September 1998

If Rumors Were Horses

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

ISSN: 1043-2094

Reference Materials — To Web or Not To Web? Librarians and Publishers Speak Out.

by **Frances C. Wilkinson** (Director, Acquisitions and Serials Department, General Library, U. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466; phone: (505) 277-7219; fax: (505) 277-4446 <fwilkins@unm.edu>)

The book and serials industry continues to witness not only a proliferation of reference materials but a widening array of format choices for these materials — paper/print, CD-ROM, online, Web, etc. Modest (if any!) library budget increases are not keeping pace with the cost of these materials, making prudent collection management more important than ever. Concern abounds regarding how the Web is affecting reference publishing, how to decide in which format to publish or purchase a reference title, what are the benefits and disadvantages of having products in paper and electronic format, the value of electronic product trials, what reference subject fields are not being served by publishing, and what the future trends in publishing reference materials will be. To address these issues, an interview-style joint discussion among librarians responsible for reference collection management (one reference librarian and one

collection management librarian from a large ARL member library, and one library director from a smaller college) and publishers of reference materials (one large publisher, which included responses from ten different staff members, and one smaller publisher, which included responses from two different staff members) was held. Their differing perspectives provide insight about the industry.

How is the Web effecting reference publishing?

The Librarians...

Answer from Christina E. Carter, Head of Reference, Zimmerman Library and Linda K. Lewis, Director of Collection Management, General Library, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM:

"As a major means of electronic communication, the omnipresence of the Web puts pres-

sure on publishers to make their products available in this format. This often results in reference titles that are more timely as well as easier and more powerful to search (as has been the case with other electronic formats, such as CD-ROM), and that can be linked to Web-based OPACs and other Web-based resources. On the other hand, publishers also release reference titles in a Web format that may not warrant it, or whose content may not generate much customer interest. Many publishers cease publishing print versions of titles, in favor of Web versions, which

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If Rumors Were Horses

Even during summer, there were tons of happenings out there.

Baker & Taylor has signed a letter of intent to acquire **Professional Media Service Corp.** The transaction is expected to be finalized upon the completion of due diligence and contracts. After the transaction is completed, **Professional Media Service Corp.** (PMSC) will operate as a subsidiary of **Baker & Taylor, Inc.** PMSC is a 16-year-old supplier of audiovisual mate-

rials and cataloging services to libraries worldwide. Based in Gardena, California, PMSC maintains a database of approximately 500,000 bibliographic records of audiovisual, video and CD-ROM recordings.

Julian Blackwell has announced that **Jim Rose**, whom we interviewed in the June issue of *ATG* (pp. 30, 32-34) has left his job as Chief Executive, **Blackwell's Information Services** to take up a new job as Chief Executive of **NOPI Information Group**, a global market research company based in London, effective in September. "We are naturally saddened to be losing someone like Jim, but we are equally pleased for him person-

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What To Look For

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From the guest editor:

If there is an overall theme in this Reference issue, it is the high quality of reference publishing in recent years. This is especially true in terms of content. In all three of their interviews, **Irv Rockwood**, **Tom Romig** and **Eileen Sutter** comment on their personal concern for quality and point with pride to the high caliber reference works they have some role in producing, marketing, and reviewing. **James Williams** and I also found content quality to be at a premium in our review of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Along with this sense of quality one

other theme also emerges: the impact of electronic reference works. **Fran Wilkinson's** article "To Web or Not To Web" highlights the differing viewpoints of a number of librarians and publishers on the state of the Web in providing quality reference products. The Web is still a work in progress.

All in all, this issue reaffirms that it is an exciting time in the world of reference publishing. In many cases, quality verges on exceptional while there is enough uncertainty to keep even the most vigilant prognosticator on his or her toes.

Tom Gilson
Guest Editor,
The Reference Publishing Issue
<gilson@cofc.edu

From your (relaxing) editor:

Summer is wonderful. Relaxing gives you time to think, to ponder, and to gain perspective on your world. I hope that all of you had time to do a little bit of just that. Trouble with doing it is — vacation runs out and then you have to get down to real work!

