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And They Were There -- Reports of Meetings -- NASIG 2001 -- North American Serials Interest Group 16th Annual Conference

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And They Were There — Reports of Meetings

NASIG 2001 — North American Serials Interest Group 16th Annual Conference

Column Editor: **Sever Bordeianu** (University of New Mexico General Library) <sbordeia@unm.edu>

NASIG 2001, A Serials Odyssey: The 16th Annual Conference of the North American Serials Interest Group

Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, May 23-26, 2001

Report by **Frances C. Wilkinson**
and **Linda K. Lewis** (University of New Mexico)

The *North American Serials Interest Group* (NASIG) returned after ten years to San Antonio, TX, for its 2001 (sixteenth annual) Conference. The conference, held on May 23 through May 26, was on the Trinity University campus, just north of downtown San Antonio. The theme of the conference, “*A Serials Odyssey*,” was often used in terms of both **Arthur C. Clarke’s 2001: A Space Odyssey**, a journey to the future, and **Homer’s Odyssey**, a journey through numerous challenges towards home.

The conference program began with two preconferences: “*Licensing for Beginners*” and “*Getting Published: Surviving in a ‘Write Stuff or They Will Fire You’ Environment*.”

The three Plenary Sessions were presented by speakers who gave the big picture, attempted to predict the future, and challenged attendees to think in new ways. They addressed various aspects of the scholarly communications process from the views of librarians, publishers, vendors, and students.

The first Plenary speaker, **Steven Bachrach**, Professor of Chemistry at Trinity University and Editor-in-Chief of the *Internet Journal of Chemistry*, talked about scholarly publication from the view of the author and editor in his presentation “*Scholarly Communication from the Author/Producer Perspective: A Critical Evaluation of Scholarly Publication in Chemistry*.” After briefly reviewing the development of scholarly scientific journals, he analyzed the problems in scholarly publishing. With rising costs, limited access, delays in publication time, and lack of library space, scientists face increasing problems doing research. He then asked who was at fault. The usual target is commercial publishers, but while some charge too much, they are in business to make money. Some society publishers are making money from their publications as well. Librarians have not convinced administrators that they need more money. But how about the scholars? They write the articles and then transfer their copyright to the publishers, edit the journals, and review articles, all for no pay, and then have to pay, or have the library pay, to get the same articles. The insatiable drive to publish leads to an increase in the number of articles and the number of journals. Most scholars are not aware of the im-

plications of the growth in articles and journals and prices. Are there solutions? Some possibilities include: Address the cost issues by publishing and supporting **SPARC**, or archives such as **arXiv**, the **Los Alamos National Labs** archive. Authors must re-evaluate the system that evaluates promotion, tenure, and grants based on the number of articles rather than their quality; they must support worthy journals and tell librarians to cancel the unworthy journals; they must not agree to transfer all copyright; they must keep the right to post articles on their own Websites; and they must use technology more effectively.

In Plenary II, “*Scholarly Communication: Issues in Publishing*,” **Stanley Chodorow**, Vice President for Academic Affairs of **Questia Media, Inc.**, reviewed the need for and development of the Tempe Principles, which propose a new system of scholarly communication. He stated that the core issues involve taking advantage of electronic media, the balance between the control of and the use of knowledge, and the need to restructure the economy of scholarly communication. The “information budget” should include not only the library budget, but also the budgets for the computing centers and all the purchases made by departments and grant projects for resources.

To correct the current crisis, universities must enter the scholarly publication market, must educate their faculty about the economic issues, and work with funding agencies to stress quality over quantity in the publication criteria for grant applications. In response, **John Cox**, Principal of **John Cox and Associates**, found it strange to try to exclude the major commercial publishers from the discussions on scholarly communications. Not all societies that are also publishers are perfect, or even better than some of the commercial publishers. The scholarly publishing market is a dysfunctional one where the end users are often unaware of the final prices of journals. While research and development funding has doubled, as has the number of papers being published, library budgets have gone up only about 40%. Although he does agree with many of the Tempe

Principles, he disagrees with many details, including any effort to persuade faculty to publish only in “correct” journals. The faculty will publish where they want, and resist efforts to persuade them otherwise; the system is working for them, so they do not see the need for change. He feels the Principles are very heavily U.S. centered, and very confrontational, unlike the relationships between the publishing community and the academic world in Europe. He feels that the expanded roles of the Internet and of consortia will probably have more impact than the Principles.

