September 1999

International Dateline-From the UK-A Global Perspective

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Recommended Citation

White, Martin (1999) "International Dateline-From the UK-A Global Perspective," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 11: Iss. 4, Article 29.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3549>

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International Dateline
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brary community as a whole will need to concern itself with the issue of archiving before materials are lost. There needs to be consortial solutions to this problem. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to believe that the problem will resolve itself. There is a need for leadership in this area. Perhaps **ARL**, **OCLC**, the **Center for Research Libraries** or a similarly large organization can take the leadership.

Fourth, as funds shrink due to demands of electronic publications and continued inflation, libraries will need to move to centers of excellence. Perhaps there will be a national storage center or regional libraries of last resort.

Fifth, another trend is definitely a growing number of consortia. These consortia will often be statewide such as the **Ohiolink**. Publishers and vendors will not sell their products directly as they have in the past, but rather will sell to consortia.

Sixth, some believe that people won't go to libraries to use them, and others see libraries as cultural centers where students will gather to access information. Public libraries will continue to see a rise in use as they provide electronic services to the public.

Seventh, librarians will provide a number of alternatives to expensive journals such as **SPARC** or certain disciplines will have electronic databases which will provide full service. In some cases, non-profit publishers will provide this service and, in other cases, academic institutions will provide it. Publishers will still offer the value-added editorial and distribution services, and will continue to dominate in distribution of information. It is not clear whether a national electronic article database will work, especially since scholarly information is not produced just in the United States. In any case, the face of publishing will change.

Eighth, higher educational institutions will have changed demographics: more minorities, more international students; more females, and more older students.

Ninth, a major role of universities will be to develop critical thinking skills, especially information literacy, i.e., the skills to cope with the expanding electronic information universe.

Tenth, users will want 24-hour access to information and they will not be interested in how this information is provided.

The above conclusions were reached and many other interesting developments were discussed in this three-day Retreat in Fiesole. There will be a need for libraries and librarians to adapt to change more rapidly. It is certainly clear that the pace of change continues to accelerate.

International Dateline — From the UK

by **Martin White** (Principal Consultant, TFPL, Ltd.)
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Regular readers of this column (I hope there are a few!) would be forgiven for wondering why the Editor lets me get away with the "International" heading when the column only seems to cover the UK. I thought it was about time that I made an effort to be more global, and so in this issue you are about to get a tour of Canada, Australia, the UK and just a little of the Netherlands.

One of the benefits of being a consultant is that you can end up in some very interesting places. This year I have accomplished the feat of having lunch on a beach on the Pacific (Half Moon Bay near San Francisco in April) and doing the same again on just about the most eastern point of North America, namely St. John's, Newfoundland. I was in St. John's for the AGM of the **Canadian Association of Research Libraries**, having been invited by the Board to give papers on the **UK National Site License Initiative** and on the future of scholarly publishing. The meeting took place on 14/15 June. If you have not been to St. John's, do make an effort to go. There is no other city like it, though Charleston actually is quite close. Most of the wooden housing was built after a major fire in 1896, and so there is a homogeneity of architecture that is most attractive. For a presentation on electronic communication the location was especially appropriate as it was from Signal Point, in sight of the conference hotel, that **Marconi** sent the first wireless signal across the Atlantic to Cornwall in 1901.

The **Canadian Association of Research Libraries/L'Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL/ABRC)** was established in 1976 and consists of 27 university libraries plus the **National Library of Canada**, and the **Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information**. Membership is institutional, and is open primarily to libraries of Canadian universities which have doctoral graduates in both the arts and the sciences.

CARL/ABRC has three basic goals:

To provide organized leadership for the Canadian research library community in the development of policies and programs which maintain and improve the cycle of scholarly communication; To work toward the realization of a national research library resource-sharing network in the areas of collection development, preservation and access; and To increase the capacity of individual member libraries to provide effective support and encouragement to postgraduate study and research at national, regional, and local levels. Areas of interest to the Association include automation, collections inventory projects, copyright, joint purchasing consortia, preservation and resource sharing.

CARL has its administrative office in the **University of Ottawa**, under Executive Director **Tim Mark**, ably assisted by **Katherine**

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McColgan. Katherine is also responsible for the Web site, which you can find at www.uottawa.ca/library/carl/.

The overall theme of the meeting was "Design and build: developing the Canadian Digital Library." As well as presentations from Canada's four regional academic library groups there was also the formal AGM agenda to complete. One outcome of this was the election of **Frances Groen**, Director of Libraries at **McGill University**, Montreal, as President for 1999-2001, taking over from **Marnie Swanson**. A new logo for the Association was also approved, which will appear on the www site in due course.

I am not going to try to give a detailed report on the presentations, but to pick out some highlights. Among them was a presentation by **Pam Bjornson**, Executive Director of the **Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction**, about the way in which this project is moving from microfilm access to Web access. Have a look at the project Web site on www.canadiana.org. The presentations from the regional groups all indicated a great deal of activity, and a growing realization that digital library projects can no longer be progressed adequately with library staff multitasking these projects and their day job! As a result, there is a move towards appointing project officers who can act as a focus for digital initiatives.

