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Reports of Meetings

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And They Were There

And They Were There now has editor I (**Julia Gelfand**, UC-Irvine) and editor II (**Sever Bordeianu**, U. of New Mexico) to help us keep up with the many, many, many meetings that go on every day. How 'bout them Westerners! (Look, when you live in Charleston, S.C., everywhere is West!)

The 36th SALALM Annual Conference San Diego, June 1-6, 1991
by **Claire-lise Benaud** (University of New Mexico)

SALALM, which stands for Seminar for the Acquisitions of Latin American Library Materials, held its 36th annual conference this past June in San Diego. As usual it attracted librarians from the major U.S. libraries (and Mexico and England) concerned with the acquisition — as the name indicates — but also with the selection and processing of Latin American materials. Book dealers from all over Latin America and the Caribbean also set up exhibits. Book dealers play a vital role at SALALM as SALALM may be the only place where librarians have the opportunity to setup or review business deals. The annual conference usually takes place in an American city and is hosted by a library with a strong Latin American collection (the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University this year) but approximately every four years the conference is held south of the border.

The first two days of the Conference start with reports of various SALALM committees: Reference Services, Editorial Board, RLG members, OCLC users, Bibliography, Marginalized People & Ideas, etc. These committees discuss current and potential issues; each committee member also reports on progress or problems occurring in their own institutions. Unlike many library conferences, the number of participants in relatively small (some

200 this year) and as a result conference goers get to know each other quite well over the years. This makes the conference particularly “productive”—and enjoyable—because each librarian has the opportunity to become active and to contribute ideas as well as receive information. This year the conference had a very broad theme, “*Latin American Studies into the Twenty-First Century: New Focus, New Formats, New Challenges*”. As usual, the conference reflected general interests as well as library-related interests.

The political and economic position of Latin America vis-a-vis the rest of the world, especially the Soviet Union, China, and Japan, was addressed through a number of panels. Panelists redefined Latin America's economic role in the New World Order. An entire panel was devoted to Peru. Three aspects of Peruvian life were highlighted: the informal sector, a sobering description of how Peruvians cope with the political and economic crisis, and the role played by the rather obscure Shining Path revolutionary organization. Two panels were devoted to “hot” topics: the environment and human rights. Panelists described environmental movements and environmental projects in Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico; they listed severe problems, especially deforestation (to allow more cattle raising and provide cheap hamburgers to the U.S. fast food industry) and the use of harmful pesticides. The panelists on human rights presented a chilling description of torture and human rights violations in Latin America and more specifically in Guatemala.

A number of panels dealt more specifically with library issues: Latin American library materials prices and how to stretch the library budget, resource sharing, preservation of Latin American microforms, Latin American publishing, the Latin American material, Conspectus and librarian-

ship in Brazil. New technologies to provide computerized information on Latin America were also discussed. Speakers described several databases: Chile News, Info-South, Reuter Textline, and showed the audience how to access library online catalogs with strong Latin American holdings in the United States. Next year's SALALM conference will be held in Austin, Texas.

And, dear readers, wonder of wonders! Another perspective on SALALM arrived and added this new info:

by **Patrick Dawson** (Univ. of California - Irvine)

The majority of the panel discussions dealt with technology and information—information access, retrieval and its effect on reference services as well as bibliography and acquisition. However, an underlying theme continues to be prices. This was evident from speaking to the vendors, discovering that some printing charges have gone up 150-300% and finding that many libraries are having to cancel subscriptions due to huge price increases and are not able to acquire materials at a level that will support their faculty and programs.

Not everything was work, however, and how could it be considering that the hotel was on the Bay and the weather was perfect. Included in the not so academic programs were a reception at the University of California, San Diego and a wonderful book dealer's reception held at the Harbor House in Seaport Village, San Diego.

Feather River Institute
May 29 - June 1, 1991
by **Joe Barker** (UC, Berkeley)

The second Acquisitions Conference at the Feather River Institute was another great success for all attendees. The setting is a rustic mountain resort

lodge, about an hour north of Lake Tahoe, where relaxation, casual dress, family-style dinners, a golf course, horseshoe and tennis courts, ping-pong tables, and massive stone fireplaces create an ambiance in which candor, humor, and sincerity thrive. Unlike many high-pressured, over-booked conferences of today, if discussions following presentations are going strong at Feather River, the group agrees to keep talking, and flexes the schedule as needed, so that everyone has a chance to air his or her questions and views.

Acquisitions personnel issues were one of the themes of this year's conference. **Jan Maxwell** (U of Oregon) developed thoughts on "Librarianship as Machiavelli Might Have Described It." **Richard Brumley** (Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo) outlined the gamut of personnel issues encountered in acquisitions. **Andrew Shroyer** (UD, Santa Barbara) sketched a proposal for more objective performance evaluations. **Margo Sasse** and **Patricia Smith** (Colorado State U) probed some possibilities to optimize use of vendor-performed selection under enhanced profiling systems to accomplish collection development. **Pam Zager** (Iowa State U) presented a model for economizing on staffing by delegating some tasks, such as vendor selection, to knowledge-based expert systems.