In the closing session, Plenary III, **Stephen R. Merritt**, Dean of Enrollment Management at Villanova University, gave a lively presentation on “*Generation Y: A Discussion of Today’s Youth and Their Impact on Higher Education*.” This generation of students, whether you call them Generation Y or Millennials, was born in 1981/2. They have always had MTV and answering machines. Vietnam is ancient history. Technology has always been around to make life easier. These are the children of the baby boomers, and it is a large group — the largest since the baby boomers. There are some major changes in attitudes: they are closer to their parents; they are more service oriented; they have lots of activities; they are doing more, and preparing for college earlier than ever. They are technology veterans who use the Internet instinctively. They are more sensitive to issues of diversity, including socio-economic issues. What does this mean for higher education? They view education as a commodity, and they expect services ranging from specialized housing and food services to a high level of technological support.

They expect technological access, speed, and reliability; and they expect it to be available continually and worldwide. Universities have to understand the demands this generation will place on existing resources.

Eight Concurrent Sessions were offered in two sets of four each, thus, conferencees could select two this year. The topics this year included innovations that library and information professionals are using to make sense of their new roles; the current and future roles of vendors in the changing information world; **UCITA**, the **Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act** designed to create a united approach to licensing of software and information, which is very controversial among librarians; the

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growth of electronic resources that require licensing and/or leasing; dealing with access and management of materials published on the Web; accessing Mexican serial titles; licensing e-journals from the U. K. side; and the role and impact of XML on libraries.

In *"Infomediaries in the Internet Era,"* Heather Steele and Philipp Neie, Co-CEOs of Swets Blackwell, talked about how traditional relationships in the information chain have changed with the advent of electronic information delivery, calling into question current subscription models.

John Cox, Principal, John Cox and Associates, spoke on *"New Models for New Serials: Redefining the Serial and the Licensing Environment."* He said that the death of print remains unlikely, but the Internet does create new possibilities to integrate text with other resources, to broaden content, and improve communications. Subject portals can link to a wide variety of primary and secondary resources and enable researchers to communicate more easily. Vendors must reinvent themselves to survive since many publishers are selling directly to libraries and consortia. Librarians can play a crucial role in organizing the massive amounts of material, and in training users. They must market their skills as navigators, not just collectors of information.

Twenty-four workshops were offered. This year, topics included access to articles and to journals, consortia development, licensing, document delivery, statistical reporting methods, serials claiming, serials holdings statements, comparing electronic and print versions of journals, creating Websites, staffing, management, career development, and presentation skills.

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In library history, descriptive cataloging of books was an obvious step forward, allowing comparisons among editions and avoiding duplication when ordering. It gives us a common point of reference. For comparing different versions of databases, it's really only a matter of taking bibliography into the electronic age. A good first step to defining terms is any collection management tool that charts or compares databases based on criteria that can be used for evaluation before purchase or licensing, such as Judy Luther's "Whither Electronic Journals?" (*ATG*, April 2000, pp.24-26) and "An Update: Sources for Electronic Journals on the Web." (*ATG*, June 2000, p. 42.) Next, we should use these and other criteria to develop standard terminology analogous to a classification scheme for discussing and comparing electronic resources. Percentage of full-text would seem

Steven J. Oberg, Systems Analyst at Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. and Priscilla K. Shontz, Librarian at Driscoll Children's Hospital Medical Library, opened their presentation, *"Jump Start Your Career in Library and Information Science,"* with tips from their upcoming book by the same title. Topics included career planning, the importance of assessing your goals, your skills, the job market, and how to match your skills with available jobs in both traditional and non-traditional library settings.

Tschera Harkness Connell, Serials Coordinator of the Ohio State University Libraries in her presentation on *"Cataloging Web Resources on the OCLC — CORC: Issues Identified in an Empirical Study"* gave information about the *"Joint Research Project of OCLC and the Ohio State University Libraries"* that she conducted with Chandra Prabha, Senior Research Scientist at OCLC's Office of Research. Harkness Connell described what CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog) is, how it works, who is using it, how libraries are using it, the characteristics of the resources chosen for it, subject distributions of CORC resources, publication patterns in CORC, guidelines for distinguishing among monographs and serials, and various definitions for the Web. Examples of how CORC records are created and how they look on a Web page were featured.