Anyway, I came home to the September issue of *Against the Grain* which **Tom Gilson** had been working away on! I am impressed and I am sure that all of you will be as well. First, we have fabulous interviews with **Eileen Sutter** and **Tom Romig** and **Irv Rockwood**. Then, we have tons of reviews from

Tom (Gilson) himself, **James Williams**, **Mary Cross**, **Marita Kunkel**, **mutindi ndunda**, **Norm Desmarais** and

Denis Keyes.

And that's not all so let's not waste time. Hope you all had a happy summer break! Happy fall!

Yr. Ed.

Against the Grain — Deadlines 1998 — Volume 10

Event	Issue	Camera-Ready Copy
Charleston Conference	November 98	9/16/98
ALA Midwinter	December 98/January 99	11/18/98

Rumors

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ally," continued Mr. Blackwell. "It is a reflection on his considerable abilities that he has been headhunted by NOP; he has worked phenomenally hard for us in the two years he has been with us and has, amongst many achievements, overseen significant growth in our journals business in the United States, Europe and Asia, opened our office in Brazil and driven the development of our leading edge electronic products, such as **Electronic Journal Navigator**. We wish him all the best in his new role at NOP." Blackwell's will be making further announcements about the future management of their global journals business. In the meantime, it is business as usual.

The awesome **Kathy Miraglia** (Catholic University) <miraglia@cua.edu> sends word of the 74th (now that's a lot!) annual meeting of the **Potomac Technical Processing Libraries (PTPL)**. The meeting, "To Merge or Not to Merge: Libraries and Computer Centers," boasts **Janet Swan Hill** (President, **ALCTS**) as the keynote speaker and will be held October 23 at **George Mason University**, George W. Johnson Center, Fairfax, VA. For more information and a registration form go to www.lib.virginia.edu/ptpl/.

Well. Guess what? **Claire-Lise Benaud** and **Sever Bordeianu's** *Outsourcing Library Operations in Academic Libraries* (Libraries Unlimited) is out! And we will have a review in Nov. I have a copy! Do you?

The well-qualified **John Abbott** will be the new coordinator of Collection Development at **Appalachian State University**. Congratulations, John!

Recently **Janet Flowers** and yours truly did two separate surveys regarding credit card usage in acquisitions and collection development departments. The number of responses we got were overwhelming (I got 72 responses in a little over 24 hours thanks to **Eleanor Cook's** **ACQNET!**) Anyway, this is clearly a "hot" topic which will be covered at the **Charleston Conference** as well as in the upcoming November issue of **ATG**. Stay tuned!

Grove's Dictionaries is taking some new

directions. The distinguished reference publisher, which is the North American office of **Macmillan Reference (UK)** and is a member of the **Von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group**, will offer its first electronic reference product — **Grove's Dictionary of Art Online** this year on the Web and on CD-ROM.

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians as well as **Encyclopedia of the Life Sciences** will both be out in electronic and print form in 2001. Grove's Dictionaries are also planning entry into the science publishing field with the **Encyclopedia of Life Sciences** (above), the **Dictionary of Physics** (four volumes, more than 100 contributors) and the **Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics** (four volumes, copublished

with the **Institute of Physics**). As of June 1, **Grove's Dictionaries'** customer service and fulfillment operation moved to **VHPS** — the Von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group's

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In 1971-72, McGraw-Hill contracted with author Clifford Irving for a book on the reclusive billionaire, Howard Hughes. The book was found to be fraudulent and Irving went to prison for it. In 1992, when McGraw-Hill moved into its new skyscraper quarters in New York City, the McGraw-Hill building sign identified the first floor tenant: "The Irving Trust Company."

