

February 2009

If Rumors Were Horses

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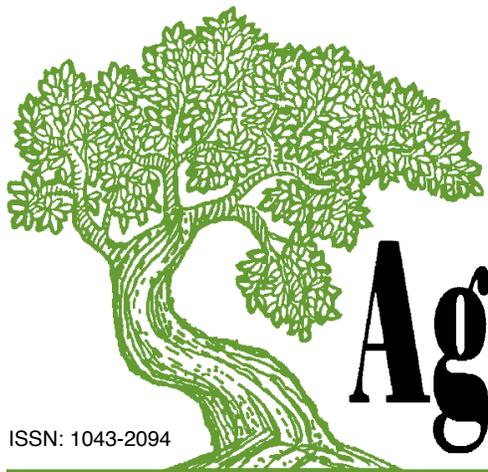
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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

ISSN: 1043-2094

Taking Charge: Preserving Our Digital Heritage Part I

by **Amy Kohrman** (Marketing Director, LOCKSS/CLOCKSS, 1450 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94305; Phone: 650-721-5838) <akohrman@stanford.edu> www.clockss.org

This issue is the first of a two-part series on digital preservation. Six librarians and one publisher describe their experiences with digital preservation. Some have fashioned their own solutions. Some have entrusted others to safeguard their collections. Unifying them is the desire to ensure the survival of e-content for future generations. Because so many insightful essays about digital preservation were submitted, both the February and April issues of *Against the Grain* will be devoted to this important topic.

In full disclosure, I am the Marketing Director of LOCKSS and CLOCKSS, and many of the contributors participate in one or both of these preservation methods.

The articles we present speak to four fundamental principles in the area of digital preservation. First, stakeholders — publishers, libraries, states — must take charge of the preservation of their digital collections. Second, the misperception that digital preservation is costly and labor intensive, or that it is a luxury,

must be overcome. Third, unlike print-based collections, access to and the integrity of digital works are much more vulnerable. Finally, these materials must be preserved not simply because they are important today, but because they constitute our scientific, historical, cultural, and economic heritage.

Inside this issue, you will hear from:

- **Vic Elliott**, Director, Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian, **The Australian National University**, a tireless champion of digital preservation, argues that libraries have lost much of their influence and power and describes how the **CLOCKSS** initiative offers them a chance to regain some of what they have lost.

- **Glen Worthey**, Head, Humanities Digital Information Service, **Stanford University**, details the kind of loss that is possible in an all-digital medium. **Glen** describes what happened recently at two online literary journals: *The Absinthe Literary Review* and *Exquisite Corpse*. Fortunately, these “born

digital” humanities journals had made arrangements for preservation; had they not, their valuable content would have disappeared without a trace.

- **Heather Staines**, Global eProduct Manager at **Springer Science + Business Media** is committed to helping libraries preserve their collections. A frequent speaker at library conferences, **Heather** writes about trying to navigate the uncharted waters of eBook preservation and **Springer’s** diversified approach to meeting its digital preservation needs.

- **Peter Burnhill**, Director, **EDINA Data Centre**, **University of Edinburgh**, writes

continued on page 16

If Rumors Were Horses

Lots continues to happen in our space.

The fantastic **Tom McNally** has been appointed **Dean of Libraries** at the **University of South Carolina**. **Tom** has served as interim dean of the **University of South Carolina** libraries since 2007. He joined the libraries nearly 19 years ago as university librarian for public services. “The library plays a key role in the process of teaching, learning and research,” **McNally** said. “We must continue to build and conserve our collections. We must work every day to develop services that keep pace with the technologies that our users are employing. We must

remodel our libraries to reflect the changes in the ways our students learn and interact with one another. Each librarian we recruit must be a leader capable of creating initiatives and moving them into daily practice.” **Tom** earned a bachelor’s degree in education from **Kent State University** and a master’s in library science from the **University of Washington**. He was a librarian at **Ohio State University**, the **University of Michigan** and **Loyola University** in Chicago before joining the University of South Carolina’s library staff in 1991. **McNally** served as director of **Thomas Cooper Library** from 2003 until he was named interim dean of libraries in 2007, replacing **Paul Willis**, who retired. For more than 200 years, the **University of South Carolina libraries** have grown and matured from humble beginnings in **Rutledge Hall** on the historic **Horseshoe**. Today, the collections span eight buildings and include tens of

continued on page 6



What To Look For In This Issue:

And They Were There — Reports from the 2008 Charleston Conference..... 64

The Google Settlement: Boon, Boondoggle, or Mixed Blessing?..... 69

Papa Abel Remembers — The Birth of the Approval Plan 82

Out of the Box 92

Open Access, the Turning Point, and Methadone..... 94

Interviews

Dennis Dillon & Rich Rosy 50

Sameer Shariff 54

Profiles Encouraged

Vic Elliott..... 20

Glen Worthey..... 24

Heather Staines..... 30

Plus more..... See inside

From Your (glasses-challenged) Editor:



It's only the first of the year and I have lost my glasses three times! I need my glasses and when they disappear, I have to squint to read anything up close and don't have much luck with identifying far-away things. You see, it all started when I decided to switch pocketbooks. I needed a larger bag to carry

on the airplane so I didn't have to check my luggage. Fine enough, but when I got back home, I switched bags again and that's when it all began. Returning to work the next day, I picked up my bag, pulled out my glasses case, and voila, the case was empty! Needless to say it was a headachy, squinty day. When I got

home, I had another pair of earlier-prescription glasses that allowed me to work unimpeded on *ATG*, February. Whew!

And this is another great issue! **Amy Kohrman** of **LOCKSS** has put together a timely and important February *ATG* on preserving our digital heritage. In all the hoopla of the digital world, we are canceling tried-and-true print publications which could stay on the shelves indefinitely for the electronic editions. We all know why this is, but will the electronic versions survive for as long as the print versions would have? **Amy** and her team have put together a collection of papers about these issues. Included are papers from **Vic Elliott** (**CLOCKSS**), **Glen Worthey** (**LOCKSS**), **Heather Ruland Staines** (Springer), **Peter Burnhill** (archiving registry service), **Katherine Skinner** and **Martin Halbert** (metarchive), **Daniel Cornwall** and **James R. Jacobs** (government information), and **Aaron Trehub** (Alabama digital preservation network). And there's more to come in the next (April) *ATG* issue!

This issue is so packed full of fabulous articles that we've had to replace our **Letters to the Editor** with a continuation of our **table of contents**. But they'll be back next issue. Stay tuned.

Excuse me. My assistant seems to have located my sunglasses which I had misplaced as well. You see, I was using them instead of my regular glasses. I have decided that she is psychic!

Love, Yr. Ed. 🌿

TABLE OF CONTENTS *continued* INTERNATIONAL

International Dateline.....85

The Library of Blackwell's by **Rita Ricketts** — *This is the story of the opening of the famous Broad Street Shop in Oxford.*

TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS

Pelikan's Antidisambiguation — Emerging Technologies..... 8
by **Michael Pelikan** — *Amidst the marketing hype, the techno-babble, and the outrageous and continuing generation of terms-nouvelle, there are sometimes deep currents at work: trends that we overlook at our peril.*

Standards Column 68
Transforming Metadata by **Todd Carpenter** — *In an environment when controlling costs is a high priority for all organizations, the management and sharing of metadata can be an area of significant outlay.*

Technology Left Behind..... 88
Social Cataloging and the Library OPAC by **Cris Ferguson** — *An emerging solution to the problem of subject headings used in library catalogs is social cataloging.*

I Hear the Train A Comin'..... 90
Institutional Repositories: The Promises of Yesterday by **Greg Tananbaum** — *Greg's wholly subjective assessment of how fully the institutional repository has lived up to initial promises.*

OUT OF THE BOX

Designing a Tool for e-Resource Collection Assessment..... 92
by **Hana Levay** — *Swets Charleston Conference Scholarship Essay Contest Winner.*

Trick-and-Treat at California State University, Northridge..... 92
by **Helen Heinrich** — *And the Essay Contest Runner-up.*

ETC.

Charleston Conference 2009 8
29th Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition — *Call For Papers, Ideas, Conference Themes, Panels, Debates, Diatribes, Speakers, Poster Sessions, Preconferences, etc. ...*
Charleston Conference Future Dates...12
Future conference dates through 2012.

