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And They Were There

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And They Were There

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

Are there any volunteers out there? Julia is gallivanting (working really) in England and Sever is doing his best. How about a little help from our friends??? Any aspiring column editors out there? — Yr. Ed

Hot off the Press
(from ALA Midwinter)

**The ALCTS Automated
Acquisitions/In-Process
Control Systems
Discussion Group**

by **Rosann Bazirjian**
(Syracuse University)

The ALCTS Automated Acquisitions/In-Process Control Systems discussion group met on January 23, 1993 in Denver. We discussed a topic which should be of concern to every acquisitions librarian, namely, is there a future for acquisitions in a world of document delivery? The speakers were **Lynne Branche Brown** from Pennsylvania State University, **Jeri Van Goethem** from Duke University, and **Ron L. Ray** from the University of the Pacific. Interestingly enough, Lynne developed an expert system at the Raytheon Technical Information Center, which gave the acquisitions section the control over vendor selection. At Duke, Jeri's Acquisitions Department is responsible for invoice payment and vendor evaluation, not order placement or vendor selection. Ron spoke in more theoretical terms, stating that acquisitions and document delivery have separate functions in a library, and their paths should not cross. **Julie Gammon**, Chair of the Discussion Group, was the only librarian in the room whose Acquisitions Department is actually placing document delivery orders. This is an important topic which needs even further discussion and consideration, as our libraries subscribe to less and less journals and instead rely on more and more article delivery. The future of

acquisitions and its role as a service point in the library system of the future needs to be evaluated.

**Meckler Document Delivery &
Libraries/Internet & Libraries
December 7-8, 1992,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

by **Katina Strauch**
(College of Charleston)

In her inimitable way, **Nancy Melin Nelson** planned another winner of a conference. Beginning the Monday right after the weekend of the Army/Navy game (the cadets gave us a "fire drill" at 2:30 on Saturday night in our hotel room!), this conference was attended by over 600 participants, far greater than the number anticipated by the Conference planners. And it will apparently have a West Coast repeat conference as well as a continuing meeting in December, 1993.

The Conference was divided into two tracks — one dealing with Document Delivery & Libraries and the other dealing with the Internet & Libraries. The attendees were evenly divided between both tracks with many of us running around between tracks to try to hear as much as we could of both. The Conference was preceded by two workshops on "The ABC's of Document Delivery Systems" and "The ABC's of Electronic Networking," run, respectively, by **Mary Jackson**, Head of the ILL Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and **Craig Summerhill**, Coalition for Networked Information. There were also approximately thirteen exhibitors. The Conference was a mix of theoretical discussions of "The Virtual Library" by **Laverna Saunders** (University of Nevada/Reno) or "Organizing Networked Resources" by **William Moen** (Syracuse University) and nitty-gritty practical information about vendors such as UnCover (**Martha**

Whittaker), Adonis (**Paul Ashton**), OCLC FirstSearch (**Liz Bischoff**) and RLG Citadel (**Jim Coleman**).

It raised some interesting and increasingly familiar questions — Should libraries engage in document delivery? If they do, should they charge the end user for such services? Should libraries provide access to the Internet for their patrons? What will libraries be like in the future?

Time, as they say, will tell. But with Conferences such as this one we have a chance to affect change even as change is happening all around us.

**The Twelfth Charleston
Conference 1992**

**Issues in Book and Serial
Acquisition: The Medium
is the Message
Charleston S.C.,
November 3-7, 1992**

by **Janet L. Flowers**
(UNC-Chapel Hill)

Are members of the Scholarly Communication Chain Obsolete or Needed More than Ever?

The 1992 Charleston Conference displayed a remarkable dichotomy between talks centering on the obsolescence of the various players in the communication process and the almost overwhelming opportunities for expanded services for all of us in the networked environment.

It was difficult for me to reconcile these opposing viewpoints until a few weeks later when I heard **Dr. Joe Hewitt** present a talk on "Transcending the Rhetoric of Change." (presented at UNC-CH on November 23, 1992) With Dr. Hewitt's permission, I will incorporate a few of his ideas into my analysis of the conference.