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new, \$30 million automated distribution center located in Gordonsville, Virginia. Grove's Dictionaries has also instituted a Library Advisory Council to help shape the publisher's products to meet customers' immediate and future needs. Council members include — **John Berry** (Executive Director of NILRC, a consortium of college libraries in Oak Park, IL), **Vivian Buell Bernstein** (Vivian Bernstein & Associates), **Kathleen R.T. Imhoff** (Broward County (FL) Libraries), **Christine King** (SUNY Stony Brook), **Jeannie P. Miller** (Texas A&M), **Alice Peery** (Charlotte and Mecklenberg County (NC) Public Library System), **Joseph W. Raker** (Boston Public Library), and **John Sisson** (U. of California, Irvine). "We want our marketplace of librarians, scholars, booksellers and readers to recognize that a reference work in any field published by **Grove's Dictionaries** offers the most comprehensive coverage and state-of-the-art scholarship on every facet of the topic," said the dynamic **Janice E. Kuta**, President. See our interview with **Eileen Sutter** this issue, pp.38-39, 46.

As reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (July 3, 1998) and *Edupage* (2 July 1998), **Elsevier Science** has announced that they will allow libraries to make paper copies of requested articles appearing in electronic journals and share them with scholars at other institutions. The policy still prohibits libraries from sharing the electronic version, but, says Yale's **Ann Okerson**, "This will send a signal to the rest of the publishers [that electronic and print articles should be treated the same for interlibrary loan purposes]."

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., (NYSE: JWA and JWB) and **SAS Institute Inc.**, one of the top ten largest independent software vendors in the world and the leading provider of data warehousing and decision-support software, have announced a deal to jointly publish a series of "how-to" manuals in the statistical sciences. The first, due in the first quarter of 1999, is on multivariate statistics using **SAS®** software. Additional volumes will cover topics such as data analysis, experimental design, linear models, regression, survival analysis, and time series. Books issued will be extensively peer reviewed by both academicians and Institute experts to provide high-quality documentation. All volumes will be paperbound. For further information, contact **Susan Spilka** <sspilka@wiley.com> or www.wiley.com.

Check out *The New York Times*, Circuits Section, Thursday, July 2, 1998, to read about "Taking on New Forms, Electronic Books Turn a Page." This is about e-books and some of the new delivery devices. Try

www.nytimes.com/circuits.

Would you buy electronic access only to specific journal articles instead of paying for a subscription to the entire journal contents? Well, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (8/14/98, p.A21, Information Technology Section), has an article by **Vincent Kiernan** entitled, "Paying by the Article: Libraries Test a New Model for Scholarly Journals" that is testing just such a model. **PEAK (Pricing Electronic Access to Knowledge)** is being undertaken by researchers at the **U. of Michigan (Ann Arbor)** along with 10 university libraries and two corporate libraries. The experiment is scheduled to end in August, 1999.

Susan M. Klopfer, Manager of the Atlanta Information Center, **Arthur Andersen LLP** received the **Special Libraries**

*The Gutenberg Bible
in the Lenox collection
at the New York
Public Library was purchased in
1845 by Henry Stevens, a
celebrated American book
hunter living in England. He
bought it in London for £600
(approximately \$2900) on a
commission from the New York
millionaire book collector James
Lenox. Lenox was so furious at
the amount paid for the Bible
that he at first refused to pay
the custom duties when the book
arrived in New York. (In 1978,
the University of Texas paid
\$2,400,000 for a Gutenberg.)*

Association's Library Management Division (LMD) Management Leadership Award during the **SLA Annual Conference** in June, 1998. The award, given for the eighth year, was sponsored by **C. Berger And Company (CBC)**. Susan's accomplishments include establishment of Internet training programs for local Andersen employees. She has also been instrumental in obtaining new technology for the information center and in broadening the services available there.

Also, **Betty Lou Hicks**, manager of Library Services for **Hanson Engineers, Inc.** in Springfield, Illinois, was awarded the **Ei/SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year** award, including a \$1,000 stipend and a commemorative plaque, in June at **SLA**.