Joan Thompson, Assistant Director, Boston Library Consortium, and Tom Peters, Director, Center for Library Initiatives, Committee on Institutional Cooperation, presented the workshop on *"Library Consortia: Penelope's Loom or a Positive Advance?"* Consortia may be created to share resources, create union catalogs, and make cooperative purchases. They face decisions on structure, financing, access, and governance. Consortia members deal with issues of independence, overlapping consortia, and access.

to be one important criterion for comparison. Inclusion of graphics might be another.

What do we mean by e-resources? It was clearer in print — you had indexes, you had abstracts, and you had journals. We could compare apples to apples, and oranges to oranges. But part of the reason it was easier was because the terminology had developed to describe and compare print resources efficiently. Probably everyone has different ideas of what these terms mean, but that's all the more reason we should discuss these ideas, in search of a consensus. Most people seem to mean some variation of full-text when they say electronic journals, but should we call it something else when it's not equivalent to the print version? What if it's online but not searchable? Or if it's printable only for a fee — do we then call it Document Delivery? What of the many linking options to come, when it will really get confusing? Our first question has to be: "What are we talking about, anyway?"

In the workshop on *"The Art of Claiming,"* Kim Maxwell, Serials Acquisitions Librarian, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Bob Boissy, Manager, Standards and Interface Services, Faxon RoweCom, discussed electronic claiming and the hopes for streamlining claims. They gave some practical hints for successful claims: Do not keep sending out claims; call/e-mail after the third claim. Check the vendors' databases to see if an issue has actually been issued.

Christie T. Degener, Cataloging Services/Serials Librarian, Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Yvonne W. Zhang, Catalog Librarian, Cal Poly Pomona, presented a workshop on *"Measuring Electronic Journal Collections: a Homeric Struggle."* In order to answer the question "How many electronic journals do you have?" librarians must look at subscriptions, titles coming with print, and titles in packages and aggregators. The different agencies asking the question do not ask for the same numbers, so librarians must look at what data they need to supply.

Twelve Poster Sessions were presented on topics such as access to electronic journals, serials collection analysis, evaluating staff performance, cataloging electronic resources, document delivery, and serials holdings options.

NASIG's membership is mainly U. S. and Canadian; the organization wants to be more visible in Mexico and the Caribbean areas. It is establishing a new networking node for this area, and has created a new award, the NASIG Mexico Conference Grant. The first winner of this award was Viviano Milan Martinez from the Autonomous State University of Nuevo Leon.

Networking nodes, which are small group discussions on topics of interest, included meetings about cataloging, preservation, public libraries, reference and public services librarians, and electronic resources librarians. User Group meetings included meetings for those with DRA, Endeavor Voyager, Ex Libris, Innovative Interfaces, Sirsi and Epixtech. During the breaks, several general trends were noted: Many libraries are migrating to new ILS systems or upgrading their current system. The growth of electronic resources has led to the examination of workflow, staffing, and organizational matrices. Everyone is trying to figure out how to count electronic materials. No one has figured out a good way to do the financial statistics, for example, when you are asked what you are spending on e-resources, how do you count the packages where you pay X for print and get the electronic version at an additional Y %? Is the cost for electronic only the added percent, or is it the entire amount? Linger phrases and images from this conference included, "herding goldfish" leading one to wonder if this is easier or harder than herding cats? Cats herding goldfish??? Another concept was "serials as teenagers." They are often late without notice and although you

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are supposed to be managing them, it frequently seems they manage you. In addition, they are unexpectedly expensive and unpredictable.

The conference featured events on the first two evenings of the conference, Wednesday and Thursday, and provided buses to the River Walk on the last night, Friday, for an "evening on our own." The Wednesday evening event featured a Mexican buffet on the Esplanade at Trinity campus. On Thursday night, attendees were treated to the **Institute of Texan Cultures** where they were able to sample ethnic foods from many of the cultures of Texas and leisurely explore the displays about the history of the region. Thursday and Friday nights concluded with a late night social (from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight) allowing **NASIG** night owls to visit, have a cool drink, watch *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and get to know each other in a relaxing, social setting.

The 17th annual conference will be held at the **College of William & Mary** in Williamsburg, Virginia, June 20-23, 2002. The theme will be "*Transforming Serials: the Revolution Continues*." **Stephen Clark** and **Joyce Tenney**, Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs, are planning a conference that promises to be a revolutionary experience! Watch for information about the conference at: <http://www.nasig.org>. See you in Williamsburg in 2002!