This review is my personal attempt to make some sense of these opposite views of our current situation. One affirmed the value added by each of the

players. The other noted that technologies and the issues, particularly those of pricing models.

The need to affirm our traditional roles perhaps stems from two current trends. One is the increasing need for accountability in all segments of society. Higher education, in particular, is being scrutinized much more carefully and no longer enjoys the uncritical acceptance of it as a public good. The second is that, with the rapidly changing technologies and the uncertainties regarding where they are leading us, it is natural to feel nervous even about long-held values. These trends lead to an emphasis upon steadying our foundations while eyeing the future and speculating upon it.

To start at the beginning, we must not forget (as **Richard Abel** likes to remind us) that the role of scholarly communication in the maintenance and expansion of our culture and civilization is absolutely imperative. The role of authors in this process is, of course, to develop, add to, challenge, or adapt other data into information which ultimately becomes knowledge used to further our societies.

The traditional role of publishers has been that of gate-keepers, either rejecting the manuscripts not worthy of publication or editing those with merit into acceptable format. Publishers also add value through the presentation of the data/information contained in their products. This involves not only making the format more readable for users but also providing a product that will last, e.g., by using acid-free paper. In addition, they also provide copyright protection for the intellectual property of the author.

What value do vendors add? Many would say that their primary function is the efficient consolidation of the book distribution process, whereby they save publishers and libraries many hours, and getting books to the users faster. Others add processing services upon request.

What about the value added by libraries themselves? Libraries are no longer a monopoly (if they ever were) in the information field. What do they do that justifies their continuing support? To name a few areas, libraries provide for the bibliographic access to available materials, gather related materials (thereby enhancing value), provide physical protection, and offer

reference assistance in locating relevant materials, locally and elsewhere.

At this point, it seems hardly necessary to question the value of the librarians themselves but this was done at the conference. What do collection development librarians add that is of value? Well, they add an analysis of what is available and make selections based upon the relevance to their collections and the quality of the material. Acquisitions librarians contribute to this process by obtaining the materials in the most efficient and least costly manner possible. Finally, catalogers add value through the use of subject headings and classification to lead users to the relevant information.

Having reviewed these, one wonders why the question of value was raised at all. On the other hand, in all cases, questions were also raised about whether the players were a) doing enough, b) still viable in an electronic environment, or c) in jeopardy of being replaced by competitors from other fields. The questions regarding the value/relevance of our particular functions were enough perhaps to give us a case of jitters until almost every speaker put them to rest. We need now to address our energies to the questions above.

In considering ways to retain our relevance, several speakers noted the need to determine more precisely just what it is that our users require. Several noted the changing demographics not only of our student populations, but also of our faculty as well, and reminded us that we must consider the different requirements of the younger, more technically astute generation. There was a debate between the just-in-case approach to management (e.g., traditional collection development) and the just-in-time management (e.g., article delivery on demand). In the midst of all of this, one librarian stepped forward to speak on behalf of the undergraduate who often seemed left behind in the brave new internet. One speaker posited the proposition that the new electronic users are really information junkies and will continue to use traditional resources as much, if not more, as they surf the networks.

Finally, the publisher and librarian can play valuable roles in the filtering and organization of the overwhelming amount of data being generated. All of us need insulation from the bilge on the

network (as **Clifford Lynch** put it).

Having affirmed the value of our respective roles, the focus shifted to our fears for the electronic future. Based on a survey taken during the conference, the fears include the following: pricing concerns, the need to charge users for access, the need and mechanisms for archiving electronic data, affordability of the technology, effects upon everyone's job, continued need for peer review, and the author's control of electronic text. [The survey actually was divided by type of respondent but there was some overlap in the concerns.] [See *Sibling Rivalry*, page 7, this issue — Ed.]

The remainder of the conference dealt with trends in publishing and computing issues that need to be addressed in the transition. **John Secor** posited his opinion again that all of the players in the scholarly communication chain must know one another's business as well as one's own and develop strategic alliances to share the risk and investment.