Two leading library organizations have endorsed the **Scholarly Publishing & Aca-**

ademic Resources Coalition (SPARC), an initiative of the **Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** that aims to reduce the cost of scholarly journals by supporting introduction of high-quality, lower-cost alternatives to existing high-price titles. The **Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)** and the **Canadian Association of Research Libraries/Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL/ABRC)** each became affiliates of SPARC and made a \$5,000 contribution. SPARC (**Rick Johnson**, director) seeks to help scholarly publishers — including learned societies, university presses, and others — enter markets where prices are high and competition is needed. It expects to reduce the risks of market entry for its publisher partners and to provide faculty with prestigious and responsive alternatives to current publishing vehicles. SPARC will solicit or encourage the introduction of new titles by providing a ready subscription base, and by generating support for SPARC projects from faculty. Membership in SPARC is open to academic institutions, research libraries, and organizations that share SPARC goals and values. SPARC announced its first partnership agreement on June 30 with the **American Chemical Society (ACS)**, a non-profit scientific society that currently publishes 26 peer-reviewed research journals. The agreements calls for ACS and SPARC to collaborate in creating at least one new ACS scientific journal each year for the next three years. The new journals will be one-quarter to one-third the price of competing titles. Previous endorsements of the SPARC concept have come from the **Association of American Universities**, the **Association of American University Presses**, the **Big 12 Provosts**, and the **National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges**.

Why are investors willing to pay more for **Amazon.com** than for **Barnes & Noble**? Look up this article in *The New York Times* — "Does Amazon=2 Barnes & Nobles? by **Cynthia Mayer**. p.4, Business Section.

ABC-CLIO has promoted **Gary Kuris** from Senior Developmental Editor to the position of **Editorial Director**. "As Editorial Director, Kuris will create, shape, and develop ABC-CLIO's innovative book list while also coordinating his editorial functions with marketing and production," said **Rolf Janke**, Vice President and Publisher. Gary has extensive experience. Prior to joining ABC-CLIO he was Vice President in charge of **Garland Publishing's** reference division. There, he initiated and developed an award-winning encyclopedia program as well as an outstanding book list in the humanities and social sciences. Previous to Garland, Kuris was Senior Editor for **Scarecrow Press**.

Bernan Associates has announced the
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acquisition of **Almanac Publishing**, which will be incorporated into Bernan's publishing division, **Bernan Press**. Terms were not disclosed. Bernan Associates was founded in 1952 to provide distribution of titles published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, Inc. has announced that **Susan Phillips** (Austin, TX) has been elected chair of its Board of Trustees at a recent Board meeting in Dallas.

If you don't see the **Bellagio Publishing Network Newsletter**, an occasional publication concerning publishing and book development in the Third World, you should consider putting yourself on the mailing list. Visit www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/bell/.

It was the unveiling of a masterpiece, an announcement that literally changed the way we look at history. At the recent **ALA annual conference** in Washington, **UMI** revealed its plan to create the world's largest digital collection of printed works. Called the **Digital Vault Initiative**, this project unlocks the doors to UMI's 5.5 billion page archive and makes its treasures available online to library patrons worldwide.

The US publishing industry joined other supporters of the **WIPO** international copyright treatment in a huge sigh of relief as the **CHEST** will offer new **OCLC FirstSearch** service packages to the United Kingdom higher education community under a five-year agreement effective September 1. Under an existing agreement, which expires February 1999, some 34 UK higher education institutions can access a range of FirstSearch subscription packages and additional FirstSearch databases.

Faxon has added support for **Ameritech Horizon X12** claiming to its list of standard interfaces for integrated library systems. The new service makes it possible for Ameritech Horizon 4.2 system users with the serials module to send X12 claims to Faxon via FTP. For further information, contact the Faxon Help Desk at 800-753-2966 or helpdesk@faxon.com.

As we all know by now, **Tina Brown** has resigned as editor of the **New Yorker**. "Brown will become chairman and part owner of a new multimedia company in partnership with Miramax Films, that will launch a monthly magazine and produce movies, television programs, and books," the **Washington Post**, reported on July 9, 1998.

The awesome **Jack Montgomery** is the new Head of Acquisitions at **Western Kentucky University**. Congratulations, Jack!