Books Are Us

by **Anne Robichaux** (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina; Consultant, Majors Scientific Books) <akr772@mac.com>

From your editor, this column is supposed to cover fiction about people like us — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. All contributions are welcome. —AR

Thanks to **Teri Lynn Herbert** (Reference Librarian, Medical University of South Carolina) for passing on the following two titles, discovered on the **Book Arts List** discussion list ("the electronic meeting place for all facets of the books arts," based at **Syracuse University** and managed by **Peter Verheyen**. Check out The Book Arts Web: www.philibiblon.com):

The New Yorker (8/1/94) makes note of *The Sixteen Pleasures/A Novel* by **Robert Hellenga** (Soho Press, March 1994, \$22, ISBN 1569470065; Paperback by Delta, 1995, 12.95 ISBN 0385314698), concerning a twenty-nine year old book conservator who went to Florence in 1966 to "save whatever could be saved, including myself." Her desire to help restore priceless treasures damaged by the flood of the Arno led her to working and living in a cloistered convent helping to save the convent's invaluable library, both physically and financially, "through the potentially illegal sale of a volume of sixteenth-century pornographic pictures and sonnets." The reviewer found the book sharply suspenseful and "modest, resourceful, and without malice," just like the conservator.

Websites from **Barnes and Noble**, and **Amazon.com** provided more details about this title,

and further reviews, applauding not only the story but the details given in the book about art and

book restoration. The **Charleston County Library's** online catalog notes the conservator "Margot Harrington discovers a fabulous volume of erotic art that was supposed to have been destroyed four centuries earlier." Coincidentally, the **College of Charleston Library** has in its collection what appears to be a translation of the original work featured in this novel: *I Modi: the Sixteen Pleasures: an erotic album of the Italian Renaissance*: **Giulio Romano**, **Marcantonio Raimondi**, **Pietro Aretino**, and **Count Jean-Fredoric-Maximilien de Waldeck**, edited and translated from the Italian, with a commentary by **Lynne Lawner** Evanston, IL: Northwestern University, 1988, ISBN 0810108038)

Salamander by **Thomas Wharton** was described on the **Book Arts List** as a must for all people who love books and bookmaking. (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, April 200, \$34.99, ISBN 0771088337; Emblem Editions, March 2002, \$19.99, ISBN 0771088345; Flamingo, March 2002, £15.99, ISBN 0007128649; Washington Square Press, August 2002, \$14.00, ISBN 0743444159). On the Book Lovers Website from **Harper Collins Publishers** (www.fireandwater.com) we learn that the story is set in 1717 where Count Ostrov, mourning the death of his only son, "loses himself in his love of puzzles, turning his spectacular Slav castle into a giant, mechanical conundrum of revolving doors, moving floors and unstable staircases." (Sounds like Hogwarts doesn't it?). "The Count brings to this impossible castle the legendary English printer **Nicholas Flood**, and charges him with the task of producing a book without beginning or end." Along the way he is distracted from this task, and turns to working on another book entirely, "a tiny octavo volume with one word, Desire, gold-tooled on its spine."

Best Sellers in Ethics

by **Françoise Crowell** (Yankee Book Peddler) <FCrowell@YBP.com>

Editor's Note: *The New York Times* plays an important part in my Sunday morning ritual. One of my favorite sections (after the Book Review and Styles) is the ethics column in the Magazine. I wanted to see how the publishing world treats this topic and found that ethics (at least the topic) is alive and well in academic publishing. All aspects are represented: medical, environmental, business, historical, literary and political, to name a few. I looked at titles published over a 12 month period and found 256 imprints with **Oxford UP**, **Cambridge UP**, **Routledge**, **Rowman & Littlefield**, and **SUNY** publishing a large majority. This

list represents just a hint of the issue, but it should keep your collection honest. —FC

Nussbaum, Martha Craven, 1947-. *Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions*. Cambridge Univ Press 2001 \$40.00 Cloth 0521462029.

Blackburn, Simon. *Being Good: An Introduction To Ethics*. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$17.95 Cloth 0192100521.

Glendon, Mary Ann. *World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Random House 2001 \$25.95 Cloth 0679463100.

Fleischer, Doris Zames. *Disability Rights*

Movement: From Charity To Confrontation. Temple Univ Press

2001 \$79.50 Cloth 1566398118.

Cloning and the Future of Human Embryo Research; Ed. by Paul Lauritzen. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$47.25 Cloth 0195128583.

Andrews, Lori B. *Future Perfect: Confronting Decisions About Genetics*. Columbia Univ Press 2001 \$24.95 Cloth 0231121628.

Hitchens, Christopher. *Trial of Henry*
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