John Cox reviewed intellectual property law and suggested four basic principles to use in developing further applications of these laws in an electronic environment. These principles include: 1) the ability of the publisher to receive a reasonable remuneration, 2) easy access to the material for the researcher, 3) fair use of the material, 4) practical mechanics for monitoring the use.

One current trend that will require further analysis from all parties is that of document delivery. The costs for this are difficult to determine in advance. The material is purchased for only one, not multiple users. There is, therefore, a need for an effective economic model for this new approach to service.

Clifford Lynch gave a panorama of the current scene on the internet with its rapid growth and global nature. He pointed out the need for someone to provide filtering and insulation for the users of the internet. Who better than librarians?

Several financial models were presented including John Secor's renewed call for partnering, which I define as looking for more efficient ways to perform the tasks without being bound by our traditional division of territories. Others talked of merging library departments. Publishers spoke of using librarians in advisory capacities. Those

providing article delivery services spoke of the need for optical scanning of articles to provide data faster.

While there seemed to be agreement that we all need to work together more closely, there seem to be several major sticking points at this time. One, of course, is copyright protection. The other, which came up in several formats, is the need for viable economic models for the new information technologies.

For example, many libraries (and commercial vendors) are moving away from the purchase of journals to the purchase of articles as needed, document delivery by the drink as one speaker so aptly named it. Another area of great concern is the management of our dwindling resources, especially in the light of currency fluctuations. **Jane Maddox** gave a good overview of this. **Fred Lynden** made a telling case for a new view of our materials budget by calling it the resource budget to allow for access and delivery services. Another session, attended by a fairly large and diverse group of individuals, was the lively lunch on books. The eco-

nomic model under discussion here was that of paperbacks versus cloth publications. [*See Book Pricing Update, this issue, page 5 — Ed*]

From all of these discussions, it is quite clear that librarians, publishers, and vendors all need to become more familiar with the economics and forces driving those decisions in our traditional ways of doing business as well as in those new models yet to be developed.

So, where does this leave us. Dr. Hewitt said it beautifully in his speech, which I will paraphrase here — with the understanding that much is lost without the context of his remarks. He is concerned about the ways in which we are conducting the dialogue about change toward the electronic library. He believes that we must avoid at least four dangers if we are to make a successful transition.

His first concern lies with the oversimplification and undervaluing of our current services and the traditional role libraries have played as we rush to embrace new technologies. He also is concerned that the metaphors being used for these new technologies tend to

oversell them and to exaggerate their potential for replacing our print-based collections and services. He also thinks that more attention needs to be given to the principles and service values that must be retained in the electronic environment. Finally, he thinks that the dialogue is focusing too much on utopia and not enough on the difficult and challenging transition that must take place between here and there. In his talk, which I hope will be published, Dr. Hewitt elaborates on these points and makes an eloquent case for the library as a place while adding the supplemental services that technology can provide.

His provocative and reasoned approach to these issues tied together with some of the strands heard at the Charleston Conference and made the framework more coherent for me. Several speakers at the conference also tackled the question of how we get to this brave new world and addressed some of the concerns he raised, including a start at the tough financial and legal issues that must be addressed.

The Charleston Conference, as al-

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ways, questioned some assumptions, reaffirmed the need for communication, and provided a glimpse of the future. It also whetted my appetite for the printed version of the proceedings where I, in my preferred style — with book in hand — can slowly absorb the many lessons being taught at the conference this year.

International Librarianship —

International Federation of Library Associations 1992 Annual Meeting August, 1992, New Delhi, India

by **Judith R. Bernstein**,
(Director, Business Library,
University of New Mexico)

The 58th General Conference of The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) convened in New Delhi, India, August 30-September 5, 1992 with the United States well represented by 107 of the 1173 delegates from 83 countries. The Conference, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the renowned Indian librarian, S.R. Ranganathan, covered the same wide variety of topics as an ALA conference although the exhibit area was tiny in comparison.