Victoria M. Peters is the Regional Manager for the Southwest (CA, NV, HI), for

Blackwell's Book Services. Since 1994, Victoria has been Western Regional Manager for **University Publications of America**. Victoria received her MLS from the **U. of Arizona** and her professional library career includes work at the **Health Sciences Library, Marquette University** and the **University of Minnesota**. From 1992 to 1994 she was Department Head for Bibliographic Services, Cline Library, **Northern Arizona University**.

Sean Nelson, Director of Human Resources for **Blackwell's Information Services**' New York City and New Jersey offices, has been given responsibility for the management and implementation of all North American HR policies and procedures. Sean and his staff are based in Blackwell's New York office. Sean began his career in the United States Navy, is an avid golfer and is married and lives with his wife and young daughter in New Jersey.

You know what? I think we should start an **ATG** "best novels" list. How about it? What a hoopla has been caused by the **Modern Library** Editorial Board's "100 Best Novels" list! The latest installment is in **The New Yorker**, 8/17/98, pp.29-30 by **William Styron**, one of the jurors. A bunch of us who get together once a month over lunch to compare war stories about reading novels came up with our own more modest lists — 10 novels instead of 100. Here is what was on my list — *Prisoner of Zenda*, *Tale of Two Cities*, *The Fountainhead*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Random Harvest*, *Gone With the Wind*, *Rebecca*, *Zuleika Dobson*, *As I Lay Dying*. How about you?

Have you heard of **PubList.com**? On the opening day, August 10, PubList.com received over 40,000 hits. A week later, the site had received more than 150,000 hits from interested users. So — what is it? A centralized, comprehensive, online directory of periodicals worldwide. This service was founded by **Frederick Bowes III**, an industry veteran with 28 years in publishing. Here are some of the supplier and vendor partners — **Academic Book Center**, **Alfred Jaeger, Inc.**, **Bath Information and Data Service (BIDS, UK)**, **CatchWord**, **Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.**, **Infotrieve** and **The UnCover Company**. Publishers among the first to participate include the **University of Chicago Press**, the **Ameri-**

can Dental Association, **American Hospital Publishing, Inc.**, **American Meteorological Society**, **Jossey-Bass, Inc.**, **MIT Press**, **Massachusetts Medical Society**, **Science**, and — ta da — **Against the Grain**! Check out this innovative source at www.publist.com and tell us what you think of it.

EBSCO Online has announced that it will add more full content of electronic journals from **Carfax Publishing** (43 journals now, 75 in 1999), **Taylor and Francis Ltd.** (more than 130 journals in 1999), **The Institution of Chemical Engineers** (3 journals), **MCB University Press** (140 journals), **NRC Research Press** (14 journals), and **Kluwer Academic Publisher Group** (400 journals in 1999). Currently in a "Beta 2" test phase, EBSCO online is slated for release in late 1998. Visit the EBSCO Website at www.ebsco.com to be updated.

The **Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL)** has chosen **Brodart's Collection Builder** to complete a \$2 million collection development project over the course of the next year. The FCPL plans to increase its number of full size branches to 20. A present mini library will be expanded into a full-size community library and one new library will be built. The FCPL will also purchase additional copies of items selected for the new branches for ongoing collections in its 18 other branches. The FCPL circulated more than 9.6 million items in FY 97/98 and has approximately 2.2 million holdings.

In one of its most notable contracts in Europe, **EBSCO Publishing** is teaming up with **The Royal Library** in Stockholm (BIBSAM department) to provide more than

When Joseph Heller's World War II protest novel was published in 1961, he gave it the title *Catch-22*. The title so caught on with the American public that it worked its way into English-language dictionaries as the definition for any difficult situation or problem whose seeming alternative solutions are logically invalid. Heller had originally titled his book *Catch-18*, but the number "18" conflicted with Leon Uris's novel *Mila 18*, which was being published about the same time, so he raised the "18" to "22" to avoid conflict.

200,000 students in six universities and twenty colleges across Sweden with access to the electronic fulltext from 1,082 periodicals in EBSCO's **Academic Search FullTEXT™ Elite** database. In accessing this database, researchers will be utilizing **EBSCOhost® 3.0**. **BIBSAM** is **The Royal Library's Department for National Coordination and Development**. Among other things, **BIBSAM** signs national licenses for the use of commercial databases

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on behalf of the Swedish universities and research libraries.