You Gotta Go to School for "This?" ...47
A Rave Review as told by Jared Alexander Seay.
On the Road..... 78
Bad Trip to London by **Celia Wagner** — *A travel disaster story. Has anything like this ever happened to you?*

Rumors from page 1

millions of items, which are viewed by more than a million visitors each year.
<http://uscnews.sc.edu/2009/02172009-LIBR047.html>

According to **LJN Dawson** (2/4/09), **Amazon** has announced that it will release **Version 2.0 of the Kindle** on Monday, February 9. And **The Boy Genius Report** has some information about the design of the new product. It's a little bigger and has gotten rid of the buttons that caused you to flip to the next page. But it's still pricey!
<http://www.ljndawson.com/>
<http://www.boygeniusreport.com/2008/10/03/amazon-kindle-2-ebooks-its-way-to-bgr/>

And just got a column from the incredible **Michael Pelikan** <mpp10@psu.edu> about **Kindle 2.0**. He says he was waiting for the release which occurred just a few days ago! **Michael** prefers the **Sony Reader** to the **Kindle**, at least that's what it seemed like to me. See this issue, p.8

And **Todd Rix** <trix@coker.edu> (Electronic Resources and Bibliographic Instruction
continued on page 14

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 21 — 2009

2009 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
MLA, SLA, Book Expo	April 2009	02/11/09	03/04/09
ALA Annual	June 2009	04/08/09	04/29/09
Reference Publishing	September 2009	07/8/09	07/29/09
Charleston Conference	November 2009	09/02/09	09/23/09
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 09/Jan. 2010	10/21/09	11/11/09

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Notes from Mosier — Opportunities and Risks

Column Editor: **Scott A. Smith** (International Sales, Alibris; Phone: 503-951-8343) <scott.alan.smith@comcast.net>

While back **Katina Strauch** invited me to contribute a column to *ATG*, and I happily agreed to do so. Hence this is the first of what I hope will be an ongoing feature of the journal. After nearly thirty years in the book trade, I hope to offer a few kernels of wisdom gleaned from that experience.

The title for this column comes from a small Columbia Gorge town in Oregon named Mosier (population 430). I have the great good fortune to live about five miles up the hill from Mosier, in a house that looks out over the Columbia and has views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams. Those of you who know me will appreciate that Mt. Hood holds a special place in my heart, for it's there I and two Oregon librarians, **Faye Chadwell of Oregon State University** and **Nancy Slight-Gibney of the University of Oregon** organize the annual **Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge**. I'll admit to being biased, but the **Lodge** is the best venue for a library conference on the planet. Mosier has a lot going for it — a fantastic location, creative and resourceful residents, and a great restaurant, **Good River**. Alas, what it no longer has is a library. The city lost the lease on the building that housed our little gem of a library, and to date no replacement facility has been found. At this writing the library's future is uncertain; at least residents have a very commendable alternative at the **Hood River Public Library** five miles away.

The loss of our library has prompted me to think about other casualties in the library

and vendor community. Perhaps recent events have informed my reveries — the demise of major financial and manufacturing giants to name but an obvious few — but it brings me back to a topic several of my friends and I have been mulling over for the past couple of years. Change — what does it mean for libraries, for publishers, for vendors? What do we risk losing? What new opportunities might we encounter? How will our worlds look in a few years time?

Change is of course not new. Rather, it's the intractable questions posed by change that seem so challenging, their answers so elusive. Look at the vendor community. If someone had suggested in 1967 that the **Richard Abel Company** would disappear in less than a decade, people wouldn't have believed it possible. Or, if ten years later someone speculated that **Faxon** would implode, it would have seemed ludicrous. Yet so it is now with **GM**, **AIG**, and others. In our own industry there are several once noble but now enfeebled companies lurching toward oblivion.

Some will argue this is normal: market forces and trends favoring the innovative and nimble, and discarding the inept and poorly managed to their fate. The burning question in my mind, though, is this: how does this ultimately affect librarians and the patrons they serve?