Underlying all the discussions was the proposal that had been submitted by CARL to the **Canada Foundation for Innovation** for a total of C\$50 million to fund a national electronic site license scheme in Canada. Of this amount, C\$20 million was requested from CFI and the balance of C\$30 million was to be put up by the participating institutions. CFI is a corporation established by the federal government to strengthen Canadian capability for research. Its mandate is to increase the capability of Canadian universities, colleges, hospitals, and other not-for-profit institutions to carry out important world-class scientific research and technology development. The national proposal was requested in November 1998, with a deadline of 19 April 1999, which put very considerable pressure on CARL to prepare the complex proposal, and gain the support of sixty-four University Presidents across Canada.

The announcement about the success of the bid came a couple of weeks after the AGM. The **Canada Foundation for Innovation** will provide \$20 million over three years to fund the **Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP)**. The project is spearheaded by the **Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)** and will be administered by the **University of Ottawa**. The project funding from the Canada Foun-

dation for Innovation (CFI) comes from the **Institutional Innovation Fund**. The \$20 million grant will cover about 40 percent of the cost of the CNSLP, with the remaining \$30 million coming from regional or provincial partners and the 64 participating institutions.

The goal of the CNSLP is to dramatically increase the quantity, breadth and depth of the most current research literature available to 34,000 university researchers and 76,000 graduate students in Canadian universities. A national consortium of 64 Canadian universities will negotiate with journal publishers and vendors to obtain pan-Canadian site licenses for electronic versions of scholarly journals mostly in scientific disciplines.

Another of the invited speakers at the meeting was **Dr. Marianne Scott**, the **National Librarian of Canada**, who gave a very comprehensive overview of the wide range of projects that are being managed by the National Library. In early July, it was announced that the **Minister of Canadian Heritage**, **Sheila Copps**, had appointed **Ian Wilson** to the position of **National Archivist of Canada** and **Roch Carrier** as **National Librarian of Canada** in succession to Marianne. Ian will assume his new position in the fall. Ian Wilson has been the Archivist of Ontario since 1986. He has served as Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculties of Information Studies and Graduate Studies at the **University of Toronto** and is currently a member of the **Ontario Government's Information and Information Technology Management Committee**.

Sheila Copps also announced that she had asked **Laurier Lapierre** to advise her on the establishment of a common Advisory Board to guide the **National Archives of Canada** and the **National Library of Canada** into the next millennium.

Before I leave Canada, I must mention the tour of the **Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Library** at the **University of Newfoundland** that was given by **Dick Ellis**, the Librarian. The design of the library gives a reading area for over 1,400 students under a sloping north-light roof by terracing the rows of tables rather like a sports stadium. The book stacks are also rather interesting, being over 14 feet high! The skill with which Dick has used the striking, but rather "odd" design of the building to meet the needs of students and researchers is very evident. It also gives me a chance to note that Dick was responsible for the local arrangements for the CARL meeting and did a magnificent job.

Another guest at the CARL AGM was **Steve O'Connor**, the CEO of **CAVAL Ltd. (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries)**. Steve gave an overview of the

situation in Australia as far as library cooperation, digital libraries and electronic journal licensing were concerned. The impression he gave was of a considerable amount of activity, and I will not try to summarize all the details in this column, but would direct you to the **CAVAL** Web site at www.caval.edu.au. In his presentation Steve mentioned a paper entitled "Investment in Information and Knowledge Infrastructure" by **Neil McLean** the Librarian of **Macquarie University**, Sydney. This is among the best papers that I have read about value of information to a national economy, and the role played by academic and other libraries. You can find it at www.lib.mq.edu.au/Mclean/investment/ and I do recommend that you stop reading this now, and download the paper.

Back in the UK, there has been some news on the corporate front. First came the announcement in mid-June of the merger of the subscription interests of **Blackwells** and **Swets** to create a journal supply business with revenues of around \$1 billion. Discussions between the two companies have been taking place for a number of months. At the time of writing this, there had been no news of redundancies, but it seems inevitable that there will be. The headquarters of the new company, in which **Blackwell** will have a substantial share, will be in the Netherlands. About a week later, came the news that **Whitakers** had been bought by **BPI**, the US magazine publishing business of **VNU**, the Dutch publishing company. A number of companies had been having discussions with Whitakers over the last couple of years, and it seems that the losing bidder were **Reed Elsevier**. The company was founded in 1858. As with the

Blackwell/Swets deal, it is a little too early to assess the implications of the acquisition, but it should result in **BookTrack** and **TeleOrdering** being able to expand internationally.

Meanwhile **NESLI** continues to make progress, but still rather slowly. The merger between **Swets** (the Managing Agent for the scheme) and **Blackwells** (one of the unsuccessful bidders for the role last year) will not have an impact

on the administration of the scheme. I will provide a more detailed account of the **NESLI** situation in the next issue, as it is clear that many publishers decided that rather than rush the negotiations to get into the 1998/1999 academic year, it made more sense to take time, and be ready for the next round of subscription negotiations with the universities, which are now taking place ready for 2000. In the meantime, there is a very good review of the scheme in the current issue of **Ariadne**, which is at <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue20/jisc-content>.