Compact disc use has grown rapidly in the developed countries but it has literally revolutionized the provision of information in developing countries. Unlike online systems and even paper products, they can tolerate climatic extremes, power failures, insects and fungi and are easily developed and shipped at relatively low costs. At one IFLA program it was reported that UNESCO has already set up more than fifty workstations (in information isolated areas) in 28 countries in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean in the field of tropical agriculture and Cornell University is developing a full text agricultural library on 250 CD-ROMs. CDs also hold immense promise for capturing and distributing local information.

Another IFLA report addressed the problems of overcrowded libraries, inadequate collections, and even less adequate acquisition programs in the poorest universities of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Interlibrary borrowing is not an adequate solution because

these countries lack local libraries from which to borrow, hard currency, and a reliable postal system.

Recommended solutions were to gain publisher cooperation to identify and mass produce undergraduate texts, to provide CDs at no or reduced costs, and to set up special service centers in air traffic nodes such as Chicago and Singapore from which technical experts could be deployed to provide equipment maintenance. A more controversial recommendation was to limit aid to *only* those libraries and countries which have a reasonable chance of developing and maintaining minimally adequate resources because levels of available aid are too limited to cover all needs.

Our Indian hosts are to be congratulated for surmounting the obstacles of putting on a large conference in a developing country. Tasty IFLA luncheon buffets, meeting the dietary restrictions of many different religions and cultures, were served daily. In spite of intense humidity and heat, air conditioning functioned all the time in a country where daily brownouts are a common occurrence and hotels must run their own generators. An army of concerned and competent technicians kept the overhead projectors and microphones for delegates and translators working. Nightly cultural events with many exquisite Indian dance programs were held and bus service, albeit disorganized, to and from the hotels was available. The opening plenary session took place in a very hot auditorium with an almost total lack of water, in a country where potable water is only available in the major hotels, but delegates learned quickly to carry their own water bottles outside the conference halls.

In contrast to the organization of the conference, on a tour to Delhi University, we found students and staff working in semi-darkness in intense humidity and heat because all the electricity was out. The book collection was disintegrating because of uncontrolled climate and cuts in purchasing were severe because of the devaluation of the rupee and the lack of hard currency.

Rounding out the conference were the many opportunities for shopping in the regional emporiums and visiting Hindu temples and Mogul palaces on pre and post conference tours. We look forward to the IFLA conference in

August, 1993 in Barcelona where we can continue to tackle global library issues, munch on tapas, and view the eccentricities of Gaudi's architecture.

More on IFLA

by **Dora Biblarz**
(Associate Dean,
Collection Development,
Arizona State University Libraries)

While some might argue that this year's IFLA Meeting was boring compared to the 1991 Meeting that coincided with the attempted coup in Moscow, I found New Delhi quite exciting and stimulating. There were over 800 pre-registered delegates and the final attendance was well over 1,000 participants. The meeting venue was the luxurious Taj Palace Hotel, which had all the finest services and facilities one would expect in a first class hotel anywhere. The hospitality and warmth of our Indian hosts were also first class and they spared no expense to accommodate the conference.

The Conference is a confusing blend of seminars, workshops, reporting sessions and plenary sessions (this is true of IFLA in other locations also, to this novice American observer) and finding out what is/is not correct protocol can be a bit daunting. One has to start somewhere, though, and I just went on ahead to see what would happen. For one thing, it does feel like walking into the middle of a conversation and there is no easy way to figure out what's going on. On the other hand, since this is my second IFLA meeting, I had a small idea of what to expect.

One delightful aspect of these meetings is that the conference takes on the flavor of the host country. In India, this meant that there was a large attendance by Indian librarians, many issues important to the Indian library community were discussed in the various meetings, and the Conference coincided with the anniversary of the birth of the library hero, S.I. Ranganathan. This event was duly celebrated by a number of publications in his honor, as well as a commemorative stamp (and we have a stamp honoring Elvis . . .)

Various meals were included in the registration fee which were prepared in traditional fashion, offering a choice of

both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, also routinely available at restaurants. There was the requisite number of receptions and social events, as well as tours of the many interesting sights in and around Delhi. Area libraries were also open for tours and I took advantage of this to visit the New Delhi office of the Library of Congress.