Blackwell's Information Services and **SilverPlatter Information** have announced a partnership to provide electronic access to **Blackwell's Electronic Journal Navigator** using **SilverPlatter's SilverLinker Technology**. Through **SilverLinker**, libraries can link to hundreds of journals from a variety of publishers, using a single interface. **SilverLinker** will be available as part of ERL Release 4, scheduled for release shortly. Visit www.silverplatter.com.

Sadly, **Inge Valentine's** husband has died. When you see her at the **1998**

Charleston Conference in November be sure to give her a big hug. I remember the first time I met this great woman, she was **Otto Rapp's** replacement at

Pergamon and more than filled his shoes (see *ATG* v.1#3, Sept. 1989 pp.17).

All public and academic libraries in six states — **Texas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois** — gained free access to **ArchivesUSA** for a full year. These states pledged to support the pricing experiment for **ArchivesUSA**, an innovative database that provides information on nearly 5,500 U.S. repositories and over 100,000 special collections. Remember that **ATG** supported this initiative (see Feb. 1998, pp. 83) which demonstrates a new subscribership model for the library community by asking libraries, consortia, and states to pledge what they think a product is worth.

Kendall Svengalis was awarded the **Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award** by the **American Association of Law Librarians (AALL)** for his publication, *Legal Information Buyers Guide and Reference Manual, 1997-98*. The third edition (1998-99) of this indispensable reference guide is now available for a softcover price of \$95. And I know that y'all remember that Jack Montgomery reviewed the above book in *ATG*.

And, did you happen to notice an article in *Newsweek* (7/13/98, p.75) about **Buzzy Basch** and **Judy McQueen**? Called, "Have Garlic, Will Travel," it's about these personal chefs that come into your home and cook your meals for whatever period of time you need them to. Sounds good to me. I'm hungry already!

Got a call the other week from **Brian**

Scanlan (President, **Thieme Publishers**). He wanted to CLAIM several issues of *ATG* that he hadn't gotten and he found it amusing for a publisher to be calling a librarian for this instead of the usual reverse situation. Hrumph! Meanwhile, several of our Chemistry professors have been having fun searching for some organic chemistry titles on the **Thieme Web site** — www.thieme.com.

Endeavor Information Systems has a total number of 154 contracts serving over 284 libraries. Twenty-six new academic and research libraries purchased the **Voyager** library automation system during the second quarter of 1998. Here are just some of them — **Butler County Community College, Center for Hellenic Studies, St. Thomas University School of Law, East Tennessee State University, Indiana State University (Terre Haute), Library of Congress, National Library of New Zealand, Ringling School of Art and Design, Wake Forest University, Wingate University**. For more information, visit www.endinfosys.com.

And here's more about the **National Library of New Zealand** (above). The Library recently signed the final contracts to seal the delivery of the new computer technology with three companies — **Endeavor Information Systems** for the **Voyager** software, **Fretwell-Downing Informatics** for the **VDX** software, and **Sun Microsystems** for the system hardware. This is a \$10 million project to supply New Zealand libraries with the national bibliographic system which supports their services to the public, educators, students and researchers across New Zealand. The Endeavor Voyager software will work in conjunction with another product, **VDX**, which is supplied by UK-based **Fretwell-Downing Informatics**. The current version of the **Fretwell** software has been installed for the use of the project team, and will provide the functionality required for the interloaning of books and other resources between New Zealand libraries that are linked to the system. Library chief executive, **Christopher Blake**, said the project was significant for the organization, both from a technological and client point of view. "We're talking about nearly every library in New Zealand and the management of over 10 million database records," he said. For further information, contact **Kristen Collins** at kirsten.collins@natlib.govt.nz.