Book jobbers and serial agents were well represented. **Bob Mastejulia** discussed personnel management using his company, Baker & Taylor, as the model. **Adrian Alexander** spoke on the selection and development of library professionals as sales representatives, drawing on his experiences at Faxon. **Don Satsky** of Blackwell/North America gave a first-hand, anecdote-laden history of monograph wholesaling from the inception of approval plans to the present.

Bill Fisher, Associate Professor at the library school at San Jose State U, summarized the major issues of acquisitions vs. access resulting from electronic publishing.

Lively discussion abounded throughout the conference, continued at meals and breaks over scrumptious, abundant homemade food, lovingly served. Beer, wine, soft drinks and fun were rolled into the package for a memorable and powerful conference spanning acquisitions, collection development, vendor services and opportunities, and automation pertaining to these tasks.

Tenets of acquisitions work may be one of the themes of the 1992 conference. Enrollment will again be limited to around 75 participants by the small, intimate nature of the accommodations. Contact Tom Leonhardt, (e-mail: tleonhardt@madvax.uop.edu), Dean of Libraries at the University of the Pacific, to get on the mailing list!

IATUL, July 8-12, 1991,
Cambridge, Mass.
by **Julia Gelfand** (UC-Irvine)

The 14th biennial meeting of IATUL, the International Association of Technological University Libraries, took place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. July 8-12, 1991 bringing together about 100 librarians from all over Eastern and Western Europe, South Africa, Argentina, Hong Kong as well as the United States and Canada. The theme of the meeting was "*Technology and Information Services: Evolution or Revolution*" and formal papers, poster sessions, and discussion groups explored the issues related to how science and technology libraries need to be able to respond to integrating services and resources utilizing technology. Papers covered issues such as transmission of information by networks, cooperative collection development, expert systems and artificial intelligence applications in libraries, cd-rom networks, electronic publishing, document delivery programs, implications of electronic publishing.

In addition to the sessions and

exhibits, there was a full schedule of field trips to libraries and museums in the Boston/Cambridge area including visits to and tours of the Harvard and MIT Libraries, the John F. Kennedy Library, Massachusetts State Archives, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Public Library, Boston Science Museum, and the new library at Northeastern University. This was the first time that IATUL met in North America and there was encouragement to have another meeting toward the end of the decade on the west coast.

NASIG, 6th Annual Conference
San Antonio, Texas —Trinity
University
June 14-17, 1991
by **Marilyn P. Fletcher**
(University of New Mexico)

NASIG (The North American Serials Interest Group) has only been in existence for about six years. It was the offshoot of a similar group in the United Kingdom. There are currently about 900 members and about 400 attended the conference. The membership consists of serialists, publishers, and vendors. NASIG meets annually at a university and attendees stay in dormitories and have room and board included in conference cost.

The conference officially began Friday night with an outdoor dinner (Tex-Mex, of course) and meeting. Part of the program included an historical talk about Trinity University and San Antonio. This offered a nice preview for ALA Midwinter, 1992 which will be held in San Antonio. The conference theme was "*A Changing World*" and most of the presentations centered on electronic information in various forms.

Speakers at the plenary sessions represented publishers, librarians, and research distributors. Technology is changing so rapidly that it is often difficult to keep up with the trends, much less establish policies and procedures. Some of the notable questions and ideas presented by the speakers included:

Librarians should look at technological change as evolution, not revolution.

The electronic journal will be definitive and archival — not the paper which we print it off on.

Illustrations and graphics are not yet at the same technology as text.

Some options for access on a local system include LAN (access to indexes via CD-ROM); local bulletin boards for electronic journals; on-line catalog could be a gateway to electronic journals; use of the university (i.e., institutional) mainframe to store e-journals.

Copy center service should offer disk to paper production.

Vendor assignment — acquisitions profile—selector profiles should all be automatic and interactive.

Collaborative research will be done at a distance and will become the norm.

Will the distribution of information be fee-based or free?

Are electronic journals the solution to the pricing crisis? [Probably not in this decade].

We will rely more on vendors for price analysis; more artificial intelligence is needed to collect and massage data for libraries and to offer more interaction with users.

Multiple databases should be accessible from one search.

More integration between systems will be demanded by libraries — not merely the ability to download but true integration.

Serials control systems should provide vendor performance statistics from check-in records.

Claims, cancellations, and status reports need multiple access by libraries, vendors, publishers.

