was remanded on the issue of damages, which is what this is about.

Gaylord wanted a 10% royalty on $30.2 million in revenue. He was denied this—given $5,000!—and again went up on appeal.

Section 1498(b) waives U.S. sovereign immunity for copyright infringement. As to damages, it says “recovery of his reasonable and entire compensation.” They had never typically received for letting folks put “The Yankee and YBP) and they supped Moroccan sounds good...
**Questions & Answers — Copyright Column**

**Column Editor:** Laura N. Gasaway (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC 27599; Phone: 919-962-2295; Fax: 919-962-1193) <laura_gasaway@unc.edu>

www.unc.edu/~unclng/gasaway.htm

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**QUESTION:** Now that the HathiTrust case has been decided, what impact will it have on an academic library? Does the decision impact e-reserves at all?

**ANSWER:** On October 10, 2012, the judge issued the opinion in Authors Guild v. HathiTrust, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 146169 (S.D.N.Y. 2012). From its Website, the HathiTrust is defined as: “a partnership of major research institutions and libraries working to ensure that the cultural record is preserved and accessible long into the future.” ([http://www.hathitrust.org/about#](http://www.hathitrust.org/about#)).

It is estimated that HathiTrust members have scanned more than seven million copyrighted works to date for the repository. In June 2011, the University of Michigan announced that it would make available to its students and faculty works from the corpus that it had determined were orphan works so they could access and download them. The university had established a protocol for searching for an author and posting the names of these works for 90 days in order to determine whether it would deem the work to be an orphan. Several other schools joined the project. In September 2011 the Authors Guild filed suit claiming that it had strong leads to authors and estates that hold copyright to the first 167 works listed by Michigan as orphan candidates. Then Michigan announced that it was suspending the program of determining which works were orphans, but it continues to host the seven million digitized works.

The litigation concerns whether an association can sue on behalf of its author members, and the judge answered that question in the negative. He also made a number of other interesting findings. (1) The scope of fair use is not limited by the section 108 library exceptions. (2) Search indexing is transformative and therefore is a fair use. (3) Libraries are not making commercial uses despite the fact they partnered with Google to obtain the digital copies. (4) Providing access for print-disabled individuals is fair use, and there is no market for such nor is one likely to develop. (5) There is no proof that HathiTrust is creating any security risks. (6) Defendant universities are required to provide equal access to the print-disabled, which is allowed under section 121 of the Copyright Act.

The opinion has little effect outside of the Southern District of New York, and it has no impact on electronic reserves. Further, the Authors’ Guild has announced that it intends to appeal the decision to the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

**QUESTION:** A photographic collection was donated to the library. May the library now reproduce items from the collection for posting on the Web? How should the photographs posted on the Web be attributed?

**ANSWER:** If the donor owned the copyrights to the photographs and if the copyrights were transferred to the library, the answer is yes. From the wording of the question, however, it appears that this was a simple transfer of ownership and not a written transfer of the copyrights as well. If the donation is fairly recent, it would be simple to go back to the donor and ask for a clarification of the ownership of the copyrights. Assignments of copyright must be in writing.

If the library does not own the copyrights, then it needs permission to post any of the photographs. It may get permission for the reproduction (posting) without owning the copyrights, but copyright ownership would be preferable. Assuming permission to post the photographs, proper attribution would be to the photographer with a note that the collection resides in the collection of the library.

**QUESTION:** The library has received a donated item that is obviously a reproduction. May the library accept that copy and use it?

**ANSWER:** Certainly, the library can accept the donation. Adding the item to the collection, however, is another matter. Libraries may add lawfully-acquired materials to their collections, but a copy that was a not a legitimate copy in the first place retains that status. Thus, adding it to the collection is problematic to the collection. The reason that a library might decide to accept such a donation even though it cannot add the item to the collection is to satisfy a donor. Most libraries have a policy to the effect that the library decides on a case-by-case basis whether donated items are added to the collection and which items are sold or disposed of in another manner. So, accepting the donation and then disposing of the reproduced copy falls within this policy.

**QUESTION:** An academic library is concerned about including art images in dissertations that reside in repositories or which are in the ProQuest database that is widely accessible to thousands of subscribers. Is such inclusion fair use?

**ANSWER:** Including photographs in dissertations is no problem when the dissertation is just maintained in the university library. When it is put on the Web, however, it is published; the same is true with ProQuest availability. A good question to ask is if the dissertation were to be published by a university press, would the press require the author to seek permission? Most often the answer is yes.

The fact that some of these are photographs of works of art may make some difference if the underlying work is in the public domain. [Bridgeman Art Library v. Corel Corp.](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science) held that exact duplication of paintings into transparencies was permitted because the underlying works were in the public domain and the photograph of that work had little originality and could not qualify for copyright protection on its own. So, if the photographs are of public domain paintings, inclusion of reproductions of the images is no problem. Photographs of three-dimensional works (like sculpture) may possess the requisite originality so that a photograph of even a public domain sculpture may qualify for copyright.