Following nearly two years of careful analysis, the **Harvard University Libraries** have selected **Data Research Associ-**

ates, Inc. (DRA) (Nasdaq:DRAI) to supply the software for the next generation of **HOLLIS (Harvard OnLine Library Information System)**. **Sidney Verba** (Director of the University Library) and **Nancy Cline** (Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College) believe that DRA offers "the best combination of company strength, forward-looking technology, and the promise of successful long-term evolution." The contract is expected to be valued at more than \$1 million for software and services and should be signed on October 1 of this year. This should allow Harvard to proceed with a phased implementation involving installation of OPAC and circulation control on July 1, 1999, and the remainder of **Taos** on July 1, 2000.

And speaking of DRA, **DRA** and **WLN** have announced that they have established a private data exchange point, or "peering," on the Internet for the purpose of building a "library intranet" — a libraries-only electronic network that speeds electronic traffic among libraries and their information resources and suppliers by minimizing the distance between them. The peering is achieved using a dedicated frame-relay connection. Rather than routing randomly across the Internet, with potentially many intermediate points, or "hops," in between, this new peering arrangement means that DRA Net user libraries will be a single hop away from WLN libraries and databases, and vice versa. For further information, contact **Joe**

Bonwich at joe@dra.com.

Dawson Holdings PLC has announced the company's admission to the "Official List of the London Stock Exchange." The Ordinary Shares are classified within the "Support Services" sector. Before moving to the London Stock Exchange Official List, Dawson was listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), where the company's market capitalization

grew from £25 million to over £100 million in less than four years.

During **ALA Annual** in DC, I had the honor of going to the **Gale Research** luncheon for the **Learning Resource Center (LRC)** where **John Berendt** (*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*) spoke eloquently and captivantly. **Dedria Bryfonski**, CEO of Gale Research, was also captivating. She is a woman who has really and truly worked her way up to an awesome position! The Learning Resource Center was incredible, meshing together information

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The most honest jacket blurb ever written was by Random House publisher Bennett Cerf on a 1936 Gertrude Stein book. Cerf wrote in part, "I must admit frankly that I do not know what Miss Stein is talking about. I do not even understand the title."

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from Gale Research sources as well as Chadwyck-Healey and Macmillan. Visit the Website at www.gale.com.

And speaking of the Gale Research luncheon with John Berendt, it was there that I saw and even sat with Clara-Mae Chittum, once of MIT and now married and traveling in Ecuador where she is working as a, guess what, librarian. Anyway, Clara-Mae was fun to be with as always and has quite some tales to tell.

Yankee Rights Management and Electric Press have signed a letter of intent to integrate Yankee's Copyright Direct™ system and Electric Press' publishing solution—Publiotech™. The Publiotech-Copyright Direct combination represents a significant stride forward for publishing and managing content online. Publiotech offers publishers the ability to place their books and other publications on the Web for browsing, purchasing, and remote printing on demand. Copyright Direct is an Internet-based copyright management and commerce service that links digital content directly to online rights and permissions services. For more information, contact Glen Secor, President of Yankee Book Peddler at gsecor@ybp.com. And, don't forget that Yankee Rights Management was profiled in *ATG*, June 1998, p.36.

Drawn from presidential libraries from government entities such as the White House, CIA, the State Department and others, a large selection of previously classified government documents can now be accessed over the Internet. Says Primary Source Media, publisher, "This product is not limited by specific thematic or subject selection, nor predefined search fields. We are going full speed ahead will fulltext, full image, full searchability, and full affordability." For further information, www.psmedia.com/ddrs.htm.

Got such a nice letter from Debbie Wilcox (New Hampshire College) it brought tears to my eyes. Really. She said that she will not be able to attend the Charleston Conference this year, but will be thinking of everyone and looking forward to reading about it. She and her husband are planning a trip to the Southwest in late October, plus they are in Ireland this month. Sounds like great fun, Debbie. Have fun for

us and keep in touch, okay?

Just got word that the Association of American Publishers Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division's 1999 Annual Conference will be February 8-10 in Washington, DC, and is titled "Inventing Our Future."

