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And They Were There

Column Editors: **Sever Bordeianu** (U. of New Mexico) and
Julia Gelfand (UC-Irvine)

SALALM and the Area Studies Community, 1992 Annual Conference Report

by **Claire-Lise Benaud** (University
of New Mexico)

The 37th annual conference of SALALM (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials) took place at the University of Texas at Austin, May 30 — June 4, bringing together Latin American book dealers and Latin Americanist librarians. Despite torrential rain and Spartan accommodations in the Jester Center dormitory, some 260 people registered including librarians from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico and Spain. English and Canadian librarians were present as well and one can now say that SALALM is truly an international organization: the 1992/93 SALALM president will be Pat Noble, from the University of London. As usual, book dealers from all over Latin America set up exhibits.

The theme of the conference was "SALALM and the Area Studies Community," and formal papers explored how research libraries need to respond to area studies programs. Papers covered issues such as area studies in the 1990's, Latin American studies in the private liberal arts university, collection development for area studies, the education of area studies librarians, and the ARL Foreign Area Project. Following are sketches of some of the issues presented by the panelists.

Davydd Greenwood (Cornell University) gave a general overview of area studies from World War II to today. He noted that federal funding increased after World War II and then steadily decreased until recently and that the federal government failed to recognize new interactions, such as South-South relations. He contended that today, well established area studies programs on U. S. campuses are competing with newer programs such as ethnic or women's studies programs.

Richard Wood (Trinity University) gave a first-hand account of his experience as a professor of Spanish Literature

at Trinity. He expressed the view that competency in a foreign language is a key component for a successful area studies program and that this fact is often overlooked in American universities. He presented a number of solutions, such as study abroad and the hiring of foreign professors, to remedy the problem.

Ross Atkinson (Cornell University) summarized the major issues facing collection development for area studies. He stressed that the new economic reality — i.e., the decreasing purchasing power of libraries — will require that libraries cooperate not only in collection development but also at the human resources level. The expertise of area studies selectors and bibliographers — which have subject and language background — should be shared among libraries. He also noted that new technologies may alleviate the high cost of area studies collections only in some instances, since in many parts of the world publications are not available in a digitized form.

Library-related issues such as acquisitions and cataloging, were also discussed during committee meetings and throughout program meetings. Latin American approval plans, the bibliography of Latin American science and technology, and the cataloging of Latin American serials and legal materials were discussed at length. In addition to the sessions and the exhibits a day trip to San Antonio mission sites was included in the conference. **Adan Benavides**, independent historian, described the Franciscan administration of five San Antonio missions established along the San Antonio River in the eighteenth century and how the "secular" clergy assumed the administration of the former missions in the latter part of the century. *Salalmistas* had a chance to visit the San Jose Mission, the Espada Mission, the Concepcion Mission and the San Antonio de Valero Mission, known as "The Alamo." Hands-on demonstrations of Latin American databases and tours of UT-Austin libraries were also offered to all SALALM members.

NASIG Annual Conference by Peg Heinemann (U. of New Mexico)

The theme of the seventh annual conference of the **North American Serials Interest Group** was "If We Built It: Scholarly Communication and Networking Technologies." The conference was held June 18th through the 21st at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Just over 500 people attended out of a membership of approximately 1,000 serialists, publishers and vendors.

In addition to the plenary sessions, conference participants were able to choose from 18 NASIG workshops and eight concurrent sessions with SSP, the Society for Scholarly Publishing. An Electronic Networking Workshop, conducted by **Birdie MacLennan** of the University of Vermont, owner and moderator of the *Serialist*, was offered as a pre-conference activity on Thursday evening. It was limited to the first 50 people registering, and interest was evidently quite high as it filled up immediately. The workshop provided a good overview of networking resources and electronic communication. Discussion included practical tips, E-mail ethics, and suggestions for access.

The conference was tightly scheduled but a few social events allowed us all the opportunity for more informal conversation. A reception and an excellent Greek dinner kicked off the beginning of the official conference Thursday evening. Friday night an outing was arranged to see the Chicago White Sox. Following the NASIG/SSP events on Saturday a special reception was held at the Mid-America Club, located on the 80th floor of the Amoco building. Needless to say, the views were spectacular.

Dr. Clifford Lynch, Director of Library Automation at the University of California, was the speaker for the first plenary session. His presentation, "Entwined: Transforming Scholarly

Communications and Libraries in the Age of Networked Information," focused on the changing relationship between scholarly communication and libraries. He discussed Internet ("a disorganized jumble of riches") at great length, emphasizing the fact that with 38 countries currently participating, it is rapidly going global. Dr. Lynch discussed the concepts of "modernization" versus "transformation" and how they apply to our present involvement with electronic information. Libraries are presently involved at the level of "modernization," or applying technologies to do something in a more cost efficient or cost effective way; e.g., a subscription service to electronic journals remains within the realm of "modernization." Dr. Lynch suggested that libraries will also need to consider their relationship with electronic data in a "transformational" way: changing the way things are done, and changing the tools that are used.

James J. O'Donnell, Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, presented "St. Augustine to NREN: The Tree of Knowledge and How It Grows." He stressed that as a "new age begins, it is imperative to know what age it draws to a close." He felt that as we move to electronic communication, it is not the age of writing or the printed word that is ending, but rather the "codex — the artifact that is printed, stitched at the left, read left to right and up and down." He suggests that librarians will need to continue to become specialists in software and sorting, finders and organizers. The publishers' role might very well decrease as the librarians' role increases in this new age of electronic communication.