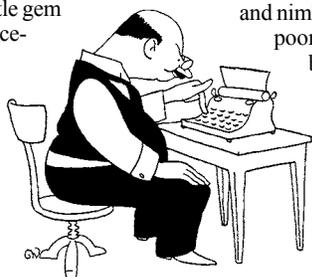
Let's focus on opportunities and risks. Under the opportunities column we must first mention the greatly enhanced range of resources

now available with the likelihood that ongoing digitization and capital investment will yield more content, access, and ease of use. Libraries have benefited from products and services arising from other arenas (e.g., **Amazon**) and their patrons' expectations and skill sets have largely been shaped by these same entrepreneurial enterprises.

Among the risks: that the new generation of digital natives will bypass libraries altogether (OK, nothing new about that argument) and reside quite contentedly in the **Google** embrace. That publishers, faced with ever dwindling demand for print resources, will either price content out of reach or simply decide not to publish in print. (Perhaps e or print on demand is the future.) That traditional vendors, faced with eroding margins, fragmenting markets, and stretched resources, will simply fail. That much of the supply chain of products and services essential to libraries will wind up in the hands of people to whom libraries are secondary at best, and who may well see little or no incentive to provide genuine, responsive service to meet their needs.

Is there some middle ground — a compromise that can yield world-class service coupled to the dynamism of the market? Is there a way to preserve the best attributes of conventional scholarly publishing reconfigured in a viable, sustainable economic model? Is a marriage of traditional vendor services with cutting-edge technologies, wrapped around a coherent, comprehensible package possible?

These are the questions and issues I hope to explore in the columns to follow. I welcome your feedback. 🌱



Rumors

from page 6

Librarian, Coker College, Hartsville, SC) just posted on the *ATG NewsChannel Forums* about the **Kindle**. They have used the **Kindle** to receive the *New York Times* daily.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com/d/node/167#new>

Speaking once more of the **Kindle**, rode in a cab to the airport in Denver with **Mark Stover** (Interim Associate Dean, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University) <mstover@mail.sdsu.edu>. He pulled out a **Kindle** from his briefcase and said he liked it very much. However, he said that he did not like reading the newspaper on the **Kindle**. Hmmm...

According to the **Bookseller**, "**Sony** has revealed that it has sold 300,000 of its **digital e-book Reader** globally since the device was launched in October 2006 and that it is working on a wireless version of the product to rival **Amazon.com's Kindle**. So far three million books have been downloaded from its online library, which is home to 57,000 titles. ... **Amazon** won't release sales figures for the **Kindle** but gadget industry experts widely

report that sales of **Kindle** and **Sony Reader** are running neck and neck."

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/72179-sony-divulges-reader-sales.html>

It's been **unseasonably cold** in Charleston. I usually wear my coat once or twice and I have been wearing it non-stop since early December. Crazy! But I know that a lot of you have had it even worse. Maybe the ground hog will have enough of winter by the end of February? I certainly hope so.

The indomitable **Sandy Thatcher** <sgt3@psu.edu> tells us he's retiring as director of the **Penn State University Press** in June 2009, but will continue as an **acquiring editor** for the Press in **social sciences**. **Sandy's** port of operation, however, will be **Frisco, Texas**, where he's moving next summer. **Sandy** will remain on the **AAUP** and **AAP copyright committees** and the **CCC Board of Directors**. Plus, he will continue to contribute his incredible thought-provoking and thorough columns to *ATG*! Hooray! See this issue, p.69.

Another university press mover and shaker, **Kate Wittenberg** has joined **Ithaka's Strategic Services** group as **Project Director, Client and Partnership Development**. In

her new role, **Kate** will focus on building partnerships among scholars, academic centers, publishers, libraries, technology providers, societies, and foundations with an interest in promoting the development of digital scholarship and learning. **Kate** spent most of her career at **Columbia**, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of **Columbia University Press** until 1999, and went on to found and direct **EPIC** (the **Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia**) for the university. **EPIC** was a pioneering initiative in digital publishing, and a model publishing partnership for libraries, presses, and academic IT departments. Some of the ventures produced by **EPIC** include **CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online)**, **Gutenberg-E** (a reinvention of the monograph as an electronic work), and **Jazz Studies Online**. **Ithaka's Strategic Services group** specializes in helping promising digital projects to develop sustainable organizational and business models, and working with established institutions to rethink the ways they serve their core constituencies. **Laura Brown**, who leads the Strategic Services group says, "It is hard to imagine a more respected or resourceful voice in the field of digital publishing and we look forward to her help identifying and cultivating

continued on page 16