One of the realities in India is the ubiquitous crowd, which was keenly felt even in the luxurious venue of the Conference. Waiting in line in India, whether at a railroad crossing or at the conference registration desk, is total chaos. The large number of people means that there are no orderly queues with each person politely waiting his/her turn; here, aggressiveness pays off and those not constantly pushing or demanding attention are most likely forgotten and left to linger at the fringes. Once this concept is grasped, however, the visitor can either manage with the condition or make arrangements to avoid it as much as possible. One way to do this is to arrive early or try to get service during the "slow" periods. Another approach is to hire a private car for a day of shopping or sight-seeing. The driver often doubles as tour guide or can get one who speaks reasonable

English. The guide does much more than point out the sights, however, as he finesses his (and your) way around beggars, pays entry fees, and introduces you to the ultimate shopping experience ("Just use your American Express, Madam. The bill won't arrive for six months!")

Although this was my first trip to Asia, I found many familiar circumstances that I have observed elsewhere: most notably, the lack of resources in public libraries and publicly-supported institutions, while the private research institutes are endowed with all the best. In Madras I saw two private research institutes within a few blocks of each other, which my hostess told me both owned *Chemical Abstracts*, while her own university library lacked the most basic reference materials.

The computer seems like the ideal solution to address the shortage of resources; however, another condition that prevails in India is the lack of a reliable source of electricity. It is not uncommon to walk down a street and find a small generator in front of each shop. During the monsoon the electricity might fail, cutting off the lights and

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Call For Ideas, Speakers, Etc.

The 1993 (12a) Charleston Conference
Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition: Bubble, Bubble, Toil & Trouble
November 4-6, 1993
Charleston, SC

The 1993 Charleston Conference will deal with issues regarding acquisitions, collection development and technical services; scholarly publishing and selection of print, electronic and other materials; vending of materials; standards; and issues which impact the world of publishing, vending and acquiring and accessing materials in the library environment. Discussion of online acquisitions systems and services is also of interest.

The 1993 Charleston Conference will have several new features — including "Conversations at Breakfast" and "Conversations at Supper" as well as old standbys such as "Lively Lunches." If you are interested in lead-

ing a discussion, acting as a moderator, or would like to make sure that we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on innovation, flexibility and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. Nothing ventured . . .

Send ideas by **April 15, 1993** to: **Judy Webster**, Guest Coordinator, 1993 Charleston Conference; Head, Acquisitions and Processing Team; University of Tennessee Library; 1015 Volunteer Blvd.; Knoxville, TN 37996-1000. Phone (615)974-4431; FAX (615)974-2708; Internet: Webster@UTKLIB.LIB.UTK.EDU.✉

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And They Were There

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experiences, exchange information, and expand their networks. They are dedicated professionals, many of whom spoke passionately, both privately and during the sessions about the lack of resources in their country and the possible solutions. This is the most lasting impression I came away with: inspired by their determination in spite of obstacles, humbled by how much they do accomplish under such conditions. I returned to my own environment, enriched by this experience and motivated to hang on to my optimism while I simultaneously cut serials, look for alternative resources, and plan for the inadequate budgets that are likely to continue for the next three or four years.

Swedish Librarians Evaluate Their Serials Options

by **Buzzy Basch** (Basch Associates)

Swedish librarians attending seminars presented by Basch Associates in November were reassessing their established serial purchasing patterns, seeking more competitive market approach than traditionally provided by local subscription agents. Like their U.S. counterparts, Swedish library managers are giving serious consideration to switching orders for foreign titles to country of origin agencies.

The seminars, in Stockholm and Gothenburg, were organized by the Swedish School of Library and Information Science in Boras, Sweden. Strong attendance reflected participants' concerns to adapt to level budgets and escalating serial prices and the increasing awareness of the universality of serials issues fostered by electronic bulletin boards and listservs on the internet.

ARLIS/NA Texas Chapter Meets in Austin

by **Nina Stephenson**
(University of New Mexico)

The Texas Chapter of ARLIS/NA (Art Libraries Society of North America) held their 1992 Annual Meeting on the University of Texas Austin campus on Oct. 15-17. Conference attendees visited libraries, galleries and archives on the UT

Austin campus; listened to talks given by chapter members and others; participated in round table discussions; held a business meeting; and visited the studio of Austin fine printer W. Thomas Taylor.