The morning meetings consisted of speakers; the afternoons offered a variety of workshops. The three workshops which I attended were: SUPER-OPAC: Records for Ar-

ticles and Chapters in Your Catalog; Marketing a New Social Science/Humanities Journal; and Acquiring and Cataloging the Elusive Latin American Serial. I was especially interested in SUPER-OPAC ideas about entering table of contents into bibliographic records. Also covered was entering journal contents entries (already available through CARL's Uncover). One of the questions posed was whether or not there will be a delay for entering these additional fields and thereby creating a backlog for patrons. Advantages and disadvantages of separate versus integrated files was also discussed (i.e., does loading the catalog overwhelm the user?)

The workshop on Marketing a New Social Science/Humanities Journal was very interesting as we heard from a scholarly publisher about the expense and the marketing of a new journal. The speaker/discussion leader was from the University of Chicago Press. Older, established journals subsidize new journals which may run in the red for about five years on average. From the workshop on elusive Latin American serials, the speakers agreed that libraries get the best service by dealing with agents within countries and that current catalog rules are universal.

Florida Library Association

The theme for the 68th annual convention of the Florida Library Association was "**Each One, Reach One.**" For what seemed the first time in many years, the program planners were required to make visible the connection between the specific program/events and the overall theme. Many did. And so it happened that on Thursday, May 9, three especially-useful programs "overlapped" on the clock and their topics. Thanks to the

conference contract with The Hour Recording Company, of St. Petersburg, this limit did not exclude anyone from this series of program lessons: *Leaders, Heroes, Mentors, and the Future of the Periodicals/Serials Caucus.*

The *LAMA Caucus Luncheon* speaker was **Phillip Van Hooser**, known in a wide region thereabouts, for his personnel work in leadership training. He titled his offering "*Climate for Leadership.*" He presented several well-said versions of rules for earning respect from, while serving and acting for, those over whom one is given the name leader.

The *Technical Services Caucus*, along with the cosponsor *Periodicals/Serials Caucus*, presented "*Heroes in Our Profession.*" **Dr. Carol Cubberley** and **Jeanette Ward** each spoke of persons they had personally chosen as professional heroes, and why. Ending the suspense for the audience, these persons were named.

Following are brief comments on some of the other speeches and speakers.

Henrietta D. Avram was a systems analyst who surely was involved in the pursuit of standards even before she joined the Library of Congress. She is still active there in linked systems and automation planning efforts, and was largely responsible for the MARC format.

Sanford Berman, that wonderful gadfly, is seen by many as a hero, even for what is often described as his eccentricity. He has long taken on the Library of Congress and won many battles. He also does battle over the state of L. C. Subject Headings; even now, when the attention and discussion of many others have finally turned toward subject authority questions.

Daniel Gore is often recognized by his witty titles, and as a champion of intellectual freedom, and warrior against censorship. One famous article comparing letting them eat cake

to reading catalog cards, has prompted many to conclude that a library's collection must not be Just in Case; but be use-driven, or Just in Time.

Michael Gorman has long approached complex issues, including the euphoria which preceded the first automated catalogs. Through his wit in his writings, he has focused attention of the profession on the many problems involved in the solution. He still writes, often about cataloging. Once an enemy, to many he has become a hero.

John B. Merriman was attached to the B. H. Blackwell Periodicals Division, with its first Periodicals Conference in 1975, which preceded the UKSIG (United Kingdom Serials Interest Group), which preceded the NASIG (North American Serials Interest Group), all of which are renowned for dynamic dialog between more than just serials librarians. He has added to scholarship on all sections of the serials chain, including the work of a periodicals agent, and relating the publish-or-

perish predicament to the information explosion.

Ernest C. Richardson was active in writing, promoting international library cooperation (notably: LC Project B 1927-32, and the committee leading to the 1907 cataloging rules), shared cataloging, and the theories and practice of classification.

The *Women in Libraries Caucus*, along with the cosponsor *Paraprofessional Caucus*, presented "**Learning from Each Other: Using Networks and Mentoring to Advance in the Profession.**" General advice, plus some specific names and sources, were offered in a positive, multi-audience environment.

The Periodicals/Serials Caucus took stock in itself and its future within the Florida Library Association at a worthwhile business/short program meeting. With the association searching for a way to strengthen the exploding number of caucuses, each member might have

to choose a small, strict number for individual membership in the future. The Periodicals/Serials Caucus, or those 40 present (1990-91 caucus membership totaled 44), wholeheartedly agreed that the caucus must continue, de-

spite the widely varied characteristics of caucus members and the difficulty which this sometimes creates. Among other topics, were three original documents composed for the occasion by Ruth C. Armstrong, Caucus Chair 1990-91. A Questionnaire had been mailed to all members and many friends of the caucus, prior to the conference. The several written responses returned, were compiled and published. ■

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