Julia Blixrud from the Council on Library Resources, Washington, D. C., presented "Webs That Link Libraries, Librarians, and Information: Evolving Technical Standards for a Networking Age." Ms. Blixrud developed the image of a web to describe how technical standards affect our current information infrastructure. She described standards as a "strong, but flexible infrastructure that will support scholarly communication in the future." She discussed the need for standards in data

content, structure, display, transfer, access, connectivity, navigation and tracking of electronic data.

Anita Lowry, Deputy Head, Butler University Reference Department and Director of Electronic Text Service, Columbia University Libraries, presented "Landlords and Tenants: Who Owns Information, Who Pays For It, and How?" Ms. Lowry examined the "shifting but symbiotic roles of publishers and libraries in the shared control of electronic information." She discussed the issues relating to copyright and licensing, ownership, access and use. She addressed the question of what is covered by "fair access." She concluded with the idea that libraries are currently "paying owner rates for renters rights" of our electronic data.

Charles B. Reed, Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, spoke on "Higher Education in the 90's: Growth, Regression, or Status Quo?" Some of the issues he discussed included the publication of too many research journals, increased faculty loads and the technological shift from print to electronic information. He also suggested that in the next decade, more emphasis will develop on teaching, and less on publishing.

Willard McCarty, Assistant Director of the Center for Computing in the Humanities, University of Toronto, and the creator of *The Humanist*, spoke on "A Potency of Life: Scholarship in the Electronic Age." He suggested that electronic information focuses on processes rather than products, and will become the primary vehicle of scholarship in the future.

The NASIG workshops, informal discussion groups and concurrent sessions with SSP, dealt with many of the nitty-gritty, hands-on types of issues: The ability of EDI-electronic data interchange to allow immediate access to publication data was discussed, along with its use by the larger publishers, vendors and librarians — NISO will ballot the revision of the Z39.1 standard in the Fall of 1992 — The issue of some subscription agents throwing away first claims was also discussed — Faxon stated that 50% of all claims do not accomplish their intended goal —

Innovative release #8 should be in the mail by January 1993.

Other topics discussed include adequacy of current copyright legislation in treating electronic media — qualities of a good serials manager — predictive check-in — automotive and human judgment in claiming — the current use of the SISAC symbol and the issue of claiming as a service failure.

The conference provided a comprehensive and informative look at the impact and ramifications of electronic communications, as well as a venue for sharing current ideas and techniques useful in serials management.

European Convention of Library Suppliers and Information Providers Meets in Amsterdam by **Buzzy Basch** (Chicago, Illinois)

Librarians and library suppliers from Europe and North America met in Amsterdam at the end of February. The meeting — ECLIPS '92 — focused on supplier-library partnerships.

Speakers from the United States included **Buzzy Basch** on the future of subscription agencies, **Toni Carbo Bearman** addressing information science in the year 2000, and **Robert Wedgworth** on IFLA's plans for the year 2000.

At the meeting librarians and suppliers indicated that they were experiencing economic conditions similar to those facing the industry in North America. They appear to be looking to similar solutions: the presentations and exhibits emphasized communications, service and technology.

Chicago Meetings of AAUP and SSP by **Mark Sexton** (Mark Sexton Associates)

This year's annual meeting of the Society of Scholarly Publishing in Chicago ran true to form as one of the best forums for serious discussion of the problems and potential rewards facing librarians and their suppliers.

Meeting maven **Patricia Scarry** of the University of Chicago Press also set up overlap sessions with AAUP and NASIG, but the goal of sharing was only partly realized, particularly by AAUP members who largely ignored the joint sessions.

SSP also had amusement and surprises from some of the publisher speakers. **Michael D. Springer**, Associate Publisher of the American Medical Association, laid several knocks on upstart rival Whittle Communications as he described his own organization's recent entry into new modes of medical information for both doctors and laymen. Surprise was registered by various publishers when they heard President **Ed Barry** of Oxford describe chapter and verse of his company's strategy for improvement in the troubled academic and library markets. Librarians were interested to hear his plan to lower prices through increased paperbacking of scholarly monographs.

The AAUP meeting had few

surprises, with a substantial portion of the time devoted to workshops and seminars on the business of publishing. However, keynoters **Ken Arnold**, Rutgers University Press Director and **Dick Debacher**, Associate Director of Southern Illinois University Press, did address the challenges of electronic publishing, along with Professor **Steve Harnad** of Princeton, editor of *Psychology* and **Andrew Rosenheim**, Director of Electronic Publishing for Oxford University Press (England). Debacher's paper was a witty and entertaining blend of university press history and contemporary technology, linked to the centennial celebration of his alma mater, the University of Chicago Press. In it he described two projects for providing low-demand monographs by electronic means — the IBID project of **David Cohen** of the College of Charleston and a consortium being developed among the largest ten university presses under the leadership of **Sandy Thatcher** of Penn State Press. Both projects would help

librarians and scholars meet the long-standing problem of low-demand monographs going out of print. They would be bit-mapped and stored for on-demand viewing and/or printing via the Xerox Docutech System.

After the meeting **ATG** queried AAUP's new president about the relative dearth of discussion about libraries, in view of the importance of the library market to university presses. Director **Beth Hadas** of the University of New Mexico Press assured us that the AAUP has "great concern for libraries and electronic publishing. Several committees are working on the complex issue," she said, "including a special new subcommittee on electronic publishing reporting directly to the president, headed by Ken Arnold and Frank Urbanowski of M.I.T. Press."

(Mark Sexton is a marketing and management consultant for publishers with offices in Pelham, N.Y.) ☛

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