The meeting officially began Friday morning with registration and coffee in the Architecture and Planning Library, housed in beautiful Battle Hall on the UT campus. Following introductions and refreshments, members attended orientations in the Architectural Drawings Collection in the Architecture and Planning Library, and the photography collection in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

Since curator **Lila Stillson Knight** could not attend the conference, **Ardys Kozbial**, Title II-C project cataloger/archivist, conducted the very informative overview of the Architectural Drawings Collection. Established in 1979, the collection has grown from the original core known as the Texas Architectural Archive to its present size of over 130,000 drawings. The focus of the collection is on Texas and Southwest architecture, although materials from elsewhere in the United States are found in the collection. Blueprints, presentation drawings, measured drawings, photographs, letters, and other archival materials are included in the collection, and contemporary and historical architects are represented. Since there is no acquisitions budget, the collection relies on donations of drawings and other items. Among the holdings are the drawings of James Riely Gordon, who designed Texas courthouses and other public buildings, and the works of Paul Phillippe Cret, who served as consulting architect for the UT campus from 1930 to 1945. A Title II-C grant will support the archival processing and cataloging of materials. According to Ms. Kozbial, fifty-one collection level MARC records will eventually be loaded on RLIN, OCLC and UTCAT (The University of Texas online catalog).

The orientation to the photography collection on the sixth floor of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center was equally fascinating. Film and photography curator **Roy Flukinger** began with an overview of the Center, which houses books, manuscripts, and photographs from a number of periods and disciplines with particular strengths in 20th century American, British and French literature. The Center's photography collection includes the important Gernsheim History of Photography Collection which was

purchased in 1963, and now consists of over five million prints and negatives, approximately 20,000 books, and around 3,000 pieces of photographic apparatus, as well as manuscripts, albums and periodicals relating to photography and its history. Mr. Flukinger discussed an NEH-funded cataloging project which will generate MARC-compatible cataloging with the George Eastman House for key components of the collection.

Attendees viewed a slide orientation on the proper handling of materials. Mr. Flukinger described the dual challenges of preservation and access for the variety of negatives and photographic prints found in the collection, and displayed some of the archival boxes and matting methods developed commercially and by Ransom Center conservators. Chapter members were given a variety of brochures and sample forms which further explained the Center's policies, procedures and collections.

Following lunch, a business meeting was held. Members then split up for round table discussions on collection development, library management, visual resources and technical services. That evening a dinner reception was held in the Huntington Art Gallery, where attendees had the opportunity to view "Encounters/Displacements," an exhibition addressing issues related to the "discovery" of the New World. Members then enjoyed a slide lecture given by **Jeannette Dixon** (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston). Ms. Dixon reported on her NEA-funded visits to numerous libraries in Europe, the United States and Canada to get ideas for a new library design for the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

On Saturday, **Margaret Culbertson** (University of Houston) presented "Periodical Palaces: Design Sources of Domestic Architecture in Popular and Trade Periodicals, 1850-1930." Her slide lecture focused on house designs and floor plans which appeared in agriculture, building trade, and women's magazines. The results of her research will eventually be published as an index. **Caroline Backlund** (National Gallery) spoke on "Washington Art Libraries: A Report on the Nation's Capitol." She updated chapter members on the collections and activities of several Washington, D.C. libraries with art collections, including the Library of Congress, the Museum of African Art and the National Gallery.

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Legally Speaking

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of the FTA was one attempt to preserve Canadian culture in the free trade context. A majority of Canadians voted for the FTA in a national referendum, but it is not clear that it would have passed without the cultural industries exemption.

To U.S. officials, the cultural industries exemption is antithetical to free market principles and to the objectives of the FTA and NAFTA. Further, the U.S. negotiating position attempts to treat cultural products as informational products, and to link culture with such issues as the free flow of information, technologic transfer, trade in services, and the protection of intellectual property. This approach is consistent with certain U.S. economic and foreign policy objectives, namely the stimulation of world trade in services, where we enjoy significant competitive advantages, and the promotion of democracy throughout the world.