The librarian and information professional communities continue to react to the new DialUnit pricing system initiated by the Dialog Corporation in June. On July 31, to assist Dialog's many users in understanding and coping with the changes, advance previews of two articles from the September issue of *Searcher* magazine went up on the Website of Information Today, Inc., the publisher — www.infotoday.com. "Dialog's DialUnits: A Price Increase in Sheep's Clothing" offers an analysis of tests conducted before and after the new pricing implementation, as well as tests under alternative telecommunications. Mary Ellen Bates, long-time searcher in Dialog and other online services, offers specific and focused tips on how to hold down costs, while warning of commands that run up the DialUnits. "Dialog Alternatives: A Power Searcher's Checklist" offers a complete checklist of where every database offered by Dialog appears on other supermarket online services, including some owned or gatewayed by Dialog ("Dialog Via Other Channels").

The incredible Birdie MacLennan has built and updates an excellent Web page regarding, among other things, journal titles which have electronic versions. URL: <http://www.uvm.edu/~bmacleenn/index.html>.

This info is off the [lawlib listserv](http://www.lawlib.org). *Law Library Collection Development Policies: Policy Documents and Resources: a Project of the AALL TS-SIS Acquisitions Committee*, compiled by the awesomely energetic Rob Richards (University of Colorado) is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/ts/aall/policies.htm>. This resource provides links and bibliographic citations to collection development policies for many types of law libraries, including private, prison, government agency, public, and academic libraries, in the U.S., Canada and the UK. It also offers links and citations to model policies, collection development standards, guides to creating collection development policies, and bibliographies on collection development. In addition, it lists links and citations to collection development policies for special material types, such as electronic resources and government documents, and for some non-law libraries.

This from serialist and Charles W. Bailey, Jr. (Assistant Dean for Systems, Univer-

sity Libraries, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-2091. E-mail: cbailey@uh.edu). Version 2.0 of the *Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography* is now available. This selective bibliography presents over 800 articles, books, electronic documents, and other sources that are useful in understanding scholarly electronic publishing efforts on the Internet and other networks. HTML: <URL:<http://info.lib.uh.edu/sepb/sepb.html>>; Acrobat: <URL:<http://info.lib.uh.edu/sepb/sepb.pdf>> Word: <URL:<http://info.lib.uh.edu/sepb/sepb.doc>>.

The NESLI Licence (6th draft) is now available online at <http://www.nesli.ac.uk>. NESLI is the National Electronic Site Licensing Initiative in the UK, a JISC funded program to deliver a national electronic journal service to the UK higher education market.

The National Writers Union (UAW Local 1981) outlined its strong opposition to a major nationwide uniform commercial code at a special briefing on July 26th in Cleveland at the annual conference of the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). The NWU has joined with various consumer groups representing millions of people throughout the country in opposing the adoption of the so-called Article 2B of the Uniform Commercial Code. Article 2B which will cover all transaction in information. Says Jonathan Tasini (president, NWU): "We oppose 2B because writers have been swept up in a process gone amok. If 2B is enacted, writers will soon be facing a 273-page body of code law that challenges even well-trained lawyers to understand what it means. Spare us, let us be governed by current Copyright Law and contract law and leave the 2B code to those who can afford the lead time it takes to understand it and have the power to take advantage of it." For complete information on the NWU's position on UCC2B, visit www.nwu.org/nwu/.

The TAFT Group has created four awards designed to recognize and encourage the development of nonprofit fund-raising resource centers. The awards program was launched August 5 at the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement (APRA) conference in San Antonio. Each award recipient will receive \$2,500 in TAFT print and/or electronic products. Two awards will be given to libraries or not-for-profit organization seeking to enhance their existing fund-raising resource centers. Two additional awards will go to libraries or not-for-profit organizations or development offices preparing to launch new fund-raising resource centers. Applications will be accepted through November 30, 1998. Guidelines are available by contacting Cheryl McDonald at <cheryl.mcdonald@gale.com>.

There are a ton of more rumors, but ya'll will have to wait 'til November. See you then!

High on the American Library Association's list of most frequently challenged books in schools and libraries is Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Yet in the century after its 1885 publication, it was published in 65 languages and in nearly 1,000 editions.