The “low-resolution” photograph cases really dealt with thumbnails, and it is likely that the photographs included in dissertations are more than thumbnails. It certainly may be fair use to include these, but there are no cases that say so. Accompanying the photograph with comment and criticism is important, but it will not necessarily insulate the use of the photograph from copyright infringement.

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**Rumors from page 54**

at UNC-Charlotte! During the Conference, we (Tom Gilson, Jack Montgomery and I) had the pleasure of interviewing Chuck’s fantastic boss, Stanley Wilder (mentioned above in Meg White’s panel). The ATG Penthouse Interviews are all emerging online at [http://www.against-the-grain.com](http://www.against-the-grain.com) and [http://www.katina.info/conference](http://www.katina.info/conference).

Had a great email from Alena Ptak-Danchak who said she was so sorry to have to miss the 2012 Charleston Conference. Alena had to attend a workshop in Thailand which unfortunately took place at the same time as Charleston! She says she will see us next year for sure! Alena is Keeper of Scientific Books and Head of Bodleian Science and Medical Libraries at the Radcliffe Science Library. What a great title — keeper of Scientific Books! [http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science)

The live-wire Susan Campbell sent word that her last day of work was Friday, December 28. Susan is moving to a new house in the
Another respondent noted that serials check-in is outsourced. One person noted that all of its titles are online except for leisure titles, which are not checked in.

Question five asks whether libraries that do not do check-in use another process to keep track of their serials. Eight respondents answered the question. Answers varied widely. Two respondents answered that they do not have any alternative process. One respondent said that serials immediately go to shelf and if there is no spot on the shelf, the issue might be an annual or something the library does not keep, and the student takes it to a staff member. That person adds that they do monthly checks for issues needing to be claimed. Another library said their check-in is outsourced. Another library said that they keep issues in boxes, but do not have much space, so some of their serials are online. One library noted that their library keeps a list of the library’s serials and has a marc record.

Question six asks all survey respondents whether serials check-in is still as relevant as it once was and if there is the need for change. 61.3% responded that it is still relevant. 20.3% responded in the negative. 18.4% responded that they were not sure. 10.9% of survey respondents skipped this question.

Question seven asks what libraries should do instead of check-in. 81 respondents (or 23.2% of respondents) answered the question. Among the more notable comments include someone who states that the relevancy and necessity of check-in is dependent on the library’s mission and circumstances. That person added, “Even where electronic serials constitute the norm, a decision to check in print (or not) must be determined by the role and relative importance of the print themselves rather than the volume or degree of emphasis on electronic titles.”

Discussion

The author submits that these survey results say that check-in is not relevant for some libraries and is for others. The reasons are not the same for all libraries in question. For some libraries, serials check-in may be required by legal or institutional auditing purposes, while for others, it may be due to patron preference or the lack of online access. However, if a library is considering ceasing serials check-in, the library should consider the size and organization of the collection, and library service models.

The library should also consider its mission, determine if the library’s constituents value serials check-in data, and create a plan. Questions about collection and usage statistics, budgeting, accreditation, work flows, and training should be addressed. Also, if the library is planning to rely on online access, assessing its reliability and sustainability is important.

Conclusion

It is not news that serials librarianship is changing faster than libraries can keep up and becoming increasingly complicated. The long-time trend of libraries emphasizing ownership of print materials has been gradually shifting towards online access in many libraries since the 1990s with the inception of aggregator databases. Cuts in budget and staff and increasing serials costs have further complicated the issue, making it vital for libraries to do more with less. These factors have caused some libraries to shift around staff assignments and budgets and for some, to make changes that they may not have considered before, in order to cope. “Doing more with less is an everyday practice; examining traditionally unchallenged assumptions is a necessity.”

For some libraries, one change has been to buck print serials check-in, something long considered necessary. This study’s data reflects that the necessity and relevance of serials check-in depends on the library, its constituents, and how the library best serves patrons.

Appendix – Copy of Survey Text

To Check in or Not to Check in: A Survey of Librarians on the Relevance of Serials Check-in

This survey is designed to determine the prevalence of libraries that do serials check-in and whether it is relevant in today’s world of an increasing presence of electronic journals. Whether you check in on an ILS or a kardex makes no difference. We are simply interested in whether you check in your serials and why or why not.

1. Which option best describes your library type?
   - Academic Library
   - Community College Library
   - Public Library
   - Law Library
   - Research Library
   - Corporate Library
   - Other Library Type

2. Does your library do serials check-in?
   - Yes (advances to question 3)
   - No (advances to question 4)

3. If your library does serials check-in, what is the purpose?
4. If your library does not do serials check-in, why not?
5. If your library does not do serials check-in, do you use some other process?
   - Is there a need for change? My research hinges on whether serials check-in is still relevant in today’s world where electronic journals are the norm for many libraries. It is reported in the library literature that some libraries have ceased doing check-in of their print serials.
6. Do you feel that serials check-in is still as relevant and necessary as it once was?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not Sure
7. If you answered no to the previous question, what do you think libraries should do instead?