In this context, the FTA and NAFTA are important to the U.S. not so much in terms of actual trade with Canada and Mexico, but rather as models for other multilateral trade agreements, including the mother of all such treaties, the GATT. The stakes are somewhat high for the U.S. here, since we probably cannot expect the rest of the world to accept our rules for international trade if we cannot get our largest trading partner, and closest neighbor, to go along with us. The cultural industries exemption is sticking in the collective craw of U.S. policy makers because it may set a precedent for others, especially the members of the European Community, to discriminate against American music, entertainment and publishing companies.

Most Americans are undoubtedly unaware of the disagreement with Canada over cultural industries (heck, a Macleans poll in 1987 showed that only 57% of Americans knew that we had even entered into the FTA, and only 12% knew that Canada was our biggest trading partner, versus 97% and 83% of Canadians, respectively). Canadians, on the other hand, are keenly aware of the issue. Cultural preservation is closely linked with national identity in Canada, and is thus the subject of intense interest. When U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, prior

to commencement of NAFTA negotiations, made an off-the-cuff remark about the FTA's cultural exemption being on the table for NAFTA, a firestorm ensued in Canada. Blistering editorials appeared in the Canadian press, and the Canadian government responded forcefully that cultural industries were not on the table. As the NAFTA text indicates, the U.S. backed off quickly.

As we debate the future of the book, as we discuss the role of electronics in scholarship and reading generally, as we talk increasingly about information products, and as we describe ourselves with some phrase beginning with "information" (and ending with "provider," "broker," "manager," etc.), it is interesting to note how "information" is being treated in the international trade context. Culture is not information, and cultures should be preserved. Cor-

Letters

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Dear Editor:

The last two issues of *ATG* have been especially good and just chock-full of information. *ATG* is really wonderful for those of us without other acquisitions/collection development professionals at our institutions with whom to share ideas.

Well, it is beautiful up here in western Michigan, so I only occasionally miss going to the Virginia, N.C. and S.C. coasts. The sand dunes of Lake Michigan are beautiful, and the water is the color of the Caribbean (just a lot cooler). I still yearn for the Charleston Conference again, but it's hard to wrangle money for travel. Still, Charleston or bust . . .

Marcie Kingsley
(Western Michigan
University)

Dear Editor:

In the "thank you" department, I don't want to forget Dorinda and Dana who gave me more cooperation at the Charleston Conference than I deserved.

Lyman Newlin
(Book Trade Counsellor)☞

rectly or not, Canada has determined that the cultural industries exemption is necessary for the preservation of Canadian culture.

While U.S. concerns about the potentially damaging precedent established by the cultural industry exemption of the FTA are legitimate, do they rank with Canadian fears about completely losing their cultural identity? I think not, especially in light of the huge shares of the Canadian cultural markets that American companies already control. For U.S. trade officials to continue to insist otherwise is to say that too much is not enough.☞

And They Were There

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Ms. Backlund provided a generous assortment of handouts and brochures. Members then had the choice of touring either the UT Fine Arts Library or the UT Visual Resources Collection.

Following lunch, participants were treated to a tour of the studio of Austin fine printer **W. Thomas Taylor**. Mr. Taylor, a former rare book dealer, is now principally a designer who works with a master printer in the production of books, brochures, posters and other publications. He gave an informal talk on different fine printing technologies, with an emphasis on his current use of photo-polymer printing plates which incorporate the use of negatives produced with the Macintosh.

The annual meeting was a success, as ARLIS members learned about the wonderful resources in Austin, and established or renewed contacts with other Texas art and visual resources librarians. As one member put it, "We only meet once a year because people are so widely dispersed throughout Texas, but we do know how to put on a great conference."☞

Sibling Rivalry

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and the Association of American University Presses provide the kind of forum that allows publishers, librarians, and in some cases vendors, consultants and academics to mingle and to debate the issues of mutual interest and concern that prove once again that we are all truly in the same family. ☞