with other library services and tools through APIs and cloud services. As mentioned above, consortium support is only going to become increasingly important and valuable as resource sharing expands within the United States.

There are three subscription maintenance stories that are worthwhile to present.

The first story is about the JSTOR Current Scholarship program that began to be promoted in 2010 with a go-live date for January 2011. After many pleas from librarians from many sectors, JSTOR/ITHAKA made a commitment to start providing current subscription access on their platform. As one of the oldest electronic resource platforms around, JSTOR has great brand recognition on academic campuses throughout North America, and this move was one of the most impressive moves to responding to libraries voicing frustrations over having to direct patrons to different platforms for current subscriptions and the historic collections. To their credit, JSTOR/ITHAKA followed the Transfer Code of Conduct for transferring content from one provider to another quite closely in almost all cases of the current content they were providing. In some instances, the contracts signed with individual content providers did not allow much lead time in announcing the move to the JSTOR platform, but JSTOR made concerted effort to make the transfer of titles to their platform as widely known as possible. Starting in June 2010, academic libraries were told to keep an eye out for content moving to the JSTOR platform, and a small title list of what had been negotiated up to that point was released. Many librarians began work to evaluate the costs and coverage options of these titles and inform their public services and faculty of the impending move of content. In September 2010, a more complete list of the titles to be transferred was released, and many librarians began to change their records and to indicate to their intermediaries that these changes were imminent. However, some intermediaries stated that since they did not yet have a finalized list from JSTOR/ITHAKA, they could not begin the transfer of a library’s renewal list until the final list was received from JSTOR/ITHAKA. Librarians continued on with their local record changes and updating the information/renewal with their intermediaries all the same, and in some instances multiple spreadsheets were exchanged. In the end, most titles were successfully transferred but there was at least one case where a library experienced a loss of access due to titles missed during this transfer experience. In cases where short-staffed libraries outsourced the electronic journal activation work to their intermediaries, there was at least one case where the titles did not get transferred till June 2011, a full year after the initial announcements and title lists were made available.

In the second story, the transfer announcements were not wide-spread and not as well-known. In June 2011, at the Special Libraries Association Conference, the American Institute of Physics announced that it would be discontinuing support for other societies’ content on their Scitation platform in 2012. Initially, the changeover was set for January 2012, but it was then extended through June 2012 since many publishers were unable to find a new platform for their content readily. This information was not as widely distributed as the JSTOR transfer news was, and while librarians were in attendance at the SLA Conference did bring the information back to their home institutions, it was not always readily conveyed to the librarians and support staff managing the subscriptions. In January 2012, one intermediary still listed in their title database that much of this content was still on the Scitation platform, and there were not any notes to indicate that a move to other platforms had occurred or was going to occur within this calendar year.

In the last story, Taylor and Francis has moved publication platform three times in a ten-year time span. With each move to a new platform, subscriptions had to be re-instated and re-established for many libraries, intermediaries were not always as pro-active in this management, and libraries and librarians experienced a loss of access to content they had previously held on a prior platform.

All in all, the conclusion from these stories is clear: subscription management in the electronic environment is still very much an issue and one in which intermediaries can improve their services to libraries and librarians.

As noted previously, librarians are now collaborating more than ever with their institutional research offices and are working hand-in-hand with these departments to better understand and track local publishing and research production. In part, this is being done to prove value to the institution but also in order to maximize the funding support and to try to best quantify research support from both areas. In this way both departments are working very closely with faculty. There is a unique role here for the intermediary in helping the library/librarians with local author tracking and local publication. This is an area where there could be growth for the intermediary if they can find a way to include such information within their title bases.

Continued on page 29